

All out for April 20 actions!

The April 20 protest march in Washington is a major step forward in building a movement against Washington's war in Central America, and in developing opposition to imperialist domination of oppressed countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and its attacks on working people at home as well.

With support actions in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, and elsewhere, the April 20 march and its three days of related

EDITORIAL

activity will demand a halt to the U.S. war in Central America; an end to complicity with South African apartheid; money for jobs, not the military; and a halt to the arms buildup.

The demonstration comes at a crucial moment. Reagan's sinister ultimatum to the Nicaraguan people, shamelessly garbed as a "peace" offer, signals plans for a further escalation of Washington's dirty war against Nicaragua.

In pressing that war, Reagan enjoys the support of the Democratic Party. Congressional Democrats have engaged in a charade of balking at appropriating \$14 million for the Nicaraguan *contras* (counterrevolutionaries). But the fact that the U.S.-directed war continues uninterrupted exposes their prowar policy.

And when it comes to the imperialist intervention in El Salvador, there is no longer even the pretext that this is anything but totally bipartisan as U.S.-made planes bomb civilians and U.S. "advisers" train thousands of Salvadoran troops in brutal "counterinsurgency" methods.

Along with Central America, the stubborn support to the murderous, racist regime in South Africa underlines Washington's reactionary role throughout the world.

That drive — designed to ensure and expand capitalist profits — is being waged at home as well.

We see it in the employer-government offensive against the unions — the imposition of wage-cutting contracts and the ham-

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U.S. 'peace plan': ploy to push war in Nicaragua



Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, rejected demand that Nicaragua accept talks with "murderers known as *contras* . . . hirelings of the U.S. government."

The following statement was issued by Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City.

As opponents of the U.S. war in Nicaragua are gearing up for the last big push to build the April Actions for Peace, Jobs, and Justice, the U.S. government has proposed a new "peace plan" to win additional "covert" funding for the counterrevolutionary terrorists (*contras*) in Nicaragua.

The government's new "peace plan" is a ploy for continuing the war against Nicaragua. It is part of the bipartisan drive of Republicans and Democrats alike to overthrow the workers and farmers government brought to power by a popular insurrection against the former U.S.-backed dictatorship in 1979.

The mild criticisms of the ploy by leading Democrats are made to confuse opponents of the war. Nothing more. They agree with Reagan that the Sandinistas are

"communists" and must be crushed.

What does the plan propose to bring "peace"?

The Congress shall vote \$14 million in "covert" aid for the *contras*. This aid, Reagan "assures" us, will go for "humanitarian" purposes to "support" the *contras*. While the aid is going to the *contras*, the Nicaraguan government is supposed to lay down its arms, accept mediation of talks with the mercenary bands by the proimperialist Catholic Church hierarchy, and organize new internationally supervised elections.

If the Sandinistas agree to negotiations on these terms and accept Washington's demands within 60 days, the U.S. will maintain its funding restrictions of the *contras*.

But if no agreement is reached at the end of 60 days, the *contras* are "free" to buy whatever weapons they want to continue their attacks on the working people of Nicaragua.

What arrogance!

The latest ploy is nothing but the same game plan with new characters. The overall aim of U.S. imperialism remains: *overthrowing the workers and farmers power and smashing the Nicaraguan revolution*.

The U.S. has already made military preparations to do so. At the moment there are 11,000 U.S. troops on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border for military maneuvers, which include a "practice" invasion of Nicaragua. These maneuvers make up only part of the constant U.S. military presence around Nicaragua.

While militarily prepared, the U.S. government faces political obstacles. The Nic-

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Texans slam use of Guard in Honduras

HOUSTON — The U.S. war in Central America was brought home to Texas when the 400 members of the Texas National Guard — the majority Chicanos from the Rio Grande Valley — left April 1 to participate in the Big Pine III war maneuvers along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

The use of the Texas guard in these maneuvers was the focus of an April 3 press conference to announce the plans of the April Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice for a regional march and rally here on

April 20. This action is part of the national April Actions scheduled for Washington, D.C., and the West Coast.

Pointing to the use of the Texas Guard in the current Big Pine III maneuvers, coalition spokeswoman Maureen La Mar told the press, "These nationwide mobilizations have taken on added urgency in recent weeks, because the Reagan Administration is bringing us closer to direct U.S. combat in Central America."

Omowale Luthuli, who hurried to the news conference from a noon recess in his trial for trespassing at the South African consulate last December, expressed his concern that the Big Pine III maneuvers are "testing the ground for use of U.S. troops in Central America." He offered the support of the Free South Africa Movement in "providing a mobilization for April 20." (Luthuli and his two codefendants, State Rep. Al Edwards and Rev. J. Don Boney, were found guilty of trespassing later in the day on April 3.)

Esther Gourley represented the Safe Harbor Alliance for a Nuclear Free Gulf Coast — a group opposing the intense effort to get the U.S. Navy to base its nuclear-equipped *Battleship Wisconsin* on the Gulf Coast in Texas. "We have to ask," Gourley said, "whether this battleship is intended for Central America."

Gourley also pointed to the millions of dollars the state has promised the Navy to help fund the base while education and other state services are being slashed.

In fact, on April 2, 2,000 students had rallied at the capitol in Austin to protest the proposed tripling of college tuition.

The April 3 news conference also heard from Margarita, a young Salvadoran refugee, who expressed her support and that of

other Salvadorans for April 20 because "it is appealing for peace" in their country.

The coalition here has added a fifth series of slogans to the four national ones for the April Actions. The regional mobilization in Houston will also demand a halt to the deportation of Central American refugees, an end to the prosecution of sanctuary workers, and full rights for undocumented workers.

Jack Elder, the Texas sanctuary worker convicted last month for aiding Central American refugees, is a supporter of the April 20 action.

Other individual endorsers include Catholic Bishop John Fitzpatrick of Brownsville; U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland; Sissy Farenthold; Charles Delgado, president of the Galveston County AFL-CIO Labor Council; Lencho Hernández, president of the Houston Gulf Coast Labor Council for Latin American Advancement; and Pancho Medrano, Sr., international representative of the United Auto Workers in Dallas.

In addition to the many peace, anti-nuclear, and Central America solidarity groups backing the protest, endorsers include the Houston chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the United Farm Workers in Texas, the Houston chapter of the Texas State Employees Union, and the Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Committee of Texas.

The march will be preceded by a vigil on April 19 to commemorate the victims of right-wing terror in Central America. On April 20, protesters will assemble at San Jacinto and Jefferson at 2 p.m. and march to City Hall Park for a rally. For more information contact the April Mobilization at 4600 Main, Room 213, Houston, Texas 77002; (713) 529-0446.

Columbia students hit apartheid

NEW YORK — Some 250 students chanting "Apartheid kills, Columbia pays the bills" protested at the entrance of Hamilton Hall at Columbia University to demand that the university divest its \$33 million in holdings in corporations doing business in South Africa. (See page 11 for other reports on South Africa protests from around the country.)

The protest, which began April 4 to commemorate the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., continued throughout the Easter Weekend with students from other New York colleges participating.

On Sunday, April 7, Columbia University was awarded a restraining order against the protest. Columbia, which began disciplinary proceedings against 35 of the protesters, did not immediately call in the cops to enforce the order.

In addition to the sit-in, seven Columbia students were on a hunger strike from March 22 to April 8 to protest the university's investments in South Africa. On April 8, after two of the students had to be

hospitalized, Columbia President Michael Sovern granted the strikers a meeting and agreed to bring their concerns before a committee of trustees. The students then ended their strike.

In midtown Manhattan, 900 people participated in a demonstration against U.S. government and corporate support for apartheid April 4 in a march sponsored by the American Committee on Africa.

The demonstration, which began in front of the South African embassy with 200 people, marched through midtown Manhattan and grew to about 700.

The march ended at the Mobil Oil headquarters, where it was met by some 200 others for a rally. Speakers included David Ndaba of the African National Congress, leaders of the anti-apartheid fight at Columbia University and City University, and a representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador.

The rally speakers urged the demonstrators to continue protesting apartheid and to come to Washington, D.C., for the April 20 action for Peace, Jobs and Justice.

—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY BILL KALMAN

CLEVELAND — Socialists in this city are successfully regularizing sales of the *Militant* newspaper at area plant gates. While the number of papers sold at the plant gates each week is still quite modest, the *Militant* is beginning to be recognized and respected by a small layer of industrial workers.

We field seven plant-gate teams every week, and all the teams report that even when no papers are sold, there are workers interested in what we have to say. One indication of this is that during the months of February and March, we have gotten out 600 leaflets at plant gates, building our *Militant* Forum series and the April 20 demonstration in Washington, D.C.

We have tailored plant-gate sales to the shape of basic industry

here, which includes auto stamping and auto parts, basic steel and steel fabrication, machine tools and foundries, and electrical and lighting equipment. Cleveland also has a good size garment industry organized mainly by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU).

The plants we sell at include the LTV basic steel mill; an Alcoa forge and foundry organized by the United Auto Workers; and Joseph and Feiss, a large Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union organized garment shop where many immigrants work. Recently we've begun selling *Perspectiva Mundial* there.

Cleveland is also the corporate home of the General Electric Lighting Group. At GE's largest unionized plant, organized by the International Electronic Workers,

the sales team is developing a relationship with regular buyers of the *Militant* and uses this as a base to involve other workers in political discussions. The team, which includes an active supporter of the Socialist Workers Party, regularly distributes 50 to 60 leaflets to GE workers at each sale.

Additionally, we've been consistently selling to auto workers at the sprawling Chrysler stamping plant in Twinsburg, just south of Cleveland. This plant presents us with a real challenge: workers enter the parking lot through four drive-in gates that sit right off a highway. Salespeople stand to the sides of these gates, and attempt to attract the drivers' attention. In bad weather this can be difficult, but our perseverance pays off. We average about 3 or 4 papers there per week, although around special

issues we've sold close to 20 copies of the *Militant*. A number of Black workers greet us every week with tooted horns and clenched fists.

It shows that the basis of establishing any kind of relationship with workers at a plant begins with consistency and perseverance.

A case in point is a sale we started last spring at the Chevrolet pressed metal plant in Parma, Ohio. The work force there has been heavily hit by lay-offs that have virtually eliminated the most militant layer of workers, including Blacks, women, and youth.

Our first few sales really agitated some of the plant's right-wingers, who harassed and threatened the sales team. We seriously discussed not selling there, but decided to press on.

Soon, verbal attacks by this

small minority gave way to hostile stares, which faded to cold silence.

Little by little, a layer of workers, primarily Black, warmed up to our sales team. We've sold 11 *Militants* and 2 copies of the *Young Socialist* at Chevy Parma last month, and have gotten out lots of leaflets. We still encounter a few crude and backward comments from time to time, but our continuous presence keeps us in touch with workers who are thinking about politics.

Finally, we have increased our sales efforts at Lion Knitting Mill, an ILGWU-organized shop where Henry Scheer, socialist candidate for mayor of Cleveland, has been working for two years. We are starting to figure out how best to bring the Scheer campaign to all the plant gates we sell at.

Socialist announces campaign for Cleveland mayor

BY SUSAN LAMONT

CLEVELAND — Henry Scheer announced that he will be the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Cleveland at a successful news conference held at the Board of Elections on April 2.

While picking up his nominating petitions — 3,000 signatures are required to get his name on the ballot — he gave extensive interviews to area media, including the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *Akron Beacon Journal*. A number of radio stations also reported the announcement and featured statements by Scheer on their news shows.

Scheer, 31, works in a knitting mill and is an active member of International Ladies' Garment Workers Union Local 300. He explained to the press that, "As a garment worker, I know first hand that

working people in Cleveland — like the rest of the country — are victims of a two-front war.

"Young people from Cleveland have no interest in going to Central America to fight against other young men and women like themselves. Rather, we need to support the liberation forces in El Salvador and the people of Nicaragua in their fight against the U.S. war machine." He urged Clevelanders to participate in the upcoming April 20 national march on Washington.

"Working people are also victims of a war here at home," he continued. "Billions are poured into the war budget to fatten the coffers of war profiteers like General Electric, while funds for already totally inadequate social services continue to be cut.

We should tax the obscene profits of GE and other corporations, not working people."

Since early in the mayor's race, the newspapers here have been filled with articles and columns by capitalist political figures, urban planners, businessmen, and bankers about how to make Cleveland "work" again. "Blue-ribbon" commissions have come up with plans for multimillion dollar lakefront developments and a domed sports stadium as part of what they claim is a scheme to "revitalize" the city and is really an effort to revitalize the profits of the real estate interests and banks.

"Making Cleveland work again," Scheer explained, has nothing to do with creating jobs for the tens of thousands of Cleveland steelworkers, autoworkers, and others who have remained jobless throughout the economic "recovery." Nor does it involve "re-

vitalizing" the Black community, hardest hit by the recent depression and least affected by the upturn in the capitalist economy.

Scheer told the press that there aren't any "Cleveland" solutions to Cleveland's problems. He said, "I call for elimination of the war budget. Let's use those funds to launch a public works program to create jobs for the millions of unemployed by building badly needed schools, roads, hospitals, child care centers, and housing. Let's put steelworkers back to work so that we can send steel, not bombs, to Nicaragua.

Scheer explained that it would take a government of the producers, the workers and farmers, to begin to solve the problems of war, unemployment, racism, and discrimination against women that so deeply affect working people in Cleveland and throughout the country.

Coworkers in garment plant proud

CLEVELAND — After workers at Lion Knitting Mills saw the announcement that their coworker Henry Scheer was going to be the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Cleveland in the April 3 *Plain Dealer*, the plant buzzed with discussions throughout the day.

The workers at this mill on Cleveland's west side are members of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 300. Many of the workers are immigrants, including a sizable number from Eastern European countries. They have known Scheer as a union builder and socialist activist for several years.

Earlier, Scheer had told several of his coworkers, including the chief shop steward, that he planned to run for mayor. This was greeted with a certain amount of disbelief. Workers did not readily believe that a "regular" person like themselves could run for the office of mayor.

When Scheer came to work the morning

after the press conference, however, everyone was already talking about the *Plain Dealer* article, which was accompanied by a large picture. Throughout the day, workers came up to Scheer to show their support and interest, and to ask questions about the campaign.

Many workers at Lion — like other workers in the garment and textile industries — make pitifully low wages. So a number of workers jokingly asked Scheer about getting a position on his campaign staff, or going on the payroll after he gets elected.

A number of workers were clearly quite proud of the fact that one of their coworkers was running for mayor. One Black coworker framed a copy of the *Plain Dealer* article, and, at an impromptu ceremony in the plant cafeteria, asked Scheer to autograph the framed article and announced that he was going to display the article on the union bulletin board in the plant.

— S.L.



Militant/Tina Johnson

Henry Scheer, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Cleveland.

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Interview with Swedish unionist

BY HARRY RING

Swedish socialist and union leader Göte Kildén is now on an 18-day U.S. speaking tour.

On arriving in New York, he visited the offices of the *Militant* and took time out for a brief interview.

A worker at the Volvo auto and truck plant in Gothenberg, Kildén is a national leader of the Socialist Party, Swedish section of the Fourth International and a sister party of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party.

At Volvo, he is chair of the Metal Workers union section committee at the truck plant and a leader of the Union Opposition, a militant grouping within the union.

Kildén said he had come here "to exchange experiences with other socialists and unionists — to see in what way the workers here are reacting to the offensive of the employers and the government."

And, he stressed, he was very much interested in seeing what kind of solidarity activity is being carried on in defense of the Nicaraguan and Central American revolutions.

In Sweden, he explained, there is a strong Central American solidarity movement with considerable union involvement.

Swedish workers have a stake in this, he said, because while Sweden has a labor government it is, nevertheless, an imperialist country with extensive investments in Latin America.

The fact that Sweden does have a Social Democratic labor government and a strong union movement, he added, has meant the government is subject to pressure from the workers and has not taken a hostile stand toward Nicaragua. "This stands us in good stead," he continued, "and is of good use for the workers and farmers of Nicaragua."

The union officialdom, he said, is supporting aid for Nicaragua and is collecting money for it in the unions.

At the Volvo plant, Kildén said, "We took the initiative and invited a representative of the Salvadoran FMLN-FDR to speak at a gathering of delegates representing 30,000 workers."

Kildén was particularly excited about a coming opportunity to register workers'

opposition to the role of U.S. imperialism. On April 15, Henry Kissinger, who was secretary of state during the height of the Vietnam war, will be in Gothenberg.

He was invited by Volvo's top official and by the local government. He will speak at a symposium, offering his expertise on investments in Asia.

Solidarity groups, unions, and other organizations, Kildén reported, are preparing a reception for Kissinger. There will be a mass protest meeting, "and picketing all the time he's there."

Discussing the situation of Swedish workers, Kildén said they too have been the victims of significant cutbacks, both in various industries that have been nationalized and those privately operated.

Gothenberg has traditionally been a major shipbuilding center. But where it once employed 18,000 workers, the number of jobs is now down to 7,000. In mining, steel and other other industries there has also been similar "modernization" and consequent loss of jobs.

So, in some parts of the country, he said, you have a serious job crisis.

But some other manufacturers, like Volvo, have been expanding. So, as far as jobs are concerned, Kildén said, "There's no problem — for the time being." Official unemployment is around 2.9 percent.

One big problem besetting Volvo employees and Swedish workers generally, he added, is how far wages have lagged behind the cost of living. Since 1976, he said,

the workers have suffered a 15 percent cut in real wages.

"The workers," he said, "are forced to find individual solutions. Working overtime, extra jobs, two in the family working. I work extra as a truck driver in the ports. I have a family of three kids."

Workers are pressing for something to be done. "The companies have had big profits the last two years. We have a labor government, and the workers want to get back what we lost the years before."

Meanwhile, the Metal Workers' top officials signed a new contract which accepted a wage increase of five percent in the face of an anticipated inflation rate of up to eight percent.

At the truck division, Kildén continued, "we had two strikes against the central contract and over very important local wage and hour issues."

And workers in the truck division are also fighting for the right of the union membership to vote on contracts. This right was taken away by the union bureaucrats back in the 1940s and 1950s.

The Social Democratic government, he said, is responding to the workers' demands "with an austerity program and with tax 'reforms' that are good only for rich people."

"So you can say that the social and political situation in Sweden — as well as in Denmark — is now changing very much."

"We've been outside the main class struggles, like the ones in Spain and Por-



Göte Kildén, Swedish socialist and unionist, is beginning U.S. tour.

tugal, the miners' strike in Britain. But today you can see we're in the same stream. There's no exceptionalism."

In addition to speaking at Militant Labor Forums in the cities he'll visit during his 18-day stay, Kildén will be meeting with unionists, farm activists, and people in the Central American solidarity movements. He plans to join the April 20 Washington march.

He will be speaking in St. Louis April 12, and then go on to Montreal, Minneapolis, and St. Paul. The last days of his tour will include visits to Los Angeles, Houston, and New York.

Sudan coup: attempt to end unrest

BY FRED FELDMAN

In an effort to put an end to a general strike and massive antigovernment demonstrations, General Abdel Raman Sawar-Dahab removed Sudanese dictator Gaafar el-Nimeiry from office April 6. Dahab acted while Nimeiry was heading back to the Sudan after cutting short a visit to Washington. Nimeiry received strong expressions of support from the Reagan administration, including resumption of a

\$180 million aid program.

Gen. Dahab was Nimeiry's defense minister and commander in chief of the armed forces. An official communiqué said he had taken power because of "the worsening situation in the country and the political crisis, which worsens daily."

Three days later, on April 9, unions representing professional workers called off the five-day general strike.

According to the April 8 *New York Times*, one diplomat described the takeover as "less a coup than a military response to the collapse of the government. A general strike has brought the country to a standstill, the official said. Most civil servants, even those in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had observed the strike."

The strike wave was another indication of the deep crisis affecting the proimperialist regime. Since early 1983 an armed rebellion led by the Sudan People's Liberation Army has threatened the military dictatorship. The rebel forces are based in the

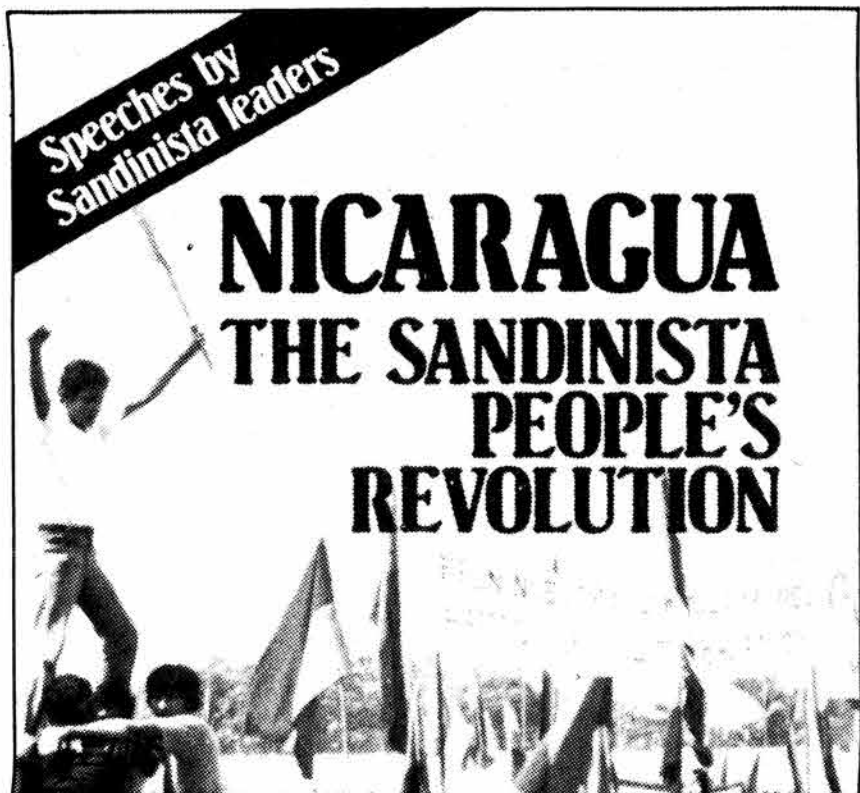
south, which is populated by various peoples who are largely Christians or adherents of tribal beliefs. The Southerners have long suffered discrimination and have repeatedly resisted efforts by the government of the Muslim, Arabic-speaking north to impose its domination over the south.

The rebellion in the south, combined with the deep economic crisis, isolated the Nimeiry dictatorship. According to the March 28 *Christian Science Monitor*, prior to Nimeiry's trip to Washington, reports were freely circulating in Khartoum of his likely overthrow by a coup.

The day before Nimeiry's ouster, the government had announced a partial rollback in the food price increases — demanded by Washington and the International Monetary Fund — that had sparked mass demonstrations beginning March 27. The increases meant a sharp increase in hunger in a country already stricken by

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Special Pre-publication Offer! \$3 off!



This new collection contains more than 40 speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. It will be available for the first time at the April 20 antiwar demonstrations in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and other cities — where you can buy it for the special pre-publication price of \$5. (Regular price: \$7.95) Between now and April 20, Pathfinder Press is making that same offer available to *Militant* readers.

Just clip out this coupon and mail it to Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. (Please include \$.75 for shipping; book will be mailed in May.)

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Join our April 20 sales teams!

BY TOM LEONARD

One of the inspiring gains of the 10-week campaign to sell 30,000 single issues and over 2,000 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* is the important help sales teams have received from new readers and supporters of the two socialist publications.

If you are a new reader of the *Militant*, or *Perspectiva Mundial*, we urge you to volunteer to help out in the sales we are planning at the antiwar actions in Washington, D.C., and other cities on April 20.

You can get bundles of the papers by contacting Socialist Workers Party or Young Socialist Alliance headquarters in your area. On April 20 in Washington, D.C., you can visit the socialist press distribution center on 19th Street between Avenue D and Avenue C. In addition, there will be sales teams at every major demonstration around the country on April 20. Just tell any salesperson you see that you want to help sell the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, or the *Young Socialist* newspaper distributed by the YSA, and anyone of them will help you get started.

One of the exciting things about selling the revolutionary press is the discovery that there are so many workers and young people who have political questions and are looking for answers, including some who are ready to do something about it now.

An example is a report from Charleston,

West Virginia, about a new young friend of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The Charleston sales-drive teams have made five trips to coal producing communities in southern West Virginia and this young friend has participated in three of them. A Charleston sales-team member told the *Militant*, "After the first trip to Williamson and Lobata in Mingo County, where we also stopped at the UMW picket line in front of the A.T. Massey mine to show our support, she asked if we always got such a positive response to the *Militant* and openness to discussing politics. Then she bought herself a sub to the *Militant*."

In Boston, several university students volunteered to help the sales drive by taking a weekly bundle of five papers to sell on their own.

Some new *Militant* readers share the paper with coworkers. A worker at the AMAX steel plant in Violet, Louisiana, recently told sales-team members from New Orleans that the *Militant* gets passed around inside the plant and added, "everybody likes it except the company."

Another inspiring feature of the sales drive is the increase in sales of *Perspectiva Mundial*. Phoenix reports they have doubled regular sales of the Spanish-language publication to 20 a week and have begun to send in new subscriptions. Other areas like Houston, Los Angeles, and Dallas are currently selling up to 100 *PMs* a week.

A broad coalition of peace and civil rights organizations and several trade unions have called for protests in Washington, D.C., April 19-22, highlighted by a mass march and rally on April 20. Actions will also be held in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other cities.

The demands of the protests are: stop U.S. military intervention in Central America; oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home; freeze and reverse the arms race; create jobs, cut the military budget.

To contact the national coalition, write or call: April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice, Box 2598, Washington, D.C. 20013-2598; (202) 667-9485.

Chicano, Mexican activists back Arizona rallies

BY ANDY ENGLISH

PHOENIX — The more than 200 Chicano and Mexican activists attending the International Conference against the Simpson-Mazzoli and Roybal Immigration legislation in Tempe, Arizona, voted unanimously to support the April Actions and to mobilize for the local rally in Phoenix on April 21.

The Phoenix rally has also won support from the Arizona Farm Workers; Arizona Federation of Teachers Local 2050; Chicano Advocacy and Training Institute; Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador; Laborers International Union Local 1297; Alex López, chairperson, Copper Unions Bargaining Committee; Gray Panthers; Irish Northern Aid; Prescott Peace Network; Socialist Workers Party; Commercial Workers Union Local 99R; Young Socialist Alliance, and others.

Featured speakers at the rally include Sister Darlene Niegorski, currently under federal indictment for aiding Central American refugees; Pat Cantelme, president, Central Arizona Labor Council; Gustavo Gutierrez, Maricopa County Organizing Project; Carolyn T. Lowery, Arizona Black United Fund; and representatives of the Center to Reverse the Arms

Race and the Tri-City National Organization for Women.

The rally will begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 21, at the Encanto Park bandshell in Phoenix. For information contact the April 21 Co-

living in sanctuary here. "We must make great efforts to make our voices heard all over the world, so that the children, women, and farmers of Central America will know we have brothers in the

committed by the CIA-organized counterrevolutionaries against the Nicaraguan people.

Abdeen Jabara, chairperson of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, linked the struggle of the oppressed in South Africa and Lebanon. The "Israeli war machine is fueled in this country" just as the South African government's war machine is, said Jabara.

"Peace is indivisible in Central America and the Middle East because the war machine in Washington continues to operate," he added.

Detroit City Councilwoman Maryanne Mahaffey attacked the government's policy of cutting social services while spending billions for both nuclear and conventional weapons.

The rally was chaired by Akua Budu of TransAfrica and Fred Miller of the Detroit Area Nuclear Weapons Freeze.

Miami coalition leaflets GIs, addresses church

MIAMI — The coalition for Nonintervention in Central America is building the April Actions in the Miami area. On March 24, the coalition organized a rally in Miami followed by a car caravan to Homestead Air Force Base. Activists leafleted GIs there about the U.S. war in Central America.

The leaflet, headlined "Stop the war in Central America, No More Vietnams," received a friendly response from the soldiers.

The action was organized to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the 1980 assassination of El Salvador's Archbishop Oscar Romero.

Activists have also been able to have speakers against the racist apartheid system in South Africa at union meetings. One International Association of Machinists member who heard a speaker at his union invited the speaker to the Liberty City church that he is pastor of.

Coalition activists explained why people should go to Washington for the actions to the 400 people at the church. Leaflets were distributed and the church voted to send five people to the march.

Coalition activists report that

there will be a couple of buses going to Washington.

Schedule for April 19-22 in Washington

The schedule of events in Washington, D.C., for Friday, April 19-Monday, April 22 is:

April 19: 3:30-5:30 p.m., picket line at the South African Embassy at 30th St. and Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Multi-faith religious service at 7 p.m. at the National City Christian Church at Thomas Circle.

April 20: 10 a.m., Festival of Resistance at the Ellipse behind the White House, including speakers and entertainment. 12:30 p.m., kick-off rally for march at same site. March begins at 1 p.m. Final rally at west side of the Capitol Building at 4 p.m. Fundraising concert with Gil Scott-Heron at Commerce Building, Federal Auditorium at 12th and Independence Ave. N.W. at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for unemployed, students, seniors.

April 21: All-day training session for those participating in civil disobedience action the next day. Begins at 11 a.m. at Marie Reed Center, 2200 Champlain St. NW, near 18th and California.

All-day lobby training session at 11:30 a.m. at the McDonough Gym, Georgetown University. A fee is being charged but no one will be turned away.

A celebration with speakers and entertainment at McDonough Gym at 7:30 p.m.

April 22: Civil disobedience action begins at 7:30 a.m. with walk from the Lincoln Memorial to the White House. Civil disobedience will begin at 9 a.m. Legal support rally in Lafayette Park, at 9 a.m.

Lobbying on Capitol Hill.

San Francisco: Activists will gather at 11 a.m. at Justin Herman Plaza and march to the Civic Center for a rally. For information call (415) 771-0882.

Los Angeles: People will gather at 11 a.m. at Olympic and Broadway for a march to City Hall. For more information call (213) 225-6136.

Seattle: Assemble at 1 p.m. at Federal Building on 2nd and Marion for a march to the Federal Courthouse. For more information call (206) 448-7354.

PROTEST DAYS IN WASHINGTON, DC

OUR DEMANDS

- STOP U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA
- Support human freedom and dignity by also ending intervention in the Caribbean, the Middle East, Asia, the Pacific, and Europe
- CREATE JOBS-BUILD A JUST SOCIETY
- Cut the military budget. Provide for human needs
- Challenge racism, sexism, homophobia based on sex and

4 DAYS OF ACTION

Friday, April 19, 3:30 pm — Picket line at Independence at South African Embassy, 30th & Mass Ave. NW
6 pm — Multi-faith Service at Thomas Circle
Saturday, April 20, 10 am — Festival • March • Rally
Sunday, April 21, 11 am — Training Session

New York coalition's poster to build April Actions includes list of four days' activities.

alition, P.O. Box 4294, Phoenix, AZ. 85030, or call (602) 968-2929.

There will also be a march and rally on April 20 in Tucson. The march is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. at the Himmel Park Library.

Local UAW leader condemns war on Nicaragua

BY ED GOLDMAN

DETROIT — More than 150 antiwar activists, unionists, and others turned out March 30 to hear a broad panel of speakers urge participation in the April 20 march on Washington.

The rally was opened by Raúl González, a Salvadoran refugee

U.S.," said González.

Frank Hammar, shop chairman of UAW local 909 at GM's Hydramatic plant, warned the audience that Central America is not just "a new Vietnam in development, it's there — there, already, now."

Hammar, who participated in a labor tour of El Salvador and Nicaragua in February, contrasted the gains trade unionists have made in Nicaragua with the repression they face in El Salvador.

One Salvadoran unionist, Hammar reported, had stayed in a different house each night for years to avoid being killed by the government's death squads.

A textile factory Hammer visited in Nicaragua had working conditions "better in some ways than at my plant in Warren, Michigan." Hammar condemned the atrocities

Fund drive makes special April 20 issue possible

Here's a letter we received from a *Militant* reader in Kerrville, Texas:

"Your article, 'U.S.-Honduran war games threaten Nicaragua' was great. But you fail to mention that the Administration is not only sending the U.S. military to Honduras, but also 450 Texas National Guardsmen. What is Reagan's intention in sending this mostly Hispanic 'Texas Task Force'? Perhaps he is trying to make this look like a grassroots movement.

"But he's wrong. We have no interest in intimidating our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua. All out for the April 20 actions!"

"Also enclosed is my \$10.00 contribution to help the Socialist Publication Fund. I only wish it was 100 times more in order to get the truth out on the U.S. war drive!"

Every contribution we get to the Socialist Publication Fund helps us educate and organize against the U.S. war in Central America. Every dollar we get means we can do a better job of telling the truth about the Nicaraguan revolution and the struggles of working people throughout the world.

We are planning a special, 20-page issue of the *Militant* for the April 20 antiwar actions.

It will include a review by *Militant* staff writer Cindy Jaquith of the new Pathfinder book, *NICARAGUA: The Sandinista*

People's Revolution. [See ad on page 3]. The Socialist Publication Fund helps make it possible to print this collection of speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. It will be out in time for the April 20 antiwar actions.

The special April 20 issue of the *Militant* will also include an article by Andrea González on the revolutionary struggles of the people of the Dominican Republic that led to the U.S. invasion of that country 20 years ago, and the renewed struggles today.

We will also run an article by *Intercontinental Press* staff writer Will Reissner on how and why the Vietnamese revolution was able to triumph over a ferocious U.S. military assault.

We are able to plan special expanded issues of the *Militant* on important occasions like April 20 because we can count on the financial support of our readers.

One of the most important steps the Fund makes possible is the continuation of our bureau in Managua, Nicaragua. From the first days of the Nicaraguan revolution, our bureau has made it possible to tell the truth of the struggles of the Nicaraguan workers and peasants through first-hand, week-by-week coverage.

We urge all our readers to contribute what you can now to help us continue to expand and improve.

We are beginning to get pledges in from some areas. Supporters in Detroit have already pledged \$3,300. In Kansas City, the pledges top \$5,000.

But in general, the organization of the Fund is getting off to a slow start.

Actions like the April 20 antiwar demonstrations drive home just how important

our socialist publications are. We want to take advantage of this heightened consciousness to urge our supporters in every city to contact us with a pledge to the Fund.

Just let us know how much you can contribute between now and our target date of June 15, and pay it off over the course of the drive.

In the March 22 issue of the *Militant*, we launched the Socialist Publications Fund with the goal of raising \$75,000 by June 15.

A major purpose of the fund is to help finance publication of the *Militant* and our Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial* and other socialist publication projects.

Checks should be made out to: Socialist Publications Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014.

Enclosed is my contribution to the Socialist Publications Fund of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Organization/Union _____

\$75,000

Collected: \$3,893

Jamaica: collapse of an economic mirage

The following article on the impact of the imperialists' economic policies on Jamaica is reprinted from the March 24 issue of the English-language Cuban publication, *Weekly Granma*. The article was originally entitled "The case of Jamaica: Collapse of an Economic Mirage." It was written by Roberto Álvarez Quiñones.

Anyone wanting a quick idea of the practical consequences of International Monetary Fund (IMF) prescriptions to remedy the economy of an underdeveloped country ruled by a right-wing team that feels profound admiration for Pres. Ronald Reagan should look at the case of Jamaica.

When Seaga was installed as the Jamaican president more than four years ago, one of the first things he did was to go to the White House. President Reagan gave him a warm welcome and promised him a lot of money to solve the social and economic ills of his country, which both leaders attributed to the progressive government of Michael Manley.

The head of the U.S. government was very cordial and pleased with Seaga, whom he praised and described as a key part of an ambitious plan that the United States was going to implement for the social and economic development of the Caribbean Basin countries and to liquidate, once and for all, "the communist poison infesting the region."

Seaga returned to Kingston a very happy man. In keeping with his political philosophy, he really seemed to believe what Reagan had told him and he set about to wait for the promised river of gold. As an appetizer, the IMF, which had refused to give Jamaica a single cent during Manley's mandate, granted the new government a \$700 million loan to use, under certain conditions, of course, and promised to grant other loans in the future. In short, everything seemed to be progressing just right.

What happened from that point on? What were the benefits of subjecting the new Jamaican government to the interests of the United States and to the free money changing economic mirages proposed by the Reagan administration?

Suffice it to cite only an excerpt of what the Spanish news agency EFE recently reported in order to have an idea of what happened:

"Never has the great mass of 2.3 million Jamaicans suffered such an abrupt drop in purchasing power as in the last 11 months, caused by a drastic currency devaluation of more than 150 percent. . . .

"... Seaga's critics, who already include prominent entrepreneurs, contend that the capitalist principle that supply and demand set the prices without government intervention has created chaos in Jamaica's market."

Some other statistics fill out the panorama of Jamaica's current reality.

The manufacturing industry is functioning at 50 percent of its installed capacity; the trade deficit climbed from \$75 million in 1980 to more than \$500 million in 1984. The unemployment rate has reached 40 percent, on conservative estimates. The foreign debt runs to \$4,000 million, which represents an astronomical per capita debt of more than \$1,700 (one of the world's

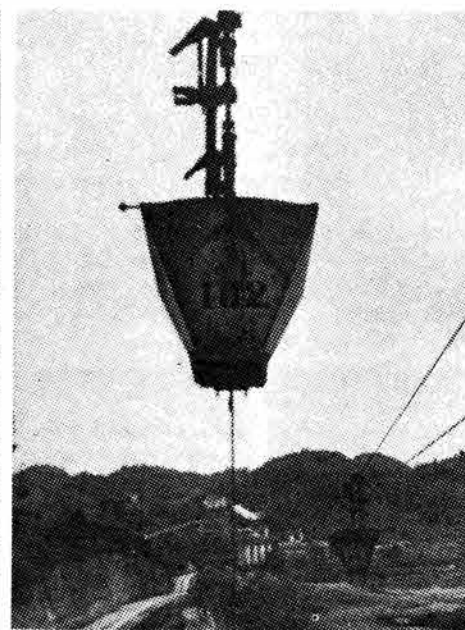
highest). The U.S. dollar, which was worth 1.78 Jamaican dollars in 1980, is now equivalent to 5.45 Jamaican dollars (as of Feb. 21, 1985), and every week Jamaican currency suffers further devaluations.

On the other hand, the basic products exported by Jamaica — bauxite, sugar, and bananas — are sold at ruinous prices or not at all. The other source of the country's foreign exchange, tourism, has dropped abruptly since January, when thousands of U.S. citizens cancelled their reservations in Jamaican hotels as a result of the demonstrations that took place on the island in protest of the 21 percent price hike in fuels. The demonstrations were brutally repressed and resulted in seven persons killed and scores wounded.

In terms of Reagan's and the IMF's promises, the U.S. president's glowing initiative for the Caribbean Basin has turned into thin air. As an example of the United States' goodwill, one of Jamaica's most important bauxite mines operated by U.S. transnational Reynolds Metals closed down in March 1984. The mine used to produce two million tons of bauxite every year and its closing signifies a loss of \$100 million for the Jamaican state's budget and the loss of some \$30 million for the country.

The IMF, in turn, demanded that the Seaga government throw 6,200 public employees onto the street as a condition for its \$143 million loan. Seaga complied with the demand to the letter and on July 12, 1984, announced the compulsory redundancy of 6,200 employees.

In short, everything's going down the



At left, Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga. At right, bauxite being moved in Jamaica. Once a leading export, it is now sold at ruinous prices or not at all.

tubes in Jamaica. A recent AFP news dispatch reported that "the pillar of the Jamaican economy is marijuana, known as ganja." The French agency explained that "ganja is peacefully and extensively cultivated throughout the country's lowlands giving thousands of people jobs."

Overnight — from Seaga on — Jamaica has become the second largest supplier of drugs to the United States, after Colombia.

To top it off, on February 22, the Jamaican prime minister issued an urgent call for the creation of gambling casinos on the island "in view of the worsening eco-

nomie crisis" afflicting the country. In other words, the head of government himself proposes the transformation of Jamaica into a huge floating gambling hall in order to make some money, since the dollars promised by Reagan are yet to come. Also, if Jamaica continues to sign "agreements" with the IMF, the island may literally sink into the blue waters of the Caribbean.

These are, in short, the consequences of believing in economic mirages painted by the Reagan administration and of submitting to the dictates of that other U.S. invention known as the IMF.

Advances in Nicaraguan health care

BY SUSIE BECK

"For the health of our children, bring them all to be vaccinated" was the theme of the "People's Health Days" that took place February 23-24 in Nicaragua. The campaign to immunize over 200,000 children against polio marks another important advance in health for the people of Nicaragua.

The success of this endeavor was due to an effective publicity campaign, the full support and participation of the mass organizations, and international solidarity.

In the weeks preceding the vaccination weekend, a massive campaign was launched to inform working people about the importance of immunizations. Full-page ads describing the correct procedure for storage and administration of the polio vaccine appeared in the newspapers. Radio announcements sponsored by FET-SALUD, the union of over 15,000 health-care workers, urged participation in the campaign.

Along with the health workers, the mass organizations — including the Sandinista Youth; AMNLAE, the women's association; and the neighborhood Sandinista Defense Committees — participated in planning and promoting the campaign. Five thousand new health-care volunteers, called *brigadistas*, were trained to administer the vaccinations. According to a leader of AMNLAE, over 80 percent of the brigadistas were women.

International recognition of the campaign came from many countries. Miguel Marquez, representative of the World Health Organization, said that the efforts of the Nicaraguan government and people to carry out the vaccination campaigns against polio, measles, and other diseases "has reached significant levels of organization." The Soviet Union played a key role in the campaign, donating 260,000 doses of polio vaccine.

In addition to the major vaccination effort in Managua, the campaign extended to the rural areas as well. I had an opportunity to visit one of the immunization centers in Rivas, near the Costa Rican border, on the day following the People's Health Days. The physician in charge estimated that some 11,020 children, 88 percent of the targeted population in this rural area, had been vaccinated.

The People's Health Days are held four times yearly. The 1983 campaign focused on measles, pertussis, and

diphtheria have declined sharply in Nicaragua. No polio cases have been reported since 1981.

Gains brought about through the immunization campaigns are only a part of the advances in health care since the 1979 triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution, which brought a workers and farmers government to power.

In an article in the October 1984 *American Journal of Public Health*, Richard Garfield and Eugenio Taboada give an impressive summary of "Health Services Reforms in Revolutionary Nicaragua."

They report that "before the revolution, Nicaragua had the lowest life expectancy at birth and one of the highest levels of infant mortality in the region. Access to health services was largely limited to the affluent sectors of the urban population and the minority of workers with social security coverage. While an estimated 28 percent of the population had some access to medical care, a majority of the country's health resources went to 10 percent of the population."

There were great discrepancies between services available in the urban and rural areas, the authors explain. In 1979, it is estimated that "60 percent of all human and material health resources were in Managua, and 80 percent of the rural health manpower consisted of folkhealers."

Before the revolution, health-care services were poorly coordinated and largely inaccessible. One of the first acts of the new government was to establish a Unified National Health System. Health care today is free to all and it is estimated that "more than 80 percent of the population has some regular access to medical care."

Training of health-care workers has been greatly expanded since the revolution. There are more than 10 times as many medical students now, and six times as many nurses are being trained. The use of the health-care brigadistas has been key to the success of the health campaigns. In the initial endeavors around immunization and sanitation, "up to 10 percent of the people in the country were mobilized as health care volunteers." There are now 25,000 permanent brigadistas. This comprises about 1 percent of the total population.

The government has also made great strides forward in the provision of health care to the rural areas. "In 1980 the ratio of doctors from between the best and worst served areas was 16 to 1, by 1982 this was

reduced to 2.5 to 1." About 800 beds in five hospitals and over 300 new health centers have recently been completed or are in construction. These will primarily serve the rural areas.

In a visit to the Gaspar García Hospital in Rivas, Fernando Joaquín, the director of the hospital and a member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, graphically demonstrated the advances in health care. He pointed to a map of the Rivas region, pinpointing 26 health facilities now in operation. Of these, only eight existed before the revolution.

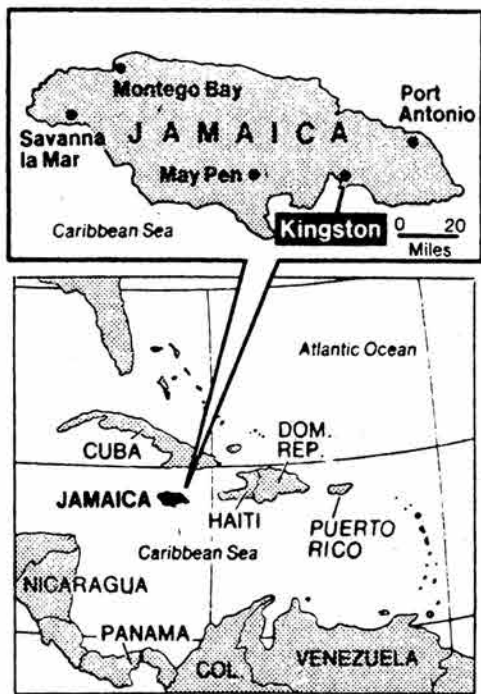
As a hospital in the war zone, this institution is hard hit by many of the problems which have resulted from the U.S.-backed war against Nicaragua. Because of Washington's economic blockade and the demands placed on the Nicaraguan economy by the war, supplies and medicines are in very short supply. One of the nurses in the 25-bed surgical ward explained to me that he had to change all of the dressings on the unit but only had two pairs of forceps.

In hospitals near the borders, up to 25 percent of patients have war-related injuries. This decreases the number of beds available for others. Construction of more than half of the health-care posts planned in 1983 was delayed because of the war.

Health-care workers have been a prime target of the CIA-trained counterrevolutionaries: 18 health workers have been killed, 27 others seriously wounded, and 40 kidnapped and tortured along the country's borders. At least two hospitals and 32 health centers and posts have been destroyed. Outside of the war zones, many health facilities remain understaffed due to the mobilization of many doctors and nurses to the fronts. This shortage is being partly alleviated by the scores of international brigadistas who have come from over 30 different countries.

The outstanding advances in health care that Nicaragua has achieved in only five years — under conditions of war and economic backwardness — provide an inspiring example of what is possible when a government prioritizes people instead of profits.

Susie Beck is a registered nurse in Salt Lake City and works for the Utah State Department of Health. She visited Nicaragua in February on a trip sponsored by Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc.



Miners Day: UMW builds strike solidarity

BY KIPP DAWSON

MASONTOWN, Pa. — Several hundred western Pennsylvania coal miners participated in April 1 celebrations of John L. Mitchell Day, an official United Mine Workers (UMW) holiday that commemorates the winning of the eight-hour day. Mitchell was the UMW president at the turn of the century.

At each of the celebrations in this area, miners were urged to rally to the support of UMW members on strike against the A.T. Massey Coal Co. in southern West Virginia and Kentucky.

Following the traditional parade in Masontown, sponsored by UMW districts 4 and 5, UMW International Pres. Richard Trumka spoke. He began by noting the presence of a half dozen brothers from two of the union locals striking Massey. The strikers, there at the invitation of UMW Local 2300 from District 4, were given a rousing welcome.

"The A.T. Massey Coal Co. is out to break the union in southern West Virginia," Trumka said. "This company violates the labor laws every single day with seeming impunity. It has unsuccessfully attempted to get the state government and courts to break our strike with the state police and injunctions. But we shall not yield."

Trumka noted that the owners of Massey also operate mines in South Africa, where Black miners are denied the most basic rights. "We must speak out against injustice, not only here in the United States, but everywhere it occurs," he said.

The UMW president also referred to the recently ended miners strike in Britain. "The miners there have lost their battle," he stated. "They lost because of the massive use of the British police to escort scabs, and the near total failure of the British trade union movement to assist them in their hour of need."

Later that afternoon, at a Miners Day Gala sponsored by UMW Local 2300, miners heard leaders of the Massey strike discuss that battle more fully.

Jim Reid, president of UMW Local 2248 in southern West Virginia, said he and his wife had recently buried a son who died of cancer. "A.T. Massey is a little cancer

growth on our union," he said. It must be dealt with appropriately, before it spreads and does deadly damage to the UMW.

Bill Davis, president of Local 1440 in eastern Kentucky, told the miners, "The Massey strike is a battle we must win for the whole union."

Trumka also spoke. He said that Massey began preparing for this fight in the counties of southern West Virginia 10 years ago. "In Mingo County there is one employer: A.T. Massey," he said. "A.T. Massey thought he owned not only the jobs, but the people. He thought he could run the UMW out of Mingo County. But it took us 35 years to get Mingo County, and Logan County, and he is dead wrong if he thinks he can run us out."

That evening, at inauguration ceremonies for the new officers of District 5, the Massey strikers were given a standing ovation by several hundred miners and their families.

Throughout the day, the Massey strikers met new supporters and raised funds. Their table at the Miners Day Gala was a big center of attention.

Next to the Massey table, the Pennsylvania Women Miners Support Team's table was also doing a booming business, selling their official T-shirts, raising funds, and publicizing the upcoming national women miners conference sponsored by the Coal Employment Project and Coal Mining Women's Support Team. The con-

ference will take place June 21-23 in Price, Utah.

Union members at the day's events also discussed the April 20 march on Washington, D.C. The demands of the march are stop U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean; oppose apartheid in South Africa; freeze and reverse the arms race; and create jobs, cut the military budget.

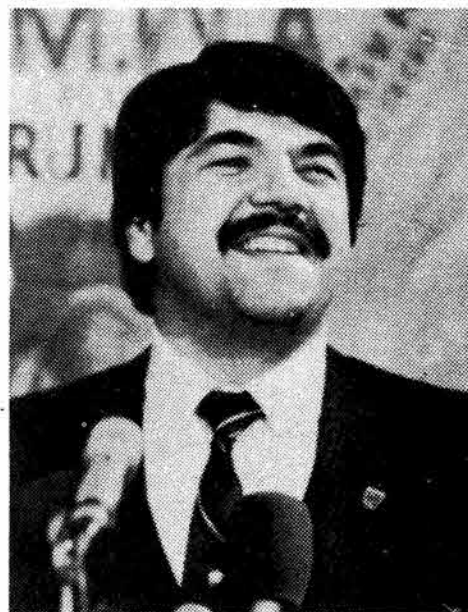
A number of miners here had already discussed the march at their local meetings. They were interested in an April 20 leaflet being distributed that had been printed by the United Steelworkers. Union members also discussed a letter about April 20 in the March *UMW Journal*. The letter was written by Carol Davis, coordinator of the Pennsylvania Women Miners Support Team.

Davis wrote, "This demonstration has been endorsed by a broad range of unions, churches and civil rights groups. It would be particularly fitting for our union to support this demonstration."

"The A.T. Massey Coal Co., which is leading the attempt to bust our union in West Virginia and eastern Kentucky, is owned by Royal Dutch Shell, a major South African coal operator."

"As the *Journal* pointed out, by helping South African miners, we are helping ourselves!"

Davis said that supporting the April 20 march "could also be a way to focus national attention on the slaughter of our



Richard Trumka, United Mine Workers president.

brothers and sister at the Wilberg mine, and the deterioration of safety in the mines...

"Now, more than ever, we need to get out on the streets saying, 'Stop murder of miners for profit — in South Africa, in Central America, and in the U.S.A.'"

Kipp Dawson is a member of UMW Local 1197 at Eighty-Four, Pennsylvania.

Court overturns D.C. affirmative action

BY NANCY BROWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. District Court Judge Charles Richey ruled April 1 that the District of Columbia Fire Department's affirmative action program for promotions inside the department was illegal (see editorial on page 14). Although Richey upheld the section of the plan for hiring, he voided the entire plan and ordered the city to develop a new one.

The ruling stems from a U.S. Justice Department suit filed in federal court March 11.

The fire department's affirmative action plan — which went into effect in January 1985 — was a result of decades of struggle by Black firefighters to compensate for gross discrimination in hiring and promotions.

The fire department was totally segregated until 1962. As late as 1963, Blacks in "integrated" fire houses slept in beds marked "C" for "colored" and ate from dishes reserved for Blacks only.

In 1981, then-Human Rights Director Anita Shelton ordered the city government to develop an affirmative action plan. The district government did not comply.

Black firefighters took their case to court in 1984. It was then that Judge Richey issued a consent decree and the city government agreed to submit an affirmative action plan.

The plan's immediate goals were that 60 percent of new hires would be national minorities and 5 percent would be women.

The plan also required that in the next eighteen months, 18 of 45 new sergeants, 10 of 33 new lieutenants, and 17 of 27 new captains be minorities.

On March 6, five Black firefighters were promoted to sergeant under the plan. Sev-

eral hours before the promotions were announced, a suit seeking to block the promotions was filed by Local 36 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, which organizes 1,000 firefighters, only 200 of whom are Black.

Three days later, the Justice Department filed its suit against the plan, charging that both the hiring and promotions provisions discriminated against white men.

This is despite the fact that Blacks make up 70 percent of the city's population but only 38 percent of the fire department's uniformed force. According to the city Corporation Counsel, Inez Smith Reid, "the vast majority of captains, lieutenants, and sergeants are white." And Blacks are at the bottom of the wage scale.

In his ruling against the plan, Richey said that "the white firefighters have earned the right to expect to be able to reap the rewards of their many years of service and dedication, without having those rewards stripped away solely on the basis of race.... Black firefighters have also worked hard, having to overcome a long history of racial prejudice. However, the fact of past discrimination alone is not enough to deprive innocent whites of their legitimate expectation of advancement."

Sudan coup: attempt to end unrest

Continued from Page 3

famine. Nimeiry responded to the protests with brutal repression, arresting thousands and threatening mass deportations of the unemployed to labor camps in the countryside. It was to counter this repression that Sudanese doctors went on strike and issued the call for a general strike.

In addition to the rollback in food prices, the new regime was said by NBC News to have announced April 8 that thousands jailed for participating in the hunger protests were being released. The State Security Council — Nimeiry's secret police — was declared disbanded. Top officials of the hated dictator were placed under arrest. And democratic elections were promised at some future date.

At the same time, the new military ruler was reported by NBC News to have threatened to arrest on charges of treason any workers who did not go back to their jobs.

General Dahab also signaled that he intends to continue Nimeiry's course of defending U.S. imperialist interests in the region. The April 8 *New York Times* reported, "The new military ruler of the Sudan met separately today with the senior American, Egyptian, and Saudi Arabian diplomats in Khartoum and reassured them he would keep the Sudan on a pro-Western course."

At the same time, Washington is concerned about the stability of the new government. They fear that Dahab took power to prevent younger officers from launching their own coup. One U.S. official said, "This coup has all the earmarks of a pre-emptive coup in which the top brass went along to save their own skins."

"This raises an important question. If General Dahab only ousted Nimeiry before other military men would oust him, how strong is his base of power?"

The April 7 *Washington Post* suggested

that the U.S. government should stand ready to use the "food weapon" to head off any substantial deviation from the dictates of imperialism.

Sudan, it explained, "is dependent on American grain shipments to avoid mass starvation among its population of 22 million."

"That leverage alone — if tactfully manipulated — should be more than enough to prevent any radical antiwestern government from taking over in Khartoum."

Burkina's Pres. Sankara interview in 'IP'

For the past year and a half, a popular, anti-imperialist revolution has been unfolding in Burkina (formerly Upper Volta), an impoverished West African country of 7 million people.

The upcoming, April 29, *Intercontinental Press* features an exclusive interview with Burkina's Pres. Thomas Sankara, obtained by *IP* managing editor Ernest Harsch during a visit there in March.

Sankara discusses some of the accomplishments and problems of Burkina's struggle against imperialist domination and the legacy of colonial and neocolonial rule. He also looks at the progress made in mobilizing women, the social impact of the agrarian reform, the contradictory role of the petty bourgeoisie, the example of Cuba, and the need for solidarity between the peoples of Burkina and the United States in combatting imperialism.

The current, April 15, *IP* includes two documents from a national union assembly held in Nicaragua,

including resolutions and a report by Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado. They focus on the economic problems confronting Nicaragua in face of U.S.-directed counterrevolutionary attacks.

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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to Fight Famine
and Drought



Fidel Castro
'Latin America Is a Powder Keg'



Lebanon
Resistance in South
Forces Speedup in
Israeli Withdrawal

U.S. 'peace' plan: ploy to push war

Continued from front page

Nicaraguan government has overwhelming popular support. That's why the U.S.-backed mercenaries have been unable to seize a town and declare a puppet government to challenge Sandinista rule. For U.S. imperialism to invade under current conditions, without any "cover," would cost Washington a very high political price.

As a major part of the war, the U.S. rulers are attacking the Nicaraguan economy — cutting the amount of Nicaragua's sugar it will buy and directing its contras to strike at economic installations. These destabilization efforts add to the impact of the world economic crisis that has hit Nicaragua like the rest of Latin America. In this way the U.S. imperialists hope to weaken the Nicaraguan revolution from within.

The U.S. government's attempts to destroy the revolution from within, however, have failed. The Sandinistas have organized and mobilized the workers and farmers to meet the economic and military challenge.

The U.S. government has also met with opposition from working people in this country to another Vietnam war in Central America.

Miguel D'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, hit the nail on the head when, rejecting this phony plan, he said, "the great communicator is finding out that he has been unable to persuade the American people . . . why they should continue financing these thugs, these murderers known as contras."

Reagan's "peace plan" is designed to overcome this political obstacle. The White House hopes that with this plan it will give the Congress political cover to vote for war while talking "peace."

Spokespeople for the government and various Democratic and Republican congresspeople have attacked Nicaragua for rejecting this latest sham by Washington. The big business press, led by the *New York Times*, has added its voice to this chorus. The *Times* demands that the Nicaraguan government "reconsider the proud refusal."

Nicaragua's rejection of this war scheme is not a question of pride. It is one of defending workers and farmers power; of defending national sovereignty and independence. The contras have no independent existence without the U.S. government, which funds them. They would not exist without the U.S. government's support. Even with U.S. aid, the contras, Reagan admits, are in "desperate straits."

It is, therefore, as D'Escoto explained, "totally absurd" to think that the Nicaraguan government is going to "talk to hirelings of the American government."

The Nicaraguan government has reaffirmed its call for real negotiations — that is, negotiations with the puppeteer, not with the puppets, with the U.S. government, not its paid terrorists.

ment, not its paid terrorists.

Nicaragua's president Daniel Ortega has repeated his willingness to meet with U.S. officials. It is the U.S. government that has been an obstacle to real negotiations — unilaterally breaking off talks in January with the Nicaraguan government.

Reagan in presenting the White House's new ploy repeated many of the U.S. government's lies against the Nicaraguan government. He again accused Nicaragua of repressing the church, the press, and individual rights.

The exact opposite has been the case. Since the 1979 revolution established workers and farmers power, social, economic, and political strides forward have been registered by Nicaragua's working people. This includes better health and child care; a literacy campaign giving most workers and farmers the right to read for the first time; the right of workers to organize unions; and real steps toward equality for women, Blacks, and Indians.

The "democratic contras," on the other hand, have brought terror and death to workers and farmers. They have raped women, burned crops, and destroyed schools and child care centers.

The government's peace ploy also drew a false parallel to El Salvador.

"Unlike President Duarte of El Salvador who seeks dialogue with his opponents," Reagan said, "the communists in Nicaragua have turned . . . a cold shoulder to appeals for national reconciliation. . . ." This is yet another attempt to confuse the issue.

Contra leader deserts, seeks amnesty

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A top leader of the CIA-paid contras (counterrevolutionaries) has deserted his post and asked to return to Nicaragua under this country's Amnesty Law.

Efrén Mondragón, a member of the general staff of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), took refuge in the Mexican embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on March 12. He and 10 of his relatives all entered the embassy at the same time. The 10 relatives are now safe in Managua.

As head of the FDN's José Dolores Estrada Regional Command, Mondragón led about 600 troops in military operations against peasants in northern Nicaragua.

Previously, Mondragón had been the head of intelligence for the FDN, which is the largest of the contra groupings and the one most associated with the hated National Guard of deposed Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza.

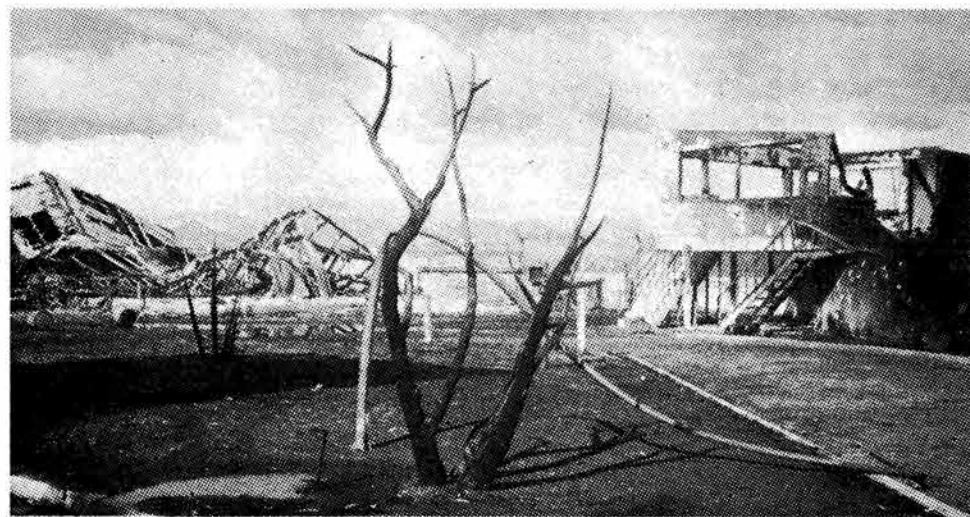
The 10 members of Mondragón's family were all recruited to the contras — mostly by force. On March 21 they held a news conference here in Managua, where they described their ordeal and their ultimate escape from the FDN.

Adalberto Espinoza, one of Mondragón's cousins, explained that when a young man from Nicaragua shows up in Honduras, he is arrested and brought to the offices of Honduran military intelligence. There "they interrogate him, torture him, and force him to go to a counterrevolutionary base in order to train him and make him a commando," Espinoza said.

Mondragón's nephew, Samuel Blanco, said that in February 1984 he was on his way to Mexico, trying to escape Nicaragua's draft. Honduran soldiers stopped him. "They brought me to a FUSEP [Honduran military intelligence] base where counterrevolutionary elements interrogated me," he said. "They took away my passport and told me that if I wanted to leave the country I should turn over \$300."

"Later," Blanco continued, "they threatened to kill my family if I didn't join the ranks of the Somozaists."

Norma Corrales, a distant cousin of Mondragón, suffered another side of the mercenaries' brutality. She had gone to Honduras looking for a sister kidnapped by the contras. Instead, she fell into the hands of Honduran soldiers. A Somozaist raped



Reagan and Congress talk "peace" while U.S.-backed contras wreak destruction on Nicaraguan economy, such as Puerto Corinto, above.

Duarte was forced to open negotiations by international pressure against the brutal civil war being waged by his regime and its imperialist backers against the Salvadoran people. He was forced to accept the dialogue proposed by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) because of the advances the workers and farmers made against the U.S.-backed Salvadoran army. The FMLN controls one half of the national territory of El Salvador. One third of the Salvadoran population lives in the FMLN's liberated zones.

The contras on the other hand represent outside forces — the imperialist rulers in the United States. That's why after three years of war, with millions of dollars in U.S. military aid and military direction from the CIA, the contras have not been able to hold a piece of Nicaraguan national territory for even a short period of time.

The difference between El Salvador and Nicaragua is simple: In El Salvador there is

a full-scale civil war where workers and farmers under the leadership of the FMLN are fighting against a U.S. puppet regime. In Nicaragua there is *no civil war*; only a legitimate government based on an armed working people defending itself from imperialist intervention.

Opponents of the U.S. war in Nicaragua should reject this ploy for what it is — cover for the imperialists to escalate their war against Nicaragua. In this last week before the April Actions we should take the government's sham proposal as our battle cry and redouble our efforts to mobilize opponents of the U.S. war in Nicaragua for April 20.

We should demand an immediate end to all U.S. aid to the contras; U.S. troops out of Central America; end the military maneuvers in Honduras and press for massive economic aid to the Nicaraguan workers and farmers government to pay for the destruction caused by the U.S. war.

and tortured her right in the headquarters of Honduran intelligence. Then she was forced to join the FDN. She later became Mondragón's companion.

Both Corrales and Espinoza told of witnessing a visit to an FDN base by Arturo Cruz, the presidential candidate of the proimperialist Democratic Coordinating Committee in Nicaragua in 1984. Accompanying Cruz to the terrorists' camp were U.S. advisers and Honduran officials. "Cruz said he felt proud to know us and felt fulfilled to be organized in the same struggle as the FDN," said Corrales.

Some 600 people involved in counterrevolutionary activity have taken advantage of Nicaragua's Amnesty Law since it was adopted a little over two months ago. This represents a sizable increase in the rate of contra desertions. Last year, under the old amnesty law, about 1,600 people turned themselves in. The new law extends amnesty to include top contra leaders, who were excluded under the previous statute.

Mondragón remained in the Mexican



Barricada
Contra leader's family told press of coercion used to recruit.

embassy in Honduras as of this writing. Said his cousin Espinoza, "It is not in the interests of the contras, Honduras, or the CIA for him to leave." FDN and Honduran agents are watching the embassy day and night. "Whatever happens to him will be their responsibility," Espinoza said.

Talks with Miskito opposition renewed

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Negotiations between the Nicaraguan government and the armed Miskito opposition group MISURASATA were renewed March 26 in Bogotá, Colombia. MISURASATA, headed by Brooklyn Rivera, has been part of the U.S. contra war against Nicaragua, concentrating its military attacks on the country's Atlantic Coast. The group had been part of the Costa Rican-based counterrevolutionary coalition, the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE), although Rivera maintains that he no longer has any contacts with these forces, including their most prominent leader, Edén Pastora.

Talks between MISURASATA and the Nicaraguan government began late last fall, following a visit Rivera made to Nicaragua. Rivera failed to show up for a scheduled round of negotiations in January, following an increase in fighting on the Atlantic Coast.

The Nicaraguan government delegation that traveled to Bogotá was headed by Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrión, vice minister of the interior, and also included Sandinista commanders Omar Cabezas and Lumberto Campbell as well as

Mirna Cunningham, head of the government on the northern half of the Atlantic Coast. On leaving Managua, Commander Carrión said he had confidence "in the willingness of the [MISURASATA] delegation to live up to what they have stated and go all the way with this process."

The Nicaraguan government is reportedly proposing to Rivera a cease-fire, after which MISURASATA could participate in the discussions already under way on an autonomy statute for the Atlantic Coast.

Rivera, for his part, said that enactment of an acceptable autonomy law is one of his preconditions for a formal cease-fire.

So far no agreement has been reached. Carrión remarked on returning from Bogotá, "We have found little flexibility, up until now, in the positions of the MISURASATA delegation, which has made it impossible to arrive at even minimal concrete agreements."

But, he affirmed, "We will keep trying. We will continue to make efforts until all possibilities to reach an agreement that is really to the benefit of the people, particularly on the Atlantic Coast, are exhausted."

The next set of meetings were scheduled for April 20-21.

New study documents Israeli expropriation of Palestinian land

A study entitled "Land Alienation in the West Bank: A Legal and Spatial Analysis" by former deputy mayor of Jerusalem, Meron Benvenisti, was recently released. It documents Israel's methods in expropriating Palestinian land on the West Bank — first seized from Jordan in 1967.

The study is based entirely on Israeli government and army orders and official maps and documents. It shows that in the last 18 years Israel has seized direct or indirect control of West Bank lands through "elaborate legal mechanisms and quasi-legal procedures."

The study, which is acknowledged as authoritative by both Israelis and Arabs, proves that the 42,500 Israeli settlers have expropriated and control 52 percent of the West Bank while the original owners, 800,000 Palestinians, control only 48 percent of the land in the area. If present growth rates continue, there will be 100,000 settlers by the end of the decade.

Rainbow coalitions' Democratic Party strategy

BY NAN BAILEY

The following article by Nan Bailey is based on a speech given in February. Bailey is a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee.

Local Rainbow coalitions are holding city and state conferences to make plans to register more Democrats and mobilize a more effective and "progressive" Democratic Party vote in 1985. In most cases, organizations based in the Black community have taken the lead in initiating these meetings.

The goal of these coalitions is to use the same strategy in the 1985 and 1986 local and congressional campaigns that was used in the Jesse Jackson campaign for the Democratic Party nomination for president last year. That strategy is to mobilize the Rainbow — Blacks, Latinos, women, workers, farmers, and like-minded whites — in an alliance that subordinates all politics to pressuring for Democratic Party electoral gains and using the weight of Blacks and other components of the Rainbow to put their stamp on the Democratic Party and on capitalist politics in general.

When the national Rainbow Coalition was formally launched in mid-December, Jackson explained its purpose this way: "[We] will not be pocketed in any one-party bag. We'll support Democrats. We'll back Republicans when they are right. We'll stand with independents, too."

An associate of Jackson told the February 15 *New York Times*, "Jesse doesn't want to leave the party. He's afraid the

party's leaving him."

Jackson is also quoted in the same article as saying: "Our tension in the party is not over whether we should remain Democrats or not, it is over the direction of the party. We know the cards are stacked against a third party. Because we challenge the direction and the decisions of the Democratic Party, we should not lose our legitimacy as Democrats."

The aim, Jackson has stressed, is "energizing other members of the Democratic Party to steer a course of social and economic justice."

Most of the Black leadership agrees with Jackson's objectives, even if they may disagree with his tactics. All continue to promote what has been their central political perspective since the late 1960s: that elections and participation in the two capitalist parties, particularly in the Democratic Party, are the way to negotiate for Black political power.

Washington and Jackson campaigns

This idea is being even more aggressively pushed since Harold Washington's election as mayor of Chicago in 1983 and Jackson's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. Both these efforts are held up as victories in the fight for Black political power.

But what happened in these campaigns? Washington's and Jackson's electoral efforts helped to blunt, disorient, and divert political struggle in the Black community. Their campaigns served to deepen the illusion promoted by the capitalist rulers and their supporters in the Black and working-



Herman (Denny) Farrell, center, candidate for mayor of New York City, surrounded by Democratic Party, "dump Koch" politicians.

class movement that "real" politics is synonymous with election campaigns for public office. Their campaigns actually helped depoliticize all those who backed them.

Their campaigns misled millions of Blacks by equating change with getting a bigger slice of the Democratic Party pie. In fact, real change originates in what goes on every day in social clashes that take place

in the factories, on the farms, in the streets, and on the battlefields of war. Only by recognizing this truth will the course of U.S. politics be altered.

Far from giving up this liberal perspective now that the presidential campaign is behind us, a big majority of prominent Black figures have moved to expand their influence in the Democratic Party. That is what all the local Rainbow conferences

The status of Black rights in the United States today

BY MALIK MIAH

How are Blacks faring today? Moving forward, backward, or simply standing still?

Speaking for the rulers, President Reagan says quite firmly that Blacks are advancing — more than ever before.

In a January interview with *USA Today* Reagan said:

"If they [Blacks] ever become aware of the opportunities that are improving, they might wonder whether they need some of those [Black] organizations [i.e., civil rights groups such as the National Urban League and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People]."

In a 30-page supplement to the proposed 1986 federal budget, the administration explains that in the last four years the government has produced "substantial progress toward the colorblind society."

What does "colorblind society" mean in practice? The reinterpretation of the 1960s civil rights laws to make them ineffective, combined with new racist, antilabor policies.

The supplement gives special praise to the Reagan government's success in opposing affirmative action with quotas, busing to achieve school desegregation, and having government agencies apply "merit" as the basis of hiring and promotion.

Those who reject these attacks on civil and democratic rights are labeled obstruc-

tionists — or worse. The Black head of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, Clarence Pendleton, Jr., recently attacked the liberal leaders of the major civil rights groups as "media-designated Black leaders" and "racists."

But the liberal leadership of the old-line civil rights groups has no alternative perspective in a fundamental sense to that of Pendleton or Reagan on advancing Black rights. Their framework is strengthening and improving capitalism by having Blacks share more of the economic and political pie through getting more involved in the two-party system. The differences they have with Reagan and Republicans who are Black are over *how* to accomplish this goal.

For example, the Urban League and NAACP recently published reports on the status of Blacks today. The reports were written with the aim of encouraging the employers and their government to take steps to more fully integrate Blacks into running capitalist society. Within this perspective, the Urban League report gives special praise to Jesse Jackson's unsuccessful bid for the 1984 Democratic Party presidential nomination. It is presented as a positive step for Black rights and as a way to advance toward achieving political power.

What the reports actually prove through facts and figures, despite the political

views of the authors, is that Blacks' economic status is worsening, and the political strategy based on reforming capitalism is getting Blacks nowhere.

John E. Jacob, the Urban League president, writes in "The State of Black America":

"In the best of worlds we would be reporting that the black condition has shown marked improvement over the past decade. But the facts argue otherwise. In virtually every area of life that counts, black people made strong progress in the 1960s, peaked in the 70s, and have been sliding back ever since. Much of this, but not all, is attributable to the shape of the American economy which has gone through some trying times, and is still not out of the woods, as far as black Americans can discern."

"One measuring rod for answering the questions we have posed is employment. In 1975, black unemployment was 14.1 percent, about double that of white unemployment (7.6 percent). At the end of 1984, black unemployment was 16 percent, more than double that of whites (6.5 percent). Constituting some 10 percent of the labor force, blacks account for 20 percent of the jobless."

The March unemployment figure, according to the U.S. Labor Department, is 7.2 percent for all working people actively looking for work. For Blacks it is 15.2 percent.

The government, which is slashing social programs and recently cut off unemployment benefits for 340,000 workers, now says 7 percent is "full employment" for a "growing economy." What this means in real terms is millions of permanently unemployed workers — and economic devastation for a high percentage of Black working people.

The NAACP report, "A Profile of Black America," explains that "between 1980 and 1984, blacks of all income classes suffered declines in their incomes and standards-of-living."

This is in contrast to the millions of professionals and middle-class layers who have directly benefited from the government's social policies, tax breaks, and support for the employers' antilabor offensive.

According to the NAACP report, "Only 7 percent of all black families fall into the wealthiest fifth" of U.S. society. Blacks

are 12 percent of the population — approximately 26 million people.

This layer has benefited from the government's policies. But the great majority of Blacks — employed and unemployed workers, farmers, and the poorest layer of the middle class (small shop owners) — haven't.

It is not surprising then that Black two-parent families in which one parent works and the other takes care of the children "suffered an average loss of over \$2,000 apiece in disposable income from 1980 to 1984."

The 1983 U.S. Census Bureau reports that 9.9 million Blacks — nearly 36 percent of the Black population — live in poverty. That's the highest rate since 1968.

The government estimates the poverty line at \$10,178 for a family of four.

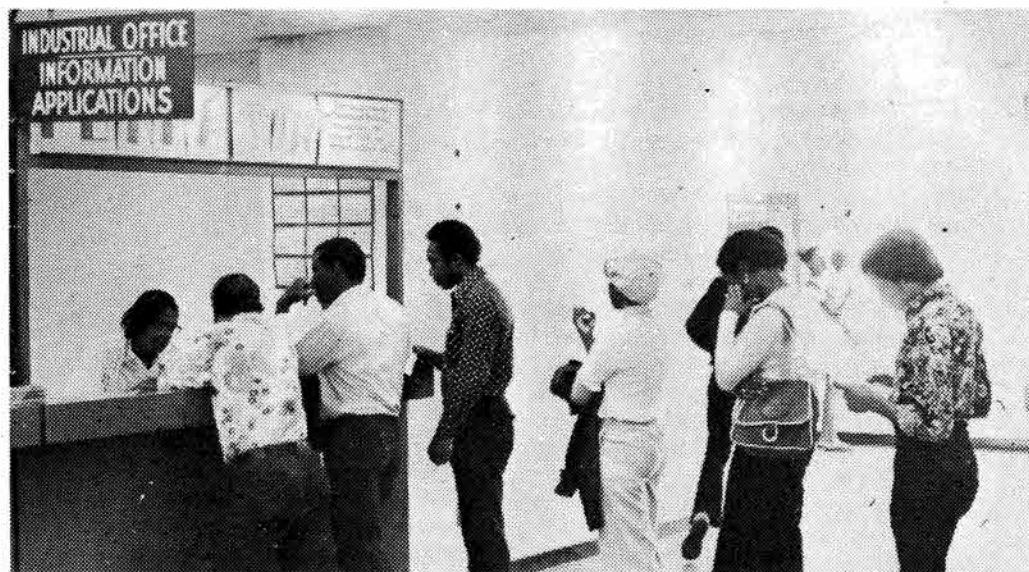
This figure gives only a partial picture of the decline in the standard of living for Blacks. When the government's cuts in social services are included, it is much worse. Big reductions in these social programs include cutbacks in the food-stamp program, which has been cut over \$2 billion a year since 1980; job training programs such as the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA); Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC); medicaid; and programs for school lunches.

Considering the fact that there are a disproportionate number of Blacks in government-funded social programs and that 42 percent of Black families are headed by single females — who suffer double discrimination as women and Blacks — the true impact of these cuts in social wages is difficult to measure.

The social condition for most Blacks is clearly on the decline. What can be done?

A radically new political orientation is needed. The liberal strategy is a trap that guarantees worse ruling-class attacks in the future.

The article by Nan Bailey on this page outlines an alternative perspective. She notes in particular the significance of the small formation, the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP). The NBIPP stands on an anticapitalist, anti-imperialist program. A leadership based on that type of program will be essential to lead Blacks toward full equality and self-determination.



Unemployment line in New York City.

Militant/Mohammed Oliver

: dead end for Black and labor movements

represent.

The political perspective of the Black misleaders must be looked at in the framework of the leadership crisis of the entire working class. Today there is no motion in the labor or Black movement toward independent working-class political action. The top trade union officialdom's class-collaborationist policies mean subordinating working people's political and economic interests to the employers' profits and to the two capitalist parties. They reject building an independent labor party.

With the exception of the party-builders of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP), all other Black political formations present only variations on the orientation to capitalist politics.

This orientation begins with the assumption that the capitalist system is something we have to accept for all time — or at least for a long, long time. Its goal is to win our 'fair share' within the limits of capitalism. The truth is, with that perspective, we won't win even that.

Fighting for a White House invitation

The NAACP is currently on a campaign that is a good example of this liberal, pro-capitalist perspective. After failing in their attempt to "dump Reagan" the NAACP leadership has taken on a new goal. It is to talk with Reagan. They want an invitation to the White House so they can impress on him the critical situation the Black population faces today.

The NAACP leaders are demanding the same treatment Reagan gave to a group of the Black business elite he met with on Martin Luther King's birthday this year. Insulted that they weren't invited to the meeting, they have made the demand for a meeting with Reagan a central campaign for the NAACP. This is what Executive Director Benjamin Hooks reported at a press conference held at the end of the NAACP's annual board meeting in New York in February.

New York mayoral campaign

Another example of the procapitalist perspective is the response to the upcoming mayoral election in New York City. Here a "dump Koch" campaign — with the same perspectives as the "dump Reagan" campaign last year — has been talked about for over a year. Mayor Edward Koch won office originally as a liberal Democrat who was not the Democratic Party's first choice.

He has since won a well-deserved reputation as a racist, cop-loving, anti-working-class, pro-Israeli imperialist politician. He says the main problem of race relations in New York is the anti-Jewish prejudice of Black people.

Koch has expressed his sympathy for racist terrorist Bernhard Goetz. He has also defended the cop who was indicted for the murder of Eleanor Bumpurs. Bumpurs was the Black woman shot to death by police who came to evict her from her apartment.

The Democratic politicians maneuvering to replace Koch say that Koch the individual is the problem, not the capitalist two-party system. And along with this claim goes the implication that replacing Koch with a liberal Democrat will bring relief to the workers and oppressed of New York.

Black, labor, Latino, and so-called progressive organizations have been bargaining with each other to come up with a single "dump Koch" candidate they could

all unite behind. Recently these unity discussions fell apart.

Capitalist politicians fall out

City Council president Carol Bellamy announced she would run for mayor. A coalition of Black groups endorsed Democratic Party politician Herman Farrell. Farrell is Black.

And Puerto Rican congressman Herman Badillo, another possible anti-Koch candidate, was left out in the cold. He expected to be the Black coalition's candidate, and afterwards said that anti-Puerto Rican sentiment among Black leaders was the reason he wasn't chosen. He is considering announcing his own campaign for mayor.

What started out as a unity discussion has ended up with Black, Latino, and labor leaders falling out and stabbing each other in the back.

That's because, in reality, they are *not* Black, Latino, or labor leaders at all. *They are capitalist politicians who happen to be Blacks, Latinos, or union officials.*

Part of their problem is that there is no objective basis for Black-Latino-working-class unity within the capitalist framework of politics. Because, whether it's Black Democratic, Latino Democratic, or trade union Democratic politics, the rules are the same. And they're not rules based on anything like the class interests or the common political goals of oppressed and exploited people. These unity discussions haven't had anything to do with that kind of politics.

The program was assumed — to elect a mayor and as many other officials as possible by any means necessary. But the "dump Koch" coalition in reality was just a temporary alliance of self-serving gangs of capitalist politicians.

One gang, based in Brooklyn, is led by Al Vann, who wants to be elected president of the borough of Brooklyn. They were looking for a Democratic candidate who would back them in exchange for their endorsement. Another gang of "dump Koch" politicians is led by David Dinkins, who wants to win the seat of borough president of Manhattan. They were looking for a Democratic candidate for mayor who would back their fight for that seat.

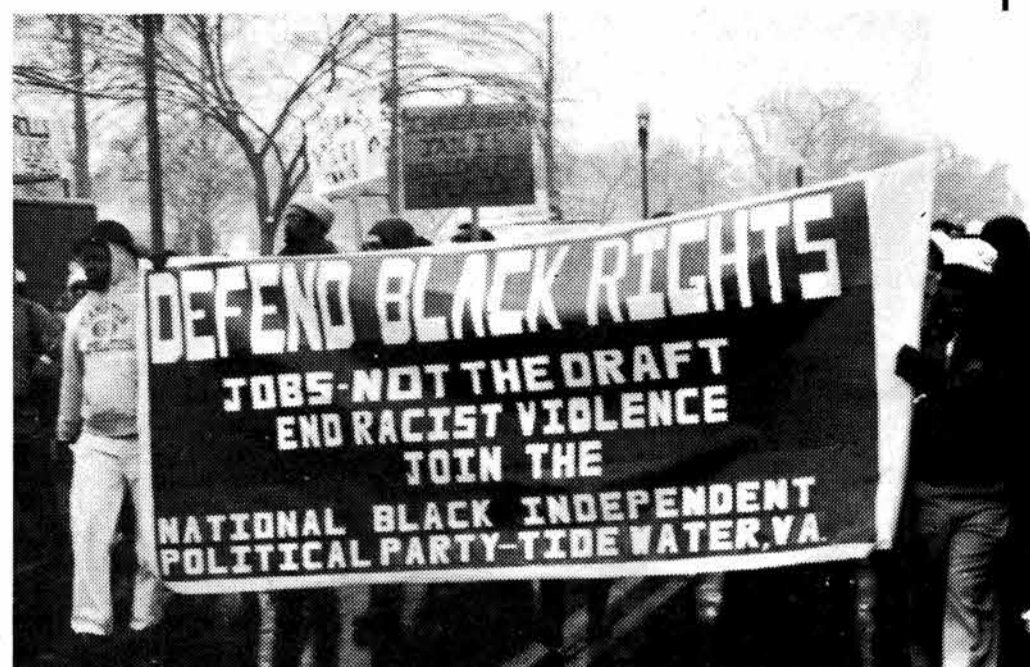
After they couldn't find a capitalist politician who is Black and was both a "real contender" — that is acceptable to a broad enough group among the bosses and the party machine to be able to raise substantial funds for a major campaign — and willing to run, City Council president Bellamy became the favored candidate of both gangs. But when she hesitated to commit herself to endorse Al Vann for Brooklyn borough president — fearing that would jeopardize her own chances of winning — the whole deal fell apart.

These business-as-usual Democratic Party maneuvers have nothing to do with building a genuine political alliance of Blacks, Latinos, and workers in New York.

Meanwhile the big-business media is taking advantage of the opportunity to claim a rift between Blacks and Latinos in the city.

But most important, the entire "dump Koch" perspective has only served to politically disarm and demobilize Blacks and all other workers from defending themselves against the bosses' attacks.

These developments have opened the door to a potentially rich and important discussion of how to win Black-Latino unity



Militant

1981 Solidarity march in Washington, D.C. National Black Independent Political Party does *not* accept liberal strategy of reforming capitalism as road forward to self-determination. Its founding charter points to necessity to fight for Black rights by waging determined battle *against* capitalism and imperialism, and rejecting support to any wings of Democratic and Republican parties.

and political power.

As they fight for their share of the action in the Democratic Party, the capitalist politicians who are Black are using some radical-sounding language.

They are talking about "Black political power" as their long-range goal. They're talking about the need to fight "independently" of the Democratic Party to reach this goal. Some are even raising the idea of an "independent Black party."

Ron Karenga, for example, gave a speech to about 3,000 Blacks and Latinos in Albany in late February at a meeting sponsored by the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus. Karenga said that if Blacks and Latinos are to have true power, they will have to form their own political party.

"If you're going to play politics," he said, "you need your own party. Isn't that the lesson of Jesse Jackson?"

It's useful to take a look at what Democrats like Karenga mean when they use these terms. Because there are two things going on here.

On the one hand, it's phrases like these that get the most enthusiastic response from the masses of Blacks who are frustrated and disillusioned with capitalist politics. These Democrats who are Black know that the sentiment to get ourselves together and accomplish something is very strong among Blacks. They are responding to that sentiment and trying to capture and use it to advance their liberal perspective.

On the other hand, their use of this language is not just a fake and a fraud. But they insert their own class content into these words. It is an expression of their fight — and it is a fight — within the Democratic Party. They want to use Black votes to win more of what they call Black political power. In their language, Black political power translates into more elected offices, more powerful political positions in the Democratic Party hierarchy. It means more power to influence decision-making and candidate nominations. Jackson says this most clearly.

The Black liberals, like all liberals and their class-collaborationist friends in the labor movement, seek to organize the Black vote independently only as a pressure lever, for instance as a Black caucus within the Democratic Party. They even may use demonstrations selectively to pressure for some of the changes they seek — all changes within the framework of capitalism.

Some of the Black Democrats even believe that it's helpful to use the threat of organizing an independent Black party to win these goals. This threat could be a real bargaining chip in the fight for more representation within the framework of capitalist politics.

Question of program

When capitalist politicians who are Black fight for Black political power or organize independently, they are serious. But

what they mean by Black political power is not what advocates of independent working-class political action mean.

This takes us right to the question of program. Independence is not a question of physical or organizational separation from the Democratic and Republican parties. It's a political question of a fight *against* these two parties of imperialism.

The fight for real Black power is the fight to take power out of the hands of the exploiters and put it in the hands of the exploited.

Independence must mean independence from and a fight against capitalist politics.

The labor party based on revolutionary trade unions and the mass Black party we're fighting for are one with the revolutionary perspective of fighting capitalism and imperialism.

This is the perspective of revolutionaries, and it is the perspective of the NBIPP charter. This political perspective puts NBIPP at the heart of this important political discussion.

NBIPP's role in discussion

In this framework it's possible to better appreciate the importance of the NBIPP. It is the only organization in the Black movement with the correct perspective on the central political question facing Blacks: How to organize to carry out a political fight against our oppression as a nationality and our exploitation as workers.

NBIPP is tiny. Measured against the 30 million Blacks it seeks to attract and mobilize and against the memberships of Democratic Party-oriented organizations, you'd even have to say it is microscopic in terms of its physical size.

But small as it is, NBIPP is an organism that is alive and that is keeping a very important discussion alive among a vanguard of activists committed to the NBIPP charter.

It feels the full weight of the pressures from the employers' offensive and the pervasiveness of electoralist illusions. This has led some NBIPP activists to abandon the party and return to Democratic Party politics, including the Rainbow variety.

Others have remained active in the NBIPP but are trying to drive out of the organization those who resist their attempts to steer it away from attracting young workers and engaging in independent political action.

At the same time, however, a small core of fighters is determined to maintain the NBIPP on the anticapitalist, anti-imperialist course laid out in its charter.

Black activists should be part of building NBIPP.

The strategy for Black liberation begins with breaking out of the capitalist electoralist framework. The achievement of Black emancipation will be the result of a successful anticapitalist revolution.

It is this anticapitalist perspective that is key to advancing the fight for Black liberation today.

From Pathfinder

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—YSA CAMPAIGNS FOR SOCIALISM—

BY GREG ROSEMONT

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Young Socialist Alliance is working to build the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice in a big way.

In addition to participating in labor, Black, and women's outreach task forces of the local April Action coalition, YSA members have been especially active in helping to lead the Youth Task Force (YTF). The task force is reaching out to antiwar youth, especially young workers, Blacks and Latinos — those who will be first to be sent to die in Central America for the profits of big business.

A first year student at John Carroll University had this to say about April 20: "I feel very excited about it. It's really good to see a lot of solidarity between people on issues that lots of folks think no one cares about. I think it's very important."

Asked what he thought about the possibility he'd be sent to fight against Nicaragua, he responded,

"I'd be angry. I wouldn't want to fight on the side the U.S. government wants me to fight on."

Some of the accomplishments of the YTF include creating a leaflet aimed at young people which explains why we have no interest in supporting the U.S. war against the people of Nicaragua, or in supporting racism at home or in South Africa. The YTF has been chiefly responsible for distributing over 4,000 copies of this leaflet all over Cleveland — in the Black community, on campuses, at political meetings, and at some industrial plant-gates.

Two youth from the task force will be interviewed on a local radio station soon about April 20 and will explain its demands.

The YTF has been particularly effective in building local actions and meetings to build April 20, such as a March 3 town meeting which drew 250 people.

Across the board, we have received a very good response. This has done two things. First, it has

shown the young activists involved in the task force that contrary to the myth pushed in the capitalist press, young people are thinking about politics — chiefly the subject of war. Second, it has given all of those involved a chance to go out on the streets, thinking and talking about politics. This is a brand new experience for many young people and one of the coalition's most important assets.

For example, at the last YTF meeting, we discussed how to explain why people should oppose the U.S. government's war against Nicaragua. One young activist, who became politically involved for the first time around the April Actions, pointed to an article by the Nicaraguan president, Daniel Ortega, printed in the *New York Times*, which answered the U.S. administration's lies, and said, "This is the best way to explain it to people."

The YTF has been discussing where to focus our efforts. One example of our outreach to the

Black community has been our work at Cuyahoga Community College (CCC), a major Black campus. The student government of CCC has endorsed April 20 and the student president agreed to speak at a building rally sponsored by the local coalition demanding an end to all U.S. support to apartheid and to U.S. attacks on Nicaragua.

While still small, the YTF has united a number of young people around making April 20 as big and broad as possible. In addition to young workers in the YSA, quite a number of students are active in the task force.

Political discussion among people in the YTF is constant. The YSA members have explained our opinion that the only way to insure the end to U.S. government wars like the one in Central America and racist regimes like in South Africa is for workers and farmers in this country to kick out the capitalist rulers here and replace them with a government of our own.

Our ideas are being taken seriously. One activist in the task force came over to a YSAer's house to watch Fidel Castro on "60 Minutes." That night he borrowed the pamphlet, *Fidel Castro Speaks to Trade Unionists on the U.S. War Drive and the World Economic Crisis*. He read it and said, "...it blew me away."

We are looking to broadening and deepening our work with high school students, and in the Black community. We are hard at work and very optimistic about bringing as many antiwar youth to Washington on April 20 as we can.

Greg Rosemont is the coordinator of the Cleveland Youth Task Force and a member of the YSA.

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

The battle to defend abortion rights in Canada

Continued from back page

The Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics (OCAC) and the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) were joined by more and more trade unions, from steel to auto to public service workers. The Ontario Federation of Labor (the equivalent of a state affiliate of the AFL-CIO) and the Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP — Canada's labor party) actively joined the battle.

In November 1984 a stunning victory was won when a Toronto jury came back with a verdict of "Not guilty!" in the trial against Dr. Morgentaler and his two associates, Drs. Robert Scott and Leslie Smoling.

As Morgentaler explained, the defense was conducted "as a cause, not a case," and for weeks during the trial the right of women to safe, legal abortion was defended.

Before the jury went out, the judge delivered a seven-hour harangue instructing them to convict the doctors. But for the fourth time, a Canadian jury came back with an acquittal.

Major showdown

After the acquittal, the clinic reopened on December 10. In a strategy of legal battering of women's rights, the Ontario government brought new charges against the doctors, and appealed the jury acquittal.

And a major showdown took place outside the clinic.

In mid-February, a coalition of antiabortion church and reactionary "right-to-life" groups organized a week of picketing outside the clinic. Toronto's Archbishop Emmett Cardinal Carter pulled out the stops and organized through the Catholic churches and schools to mobilize for "the

battle against abortion."

Laura McArthur, president of Toronto's "right-to-life" organization, said, "We're going to put so much pressure on that we're going to close that joint."

On one day, 2,500 antiabortion pickets tried to close the clinic, but 14 women, accompanied by prochoice activists acting as escorts, battled their way through to the clinic and were able to obtain abortions.

Outraged by the week of activity by the "right-to-life" groups, supporters of abortion rights jammed the phone lines at the offices of the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics (OCAC), demanding that a counter-demonstration be organized.

The action was organized within four days, and on February 22, 7,000 supporters of abortion rights came out to keep the clinic open. It was the largest mobilization for abortion rights ever held in Canada.

Battle in Manitoba

A fresh battle is under way, this time against the Manitoba provincial government.

On March 23, Morgentaler reopened the clinic in Winnipeg for the first time in over a year. Six hours after the clinic reopened, the Manitoba police raided it, arrested Morgentaler, and seized the clinic equipment.

The New Democratic Party runs the Manitoba government. The NDP has a clear position in support of a woman's right to abortion. The actions of the NDP government in Manitoba have stirred anger in the ranks, and especially among the strongly prochoice unions. There is growing pressure on the Manitoba NDP government to reverse course and follow the example of Quebec by refusing to enforce the federal law.

"We will win that struggle in Winnipeg," Morgentaler told the crowd at the Toronto meeting, just as the victory will be won in Toronto and across Canada.

"Our fight is for fundamental human rights, for women's equality and autonomy. We must stand up and fight for it. We shall overcome!" he concluded.

Over \$3,000 was collected at the meeting to replace the equipment stolen by the Manitoba police. A week later the police again raided the clinic and stole the new equipment after an attempt by Morgentaler to reopen. A third attempt to reopen it was thwarted by an injunction.

Judy Rebeck, spokesperson for the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics, also addressed the Toronto meeting.

"Why do the provincial governments and the federal government keep going after the clinics?" she asked. "Because it's them who are closing the clinics. It's the governments, not the antichoice people, who are arresting doctors. It's the governments, the courts, the police, the attorney generals, who are carrying out the attacks."

"They don't want to see women get full equality," she said. "And the struggle for reproductive rights — and the bottom line is the right to abortion — is the foundation of the fight for women's equality. Because if we don't have the right to control our own bodies, if we can't decide if and when to have children, how can we win equality in the workplace and other social areas?"

"In Canada," she told the cheering audience, "this is the issue on which we have to stand up and fight. We will not be intimidated, we will not be set back by those who want to see us out of the work force and back into the kitchens and the bedrooms."

Rebeck called for the organization of a strong movement across Canada — in both English Canada and Quebec — to fight for abortion rights. "We need a movement and we need a movement across this country," she said, to demand that the charges be dropped, the clinics legalized, and the federal law repealed.

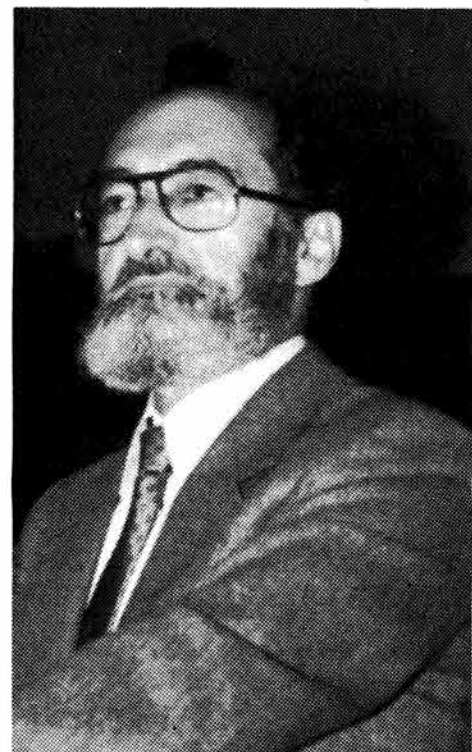
She reported that over the past six months over \$400,000 in contributions had poured in from supporters all over the country, enabling the movement to pay the legal bills and prepare for the next fight.

The struggle in Quebec

The Quebecois have been in the forefront of the struggle for abortion rights. In the mid-1970s their militant struggles won big gains for women in Quebec and provided a powerful example to the rest of Canada.

A network of clinics, hospitals providing government-funded abortions, and some community health centers that provide abortion make the situation much better in Quebec than in English Canada, although far from what it should be.

Recently, attacks against abortion rights have been increasing in Quebec. "Right-to-life" picket lines have appeared outside Dr. Morgentaler's Montreal clinic and else-



Militant/Rosemary Ray

Dr. Henry Morgentaler

where. Efforts are under way by antiabortion forces to try to abolish abortion services in at least two Quebec community health centers. Last autumn in the town of Dorval, the municipal council tried to pass an ordinance that would prohibit the opening of an abortion clinic within the city limits and that would restrict abortion clinics, pornography shops, and strip-joints to an isolated industrial area of town. Two hundred fifty-one organizations throughout Quebec organized to protest and push back the ordinance.

The Quebec National Students Association voted at a recent conference to make the struggle for abortion rights a priority. They also voted to organize support for actions organized in English Canada, recognizing that as long as the federal law was on the books, it hung like a sword over the gains made in Quebec. The students have also organized a campaign to prevent the community health center at St. Thérèse from abolishing abortions, and have won broad support for the campaign.

There is strong support in Quebec's unions for abortion rights, and they are being drawn into the struggle. One example of this was a standing ovation given to Dr. Morgentaler by a recent conference of 600 government workers in Montreal.

A future issue of the *Militant* will take a closer look at the situation in Quebec, including an interview with a student leader, and a report on a demonstration at the St. Thérèse clinic.

Future issues will also include interviews obtained by the *Militant* with Dr. Morgentaler, union leaders, and leaders of women's rights groups.

New antiwar issue of 'YS' ready

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

The April/May *Young Socialist* is off the press. The YS reflects the views of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The April/May YS focuses on the fight against the U.S. government's war in Central America. The front page article explains that the national demonstrations in several major cities on April 20 are an important response to the escalating war against the workers and farmers government in Nicaragua and the revolutionary movement in El Salvador.

An article by YSA member Héctor Marroquín, an immigrant worker from Mexico, explains his fight against the U.S. government's attempts to deport him for his antiwar activities and socialist views.

The YS also denounces the U.S. government's role in supporting the massacres of Blacks fighting the South African apartheid regime. A special article is devoted to the revolutionary legacy of Malcolm X on the 60th anniversary of his birth.

The congress of the Jeunesses Communistes Revolutionnaires (JCR, Revolutionary Communist Youth) of France, a sister organization of the YSA, is also covered in the YS.

A special feature in this YS is a four-page bilingual supplement in English and Spanish on the YSA national convention which will take place May 25-27 in Chicago. The convention will be a gathering following the April 20th demonstrations of antiwar fighters and socialist youth.

The convention supplement contains an article describing the need for a revolutionary socialist youth organization in the U.S. and urging young antiwar activists to join the YSA.

YSA chapters around the country have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of bundles of the April-May *Young Socialist*. Many chapters sold out of the last issue by mid-March.

Anti-apartheid protests build April Actions

Ohio unionists oppose U.S.-backed apartheid

BY SUSAN BERMAN

CLEVELAND — On March 30 over 100 people here marched against U.S. support to the racist South Africa regime and U.S. war moves against Nicaragua. The protest was sponsored by the Peace Action Coalition (PAC) of Northeast Ohio.

The march began at the Standard Building that houses the office of Stephen Klonowski, honorary consul for the South African government. This has been the scene of weekly picket lines.

Michael Evans, a young Black activist, was the first speaker to address the crowd. Evans was arrested weeks earlier when anti-apartheid activists sat in at the lobby of the Standard Building. Unlike the scores of protesters who have been arrested around the country, Evans will face a jury trial on April 11.

Labor opposition to U.S. foreign policy was a prominent feature of the rally. Speakers included a lawyer for the International Chemical Workers Union; Joe Lindemuth, president of United Steelworkers Local 2265; Bill Bonn, president of United Auto Workers Local 122; and Joan Calhorn, representing the Cleveland Coalition of Labor Union Women.

The lawyer for the Chemical Workers Union explained that the union had become

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Houston Black leaders face jail terms

BY WILLIE M. REID

HOUSTON — Three Black leaders were convicted April 3 of criminal trespass at the South African consulate here in the first convictions of anti-apartheid activists since nationwide protests began last November.

State Rep. Al Edwards, Reverend J. Don Boney, and Omowale Luthuli, head of the South Africa Task Force, had been arrested twice attempting to register protests with South African officials at the posh local consulate.

During the trial, Judge William Rosch prevented the jury from hearing any testimony on apartheid or on why the three were at the consulate.

Following three days of testimony, the jury took 70 minutes to bring in the verdict on the misdemeanor offense which carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Edwards accepted a six-month probated sentence and a \$250 fine.

Boney and Luthuli felt a probated sentence would open them up to severe police harassment, curtailed political activities, restricted association, and arbitrary arrests. They also stated they were not able to pay a fine. Rosch sentenced them both to 14 days in jail and a \$500 fine. All three are appealing the conviction and have been released on their own recognizance.

Following the trial, activists in the Free South Africa Movement stated their determination to keep struggling.

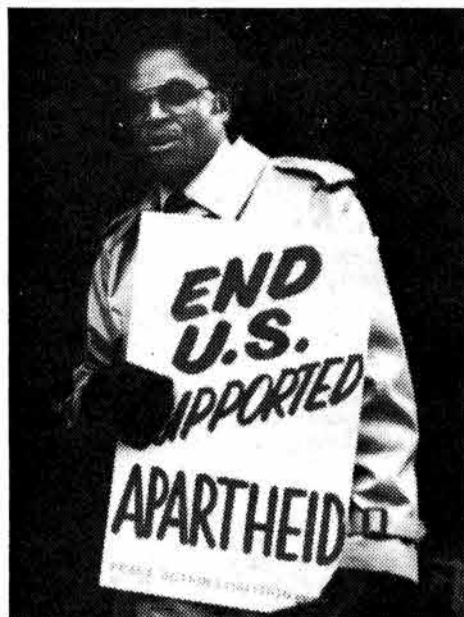
"This legal decision does not settle the higher moral questions involved in the South African struggle," explained Ada Edwards, local chair of the Free South Africa Movement, in a statement after the verdict.

"This simply means we must continue to organize and protest our government's policy in supporting the effects of apartheid in South Africa."

The defendants voiced similar commitments.

As endorsers of the local April 20 Spring Mobilization, the anti-apartheid activists are stepping up activities to build a contingent in the Houston march. They are also planning a community forum on April 27 with Francisco Campbell, a Black Nicaraguan diplomat, as the keynote speaker.

With support from a few local union officials, the committee here is optimistic about the increased opportunities to involve many more working people in the movement against apartheid. For more information contact Ada Edwards, Free South Africa Movement, P.O. Box 88128, Houston, Texas 77288, (713) 521-2964.



Militant Antiapartheid demonstrator in front of the South African consulate in Cleveland during March 30 protest.

Chicago pickets hit American Med Assn

BY OMARI MUSA

CHICAGO — Chanting "Free Nelson Mandela, down with apartheid," more than 400 protesters picketed the South African consulate here April 4. The action was called by the Chicago Free South Africa Movement and April Actions Coalition to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., protest U.S. support for the racist regime in South Africa, and publicize the April 19-22 activities in Washington, D.C.

Participants included Chicago-area community college and university students. The Northwestern University anti-apartheid group brought a busload of students to the demonstration. Operation PUSH brought several carloads of members. There was also a small number of trade unionists participating, including members of the United Steelworkers of America.

Others carrying placards included the Chicago chapter of the Black United Front, Chicago Peace Council, area medical students, Rainbow Coalition, Young Socialist Alliance, and Young Koreans United.

There were also participants from Casa El Salvador and supporters of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

After picketing the South African consulate for nearly two hours, marchers moved to the offices of the American Medical Association to protest its participation in a conference to be held in Capetown, South Africa, this summer.

Immediately following the demonstration, the April Actions Coalition and Free South Africa Movement hosted a well-attended news conference to announce the April Actions agenda for April 19-22.

Participants in the news conference included USWA District 31 Director Jack Parton; Alice Palmer of the Free South Africa Movement, and Secundino Ramirez, representing the Commission for Human Rights in El Salvador. Mary Brandon,

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South African embassy picketed in D.C.

BY MAX SPEAR

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was commemorated by an anti-apartheid protest here April 4.

Over 4,000 city workers and others met one block from the South African embassy in a spirited and militant protest. The lunchtime action was billed "D.C. Government Employees Against Apartheid Day." It was the largest single protest at the embassy since daily pickets began some five months ago.

Dozens of buses were chartered by city departments for the protest. The administration of D.C. Mayor Marion Barry encouraged city workers to use annual sick leave to attend.

The trade unions representing city work-

ers were quite visible at the protest. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) had large contingents. Hundreds of trade unionists wore union jackets and buttons and carried signs from AFSCME and AFGE locals.

As buses unloaded and thousands formed two three-block-long picket lines, a continuous chant of "Freedom, yes; apartheid, no" rang from the center of this city's swank Embassy Row, where South Africa's four-story embassy complex is located.

The mood of the overwhelmingly Black crowd was enthusiastic and militant. Randall Robinson, a central leader of the Free South Africa Movement, was warmly applauded as he spoke. "We are here today," Robinson began, "to commemorate the death of one great Black American, and to demand the life and release of a great Black South African. If Martin Luther King were alive, he would be with us today demanding freedom for Nelson Mandela."

Mandela, a leader of the banned African National Congress, has been imprisoned by the South African government for 22 years.

D.C. Mayor Barry referred to both the U.S. Black civil rights struggle and the anti-Vietnam War movement as the "blood relatives of the anti-apartheid struggle."

Robinson, Barry, and D.C. City Council Pres. David Clarke, who read to the crowd an anti-apartheid resolution passed unanimously by the D.C. City Council, led 58 city employees to the embassy door where they were arrested by D.C. city police. Nearly 2,000 people have been arrested since the embassy protests began last November 21.

In a separate protest, Philadelphia minister Leon Sullivan, author of the infamous "Sullivan principles," which supposedly commit U.S. businesses to provide "equal rights" for their Black South African employees, also was arrested at the embassy. Sullivan was quoted by reporters as saying that he now favors divestment of U.S. investments in South Africa.

5,000 protesters rally in Harvard Yard

BY JON HILLSON

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Over 5,000 protesters marked the 17th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., demanding Harvard University break its economic links to racist South Africa at an April 4 rally here.

The black, green, and yellow flag of the African National Congress fluttered above the stage in Harvard Yard as demonstrators from throughout the area swelled the ranks of university students in Boston's biggest protest rally to date against the Pretoria regime.

The event also marked the 13th anniversary of efforts to force the nation's richest university to divest an estimated \$580 million in South Africa-related stock. The protest drew activists from the Free South Africa Movement, Central America solidarity fighters, area Black community residents, builders of the upcoming antiwar, anti-apartheid protests in Washington, D.C., from April 19-22, and trade unionists.

Thousands of leaflets publicizing the April 20 march on Washington circulated through the crowd, and rally chair Michael Anderson urged a massive turnout for the national protest as "the next step" in building a movement against U.S. support for the South African racist regime.

Rally organizers and the Boston-area April Actions coalition cosponsored a joint press conference after the rally to highlight the upcoming Washington events.

"The fight for freedom in South Africa is integral to every struggle in this country," Dominic Bozzotto, president of Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 26, told the cheering crowd.

The rally heard written greetings from the recently banned United Democratic Front and from the United Nations representative of the African National Congress, Mfanuthi (Johnny) Makhathini.

Makhathini later told the April Actions news conference that it was necessary for

the peace and solidarity movements to take up the issue of South Africa because "the fight for peace is the fight against apartheid, against South African terror and militarism, against its nuclear potential, and its self-proclaimed right to intervene anywhere in Africa." He hailed the Nicaraguan revolution as "more than a mutual struggle of ours," but rather, "the same struggle."

Former Democratic Party presidential candidate Jesse Jackson also spoke. He said, "it is our duty to aid the freedom fighters in South Africa."

Jackson later taped radio announcements for use in publicizing the April Actions in Washington.

Also attending the rally were two Nicaraguan teachers who had just arrived in the United States as part of a tour of Central American educators opposed to intervention. The rally, one said, was a "beautiful way to get to know the people of the United States. South Africa's struggle is our struggle."

S. African freedom fighter in Albany

BY GEORGE KONTANIS

ALBANY — Two hundred opponents of apartheid gathered at the Wilborn Temple on March 25 to hear a representative of the struggle in South Africa. Mafasone Marobe is an organizer for the General and Allied Workers Union and a member of the Executive Regional Committee of the United Democratic Front of South Africa.

The meeting concluded an exciting one-day tour here by Marobe. He had participated in a breakfast meeting with local ministers, a well-attended news conference, and a labor reception hosted by the New York State Teachers Union. The tour was sponsored by the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

Vera Michaelson and Mert Simpson, two leaders of the coalition, introduced Marobe at the final meeting. In his talk, Marobe attacked the foreign companies that function in South Africa. "Those corporations," he said, "profit off the backs of our people."

Marobe concluded his remarks by pointing to the hypocrisy of the Reagan administration hailing the U.S.-backed mercenaries in Nicaragua as "freedom fighters" while condemning those who demonstrate against apartheid as rioters. "The monster in South Africa is part of a chain that oppresses people all over the world," he said.

Vera Michaelson announced plans for Albany's participation in the April 19-22 actions in Washington, D.C. Many in the audience took leaflets and bought bus tickets.

Seattle students hear representative of ANC

BY LISA HICKLER

SEATTLE — The Seattle Coalition Against Apartheid capped a week of activities with a March 23 meeting at Seattle University. A crowd of 150 heard Neo Mnumzana, the chief representative to the United Nations of the African National Congress (ANC).

Mnumzana explained that U.S. workers who are fighting to defend their living standards have the same enemy as Black South Africans — the multinational corporations. Far from being a force for progress, Mnumzana explained, U.S. corporations in South Africa are part and parcel of the systematic oppression of the Black majority.

The ANC representative pointed to U.S. support for repressive regimes all over the world, saying wherever such a regime exists, "just scratch the surface, and underneath you will find an American dollar." Mnumzana also rapped Reagan's support for the counterrevolutionaries fighting against the Nicaraguan government.

In Seattle, weekly protests continue at the South African consulate. Picketing is held every Sunday at 1 p.m. at 835 Hillside Drive. For more information, call the Seattle Coalition Against Apartheid, (206) 329-3184.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Protest Meeting: No U.S. Support to South Africa. Speaker: Sifiso Makhathini, representative of African National Congress; others. Sat., April 13, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St S. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

Peace with Justice in Ireland. Speaker: Seamus Burns, representative of Na Fianna Eireann (Irish Republican Youth Movement). Wed., April 24, 7 p.m. 110 Bell Building, UAB, 7th Ave. S. Ausp: UAB Department of Political Science and Urban Affairs.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Freedom Struggle Benefit. Featuring jazz singers, entertainers, and poets. The Ojeda Penn Experience, Alice Lovelace, Woodie Neal Parsons, and Lee Heuermann. Sat., April 13, 7 p.m. Atlanta Junior College Auditorium, 1360 Stewart Ave. Tickets: \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. Children free. Ausp: National Black Independent Political Party. For more information call (404) 622-4120 or 624-4331.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Drop the Charges; Free Lindsey Scott. Speakers: James Scott, father of Lindsey; Father Thomas R. Clark, pastor of St. Benedict's; Mattie Jones, Chair, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Videotape of Lindsey Scott's case on "60 Min-

utes". Sat., April 13, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

April 20 and the Fight Against U.S. War in Central America. Speaker: Thabo Ntweng, member National Committee of Socialist Workers Party. Sun., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Labor's Stake in the Fight Against War in Central America and Apartheid in South Africa. Speakers: Maria Gallo, Nicaraguan Cultural Workers Union; Masilo Mabeta, African National Congress; Russell Davis, Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., April 14, 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

Why U.S. Rulers Support Wrong Side in Central America, South Africa, Middle East, and Right Here. Speakers: Kgati Satheke, member of African National Congress of South Africa; Anan Jabara, Palestine Aid Society; Vassi Brume, Third World Task Force of the

Freeze; representative of National Black Independent Political Party. Videotaped interview featuring Maurice Bishop, slain prime minister of Grenada, will be shown. Sat., April 13, 4 p.m. 18100 Meyers. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Detroit NBIPP. For more information call (313) 892-2428 or 895-6010.

U.S.-Israeli War Against Lebanon. A panel discussion. Speakers: Anan Jabara, Palestinian Aid Society; representative Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun., April 14, 7 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

For a Moratorium on Farm Foreclosures: Why Unionists Should Support the Farmers' Struggle. Speakers: Representative from Minnesota Groundswell, a grassroots farmers' organization; Lisa Ahlberg, Socialist Workers Party and member, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 168T. Sun., April 14, 4 p.m. 508 N. Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

May Day Celebration Book Sale. Discount of 20 percent with this ad on initial visit. Books in English, Spanish, and French. May 1-4, 12 noon - 7 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blocks south of Canal between B'way and Church). Ausp: Socialist Books/Libreria Socialista. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Viet Nam! Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Victory Over U.S. Military Intervention. Speakers: representative of UN Mission of Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Dave Dellinger; representative of Nicaraguan government; representative of FDR-FMLN of El Salvador; others. Sun., May 5, 2 p.m. Washington Irving High School, 16th St. and Irving Pl. Do-

Chicago protesters hit AMA

Continued from Page 11

president of the Chicago chapter of the National Organization for Women, attended the conference and gave her support to the "Four Days in April" activities.

Gene Podulka of the Illinois Nuclear Freeze Campaign and administrative committee member of the April Actions Coalition opened the news conference with a statement of support from Chicago Mayor Harold Washington.

Jack Parton called for "increasing pressure on South Africa to force its compliance with the international call for human rights. We must now up the ante," he said.

Secundino Ramirez of the Coalition for Human Rights in El Salvador said, "The U.S. government is responsible for the death of tens of thousands of Salvadorans. U.S. weapons continue to rain death and destruction on peasants in the countryside."

As part of its active support for the "Four Days in April," Operation PUSH is making the central theme of its April 13 community forum the upcoming April Actions. Representatives of the April Actions Coalition are slated to speak before PUSH's forum. The program is broadcast over radio and TV and will help get out the word to millions of people in Chicago, especially in the Black community.

nation: \$5. Ausp: Vietnam 10th Anniversary Committee. For more information call (212) 286-0396.

TEXAS

Houston

Passing the Message. Film about trade unionists in South Africa. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 13, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 555-8054.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

All out April 20! — The Fight Against Imperialist War. Speaker: Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Sat., April 13, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Nicaragua: Workers and Farmers Mobilize Against U.S. Aggression. A grand opening Militant Forum. Speakers: Pearl Christy, member Laborers Local 1353 and Socialist Workers Party. Recently participated in Nicaragua harvest brigade. Sat., April 13. Open house, 6 p.m.; forum, 7 p.m. 422 Shrewsbury St., suite 210. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Cleveland unionists oppose apartheid

Continued from Page 11

a national endorser of the April 20 march on Washington. He explained they "were one of several unions that finally got the message from people like you" about the importance of speaking out for peace and against apartheid.

Lindemuth and Bonn both explained how U.S. foreign policy defends corporate interests. After noting the horror of apartheid for the Black workers, Bonn went on, "There are no walls between South Africa and our government. What they choose to do to workers in South Africa, they may do here as well." Lindemuth cited the real role of U.S. intervention, which has been to deny the rights of working people — in Chile, Panama, Peru, the Caribbean — to guarantee the right of American corporations "to enslave our worker brothers and sisters throughout the world."

The addition of CLUW to the speakers list reflects the deepening opposition of union women to the U.S. war drive. Cleveland CLUW just recently voted to endorse the April 20 demonstration. This is the first time in recent history that Cleveland CLUW has endorsed a national action against U.S. war policy.

The rally also heard from Diane Underwood, president of the Cleveland National Organization for Women and an activist in the women's task force of PAC; Mylion Waite, chairperson of the Cleveland South Africa Coalition; City Councilman Dale Miller, who presented the coalition with a city council resolution supporting the April 20 march, and others.

The Peace Action Coalition is expecting at least five buses to go to Washington from Cleveland. For further information contact PAC, P.O. Box 22102, Cleveland, Ohio, 44121, or call (216) 566-STOP.

All out for April 20 antiwar actions!

Continued from front page

mering away at hard-won working conditions.

Coupled with this is the campaign to roll back the democratic and political rights won by Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and other working people.

The firebombing of abortion clinics and the attacks on affirmative action confirm that women's rights are targeted as well.

Include the push to drive working farmers off the land, and the broad scope of the domestic attack is apparent.

But, increasingly, the various targets of the attack are beginning to see the connection between what is happening to them and to others. One important example is the developing alliance between farm protest activists and trade unionists.

Moreover, many working people are beginning to realize that what is happening in this country is not unrelated to what's happening abroad.

Delegations of farmers travel to Nicaragua and they see an impoverished, beleaguered people shaping a new society where farmers don't face foreclosures and do enjoy price supports.

And they see Washington's determination to wipe out these gains.

Union delegations visit El Salvador and report back on the starvation wages, union-busting, torture, and murder of union activists. U.S. workers begin to see the Salvadoran civil war in a different light than what they've been getting from the capitalist politicians and big business media.

From this there begins to develop an awareness of the reality that all of us — working people here and abroad — face a common enemy: the ruling rich families.

One particularly encouraging expression of this beginning awareness is the fact that eight international unions have endorsed the April Actions and many more local union bodies and officials have registered their support. This represents an important political opening and opportunity to broaden active opposition to the war.

A further indication of the growing realization that the U.S. war in Central America is linked to other social concerns is seen in the April 20 demonstrations in Houston and Los Angeles. There, responding to major local struggles, the sponsoring coalitions have included demands defending the rights of undocumented immigrants and backing the sanctuary movement for Central American refugees.

The very building of the April Actions has contributed immeasurably to the ongoing discussion and debate around these issues in the workers' movement.

Militant, highly visible protest actions, like April 20, in themselves are a powerful contribution to this process of consciousness-raising, as well as crystallizing that consciousness into active opposition.

The April Actions are a beginning, and a good one. It is encouraging that the broad, national sponsoring coalition is now mapping a May post-demonstration meeting to discuss future activity.

Seen in that context, the great importance of April 20 is clear. It is an essential step in the process of building the kind of mass, worker-based movement that can deal telling blows to the Washington warmakers.

In these remaining days before the demonstration there should be a big final drive to assure the success of the action. All out April 20!

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Probably got it, too — To ease the pain, 439 Indianapolis school staffers facing layoff were treated to a rap by school superintendent James Adams. According to press



Harry Ring

accounts, the audience was "irritated" when Adams assured them he earned "every penny" of the \$86,302 he knocks down. In fact, he said, he may deserve three times that amount.

National defense — So far, government auditors have found \$244 million in improper "overhead" tabs submitted by General Dynamics, the nation's top war contractor. These include personal travel and entertainment, club memberships, boarding an exec's pooch, etc. And, one prober noted, that "doesn't touch the multibillion dollar accounts where the real money is — weapons systems."

Good thinking — With Medicare now paying flat fees for particular treatments, hospitals are throwing patients out sooner. But they're also now offering home-care services to early release patients. An industry spokesperson

explains, "They want to strengthen that relationship to encourage home patients to come back to them if they have a relapse."

The bright side — Despite current Medicare cutbacks, hospital supplier Will Pirie is optimistic about the long-term profit picture. "There will always be sick people," he assures.

Trial offer — Ambulance companies in Alton, Illinois, protested that a local funeral home director was running an ambulance service without a license by providing the elderly free rides to hospitals and doctors' offices. The burial fellow responded he was simply "a good

Samaritan."

Hard times — Texas oil barons Clint Murchison and John Mecom are going bankrupt and liquidating their assets. Murchison, however, will keep his \$1.5 million house and Mecom will hold onto his Boeing 737 and Bahamas yacht. "They're tools, not toys," he explains.

Investment tip — If you're considering stock in the unfinished Seabrook nuclear plant, you might weigh the view of William Derickson, who went up to New Hampshire to take charge of construction on the project. He demanded his entire \$160,000 annual salary at the beginning of January.

Now will you listen? — We're no seer, but soon after the above item was penned, officials declared Seabrook stock could not be issued without warning buyers that they, not ratepayers, assumed "all the risk" of future losses. Not that they're above passing on the losses to ratepayers. They just don't expect the facility to ever open.

Thought for the week — We missed it last October, but *Essence* magazine posed a cogent question to Vanessa Williams, who lost her Miss America award for posing nude: "Isn't it interesting, Vanessa, that in this country nudity is a disgrace and racism isn't?"

George Lavan Weissman: a founding member of SWP

BY HARRY RING

George Lavan Weissman, a former editor of the *Militant*, died at the end of March. He had suffered from emphysema and, in the past year, a heart ailment. He was 68.

A longtime member of the Socialist Workers Party, Weissman became a staff writer for the *Militant* in the mid-1950s. In 1961 he was appointed managing editor and for five years served as managing editor and editor.

Later, for many years, he worked as an editor at Pathfinder Press. He continued this work on a part-time basis when his health and personal situation made this necessary.

He was a member of the SWP's National Committee for 14 years.

For more than a decade he was largely inactive in the party. In early 1984, he left the SWP as part of a split over organizational and political differences.

Weissman radicalized as a youth in Boston during the 1930s depression. In 1936, while a student at Harvard, he joined the Socialist Party (SP).

At that time a significant left wing within the Socialist Party was challenging the reformist politics of the party's leadership. Earlier in 1936, the Trotskyist organization, the Workers Party, had joined the Socialist Party and fused with the emerging left wing.

Weissman joined the left-wing Appeal Caucus soon after he joined the SP. In 1937 the caucus was bureaucratically expelled from the Socialist Party. The expelled grouping formed the present Socialist Workers Party at the beginning of 1938, and Weissman was a founding member.

In 1937, he was briefly a member of the National Maritime Union.

During 1938-39, he was the organizer of the party's Boston branch.

After service in the army during World War II, he went to Youngstown, Ohio, where he was elected organizer of the SWP branch. Towards the end of 1946 he moved to New York and became active in the party there.

An avid reader with a broad range of interests, Weissman was an astute political editor and wrote on numerous topics for the party's press. In addition to his journalistic

work, he played a leading role in important defense cases in the 1950s and 1960s. In the early 1950s he was active in the successful fight to prevent the deportation of Carl Skoglund. A leader of the Minneapolis Teamster strikes of the mid-1930s, Skoglund was targeted for deportation to his native Sweden for his militant role in the labor movement and his leadership in the SWP.

Weissman then served as secretary of the Kutcher Civil Rights Defense Committee which fought, again successfully, to win back the government job of the legless veteran, James Kutcher.

Kutcher had lost his legs in World War II and, in 1948, was fired from a filing

clerk's job for his declared membership in the SWP.

After a persistent fight that won wide support throughout the witch-hunt years, his case finally went to the Supreme Court, and in 1956 he was reinstated.

Weissman also served as secretary of the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants.

The committee was formed to win national support for Robert F. Williams and other civil-rights fighters in Monroe, North Carolina, in the early 1960s. Their insistence on the right of self-defense against a KKK attack led to an attempt by racist authorities to frame Williams and others on a trumped-up kidnapping charge.

Williams was forced to flee the country

and for more than a decade lived first in Cuba, then China. Charges against him were later dropped and he was able to return.

The work done by Weissman and others helped expose the racist frame-up against Williams and to focus the national spotlight on this important early case of the civil rights movement.

Weissman was also active in many SWP election campaigns, and in 1960 played an instrumental role in getting the party on the ballot in a number of new states.

George Weissman will be remembered as a revolutionary who devoted his life to the struggle for socialism and for his many contributions to building the SWP.

N.Y. CLUW conf. hears S. African unionist

BY THERESA DELGADILLO

Emma Mashinini, general secretary of the Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union of South Africa was warmly received by over 300 people at the offices of Local 23-25 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU). As Mashinini spoke, her words were simultaneously translated into Spanish and Chinese.

Mashinini's speech was the highlight of a daylong conference sponsored by the Hispanic and Chinese committees of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) to celebrate International Women's Day.

This conference, held March 10, was the first joint activity by the two committees of CLUW. Both committees are relatively new, formed within the last three years. Their purpose is to help bring women who do not speak English into the unions. The success of their first activity shows the potential for accomplishing this objective.

Hispanic CLUW already publishes its own news bulletin. Chinese CLUW, formed last year, has 300 members, most of whom are veterans of the 1982 Chinatown garment workers strike.

The members of both committees are primarily activists in ILGWU.

The first part of the conference included workshops on the problems of working mothers and women's health care.

The plenary session was opened by Kathy Andrade, chairperson of Hispanic CLUW, and Alic Tse, chairperson of Chinese CLUW. Greetings were then heard from Edgar Romeny, manager-secretary of Local 23-25, and Rubye Jones, president of New York City CLUW.

Rosa Mejías, a member of Hispanic CLUW, gave a presentation on the meaning of International Women's Day. She reviewed the role women have played in struggles for social gains throughout U.S. history. She focused on the role of women in organizing the garment industry and the ILGWU. Mejías explained, now "that our rights and working conditions are under attack, we need to duplicate the brave efforts of those women that came before us."

Mashinini spoke next. She expressed her gratitude at being able to share her experiences with union women here. She told the audience that the fight for women's rights and union rights in South Africa are intimately linked with the struggle of the Black majority against white minority rule.

Mashinini received a standing ovation.

The conference ended with a slide show on women in Nicaragua by Olga Rodríguez, a member of Hispanic CLUW who recently returned from a tour there. In introducing the slide show, Andrade explained the importance of the war in

Central America for CLUW members. She also announced the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice and invited all in attendance to go to Washington.

Theresa Delgadillo is a member of ILGWU Local 23-25 and of Hispanic CLUW.

New UAW officials at NUMMI face contract negotiations

BY FRED NEUGENT

FREMONT, Calif. — There has been a lot of discussion in the media about GM's new Saturn project and other future plans. Much of the emphasis has been on the new technology projected. Workers' experience at the New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI) shows that the real aim of GM is not mainly new technology, but to housebreak the union nationally.

New United Motor was created by GM and Toyota last year.

United Auto Workers Local 2244, which organizes workers at NUMMI in Fremont, elected its first officers and a negotiating committee on March 7 of this year.

Until now the local has been functioning with officers appointed by the International UAW. Most of the appointed officers were officers of UAW Local 1364, which organized the plant before it was closed by GM in 1982.

The entire slate of candidates of the Administrative Caucus won the election. Sixty percent of the 900 UAW members voted.

The new president of the local is Tony DeJesus, who was president of Local 1364 from 1978 to 1981. The new chairman of the bargaining committee is George Nano, who also held that post before.

In one of its pieces of literature distributed in the plant, the Administrative Caucus wrote the following: "We are running as a team of experienced members who are dedicated to the success of the UAW/NUMMI Venture, utilizing the concepts of sound union principles, with mutual trust, cooperation, and respect as the foundation of the relationship between union and management."

This is virtually the same view put forward by the company. There was no discussion or proposal by any of the candi-

dates in the election about how to organize the union to fight any of the takeaways, cutbacks, or speedup by New United Motor. There was little discussion in the plant about the election, and only slightly more on contract negotiations, which began in April.

There is no contract between the UAW and NUMMI. The plant operates under a letter of intent agreed to by GM, Toyota, and the UAW.

Under the current agreement, workers at NUMMI are paid 85 percent of what workers at GM get. There are very strict attendance and plant rules. Workers are hired with no regard to their former seniority with GM. There are only four job classifications. There is no agreement to use seniority in deciding who will be assigned to the night shift, which starts this summer. There is no grievance procedure, and the company says there will be little necessity for having shop committeemen in the plant.

These are some of the issues that will need to be discussed by workers in the plant as the union begins negotiations.

LABOR'S GIANT STEP

BY ART PREIS

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Militant/Nelson Blackstock
George Lavan Weissman

Court ruling is blow to equality

In a blow to the rights of Blacks, women, and other working people, U.S. District Court Judge Charles Richey ruled that the affirmative action plan of the Washington, D.C., Fire Department that sets quotas for the promotion of Blacks and women within the department was illegal.

As part of his ruling, Richey voided the promotion of five Black firefighters made under the plan in March 1985. He also invalidated the whole affirmative action plan, although he ruled that its provisions for hiring were legal.

This is another in a series of similar decisions by the courts, at the initiative of the U.S. Justice Department, against affirmative action.

In his decision, Richey acknowledged that "in the past, the [fire] department's companies were officially segregated. Moreover, a review of the salary ranges indicates this racial hierarchy still prevails." Nevertheless, Richey ruled that the affirmative action plan "unnecessarily trammels" on the rights of white firefighters.

This is wholesale fraud.

The issue behind affirmative action in hiring, or quotas, is equal rights of Blacks and women to a job. In Washington, D.C., for example, although the city's population is 70 percent Black, Blacks are only 38 percent of the Fire Department. The upper echelons of the department, as both Richey and the city government admit, are whiter still.

Affirmative action in hiring and promotion is designed to correct just this type of gross inequality.

The Justice Department was joined in this suit by the firefighters' union, the International Association of Fire

Fighters (IAFF). The union sued against affirmative action in promotions. Thomas Tippet, president of IAFF Local 36 in Washington, hailed the decision as upholding the union's position.

This stance falsely counterposes defense of the seniority system to support for affirmative action.

Seniority was won by the unions to protect militant workers and older workers from the whims of the bosses. It gives the unions a small degree of control on the job. But when strict seniority is used in the case of Blacks and women, who have been discriminated against in hiring and promotion over the years, then it doesn't protect workers against the bosses but preserves and perpetuates the discrimination practiced by the employers.

That's why the union movement should fight for a modification of the seniority system as a way to defend all its members. By counterposing seniority to affirmative action, the union officialdom — and this includes the top officialdom of the AFL-CIO — is deepening the divisions in the working class and thereby weakening the unions and their ability to effectively protect any of their members.

The labor movement must defend affirmative action programs in hiring, promotion, and during times of layoff. It must support quotas or specific timetables to ensure rapid implementation of affirmative action.

The unions will never move forward as long as their leaders allow themselves to be used by the bosses to keep Blacks and women down. Solidarity begins with defending the most oppressed and exploited sections of the working class.

End U.S. bullying of Mexico

Crime, drugs, and corruption form the themes of a racist slander campaign by the U.S. government against Mexico. This campaign escalated to the point of a U.S.-organized slow-down at the border (see story on page 16) as well as stepped-up harassment of Chicanos and Latinos inside this country.

The campaign has nothing to do with crime, drugs, or corruption. It is simply bullying by the most powerful imperialist country in the world.

The U.S. government condones racist violence inside its borders against Mexicans, Chicanos, other Latinos, and Blacks. It funds a mercenary war against Nicaragua. It arms the military in El Salvador. It supports South African apartheid and Israeli terror in Lebanon. It backs

brutal dictators around the world. It is hardly in a position to preach morality.

This campaign's aim is to remind the Mexican government that after raping the wealth of the country, the U.S. rulers can and will use their economic power to disrupt the Mexican economy.

The campaign is designed to pressure Mexico to at least silence its opposition to the U.S. war in Central America. It forms part of a broader campaign by U.S. imperialism in Latin America to isolate Nicaragua economically and politically as part of the preparations for more direct intervention.

The campaign is a racist and arrogant imperialist attack on Mexico and should be roundly repudiated.

Two-tier wages weaken unions

The top officialdom of the Teamsters union has just signed a new concessions Master Freight Agreement that includes a two-tier wage. This cowardly capitulation — without a fight — joins them with nearly every major AFL-CIO affiliated national union officialdom that has given ground to this capitalist attack against younger and more oppressed members of the working class.

The national Master Freight Agreement now being voted on by the Teamster membership will open up a wage differential of 30 percent between new hires and veteran workers. It will take three years of graduated pay increases to close the gap. In addition, the proposed contract, which covers some 200,000 workers, will deny fringe benefit payments to part-time workers.

Recently the Transport Workers Union agreed to a similar two-tier, 30 percent wage differential with Pan American Airlines. Under the new contract it will take some new hires seven years to reach top pay — if they are not selectively fired along the way first.

The rush of corporations to boost profits through two-tier wage differentials, combined with union officialdom capitulation, is worrying some pro-capitalist elements. While not opposed, they do think the new wage differentials contain a hidden time bomb loaded with future class battles.

The *New York Times*, for example, recently editorialized that the "two-tier contracts don't eliminate labor strife; they delay it." The *Times* proposes instead that all workers should share low wages to guarantee profits.

Top union bureaucrats share the *Times*' concern for safeguarding corporate profits and are meekly satisfied to beg for a "fair" share for the workers. But in bowing to capitalist greed and accepting two-tier wages, they are cynically helping to create and expand an underpaid and less privileged layer of workers doing the same work as those who are higher paid.

While many bosses hope such divisions will lead to antiunion sentiment among workers and the decertification of some unions, it will indeed lead to new class explosions led by younger and more oppressed workers. It is these workers — particularly Blacks, Latinos, and women — who will lead the fight to sweep aside today's class-collaborationist top union officialdom.

That inevitable outcome of the class struggle is what strikes fear into the hearts of the most astute bosses. They prefer, if unions must exist, having weak-kneed bureaucrats leading them, rather than militant, socially conscious workers.



Teamster officials prepare for Master Freight negotiations.

Soviet Union: a mighty obstacle to imperialist war

A key element in U.S. imperialism's prowar propaganda machine is the lie that the Soviet Union is the cause of unrest and war around the world. The U.S. government and big-business media push this falsehood as a way to justify aggressive actions abroad and build up their nuclear and non-nuclear arms arsenal.

Brian Grogan, a British leader of the Fourth International (an international socialist organization) answered these imperialist lies in a speech entitled, "The Working-Class Road to Peace" at an August 1983 Socialist Educational and Activists Conference held in Ohio.

Below are excerpts from that speech, which is reprinted in full in the Winter 1983-84 issue of the *New Internationalist*. The *New Internationalist* is a magazine of Marxist theory and politics. It can be ordered by writing to: New Internationalist, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014. Each issue costs \$4. A special subscription rate of \$12 for four issues is also available.

* * *

The existence of the Soviet workers' state is a mighty obstacle to imperialist wars, not a contributing factor to the war danger — much less the main cause of war, as the imperialists try to convince working people. With the overthrow of the Russian capitalist class in October 1917, the Bolshevik-led revolution brought an end to Russian imperialism, and to its inherent drive toward expansionism and war. The establishment of a workers' state on Russian soil was a major blow against imperialist war.

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

It is true, to be sure, that the territory under the dictatorship of the proletariat tends to expand, as the history of this century demonstrates so clearly. This is not a question of "communist expansionism" or "exported revolutions," however, but of the irrepressible upsurge of socialist revolutions, as workers and farmers rebel against imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation and oppression. Every new victory bringing the workers and farmers to power is a step toward completing the process begun by the Russian workers and peasants in October, 1917.

The power of the Soviet Union's planned economy made it possible for a country that in 1917 had been the most backward imperialist power; that suffered the massive destruction of two world wars, a civil war, and three catastrophic invasions; that has been hampered by bureaucratic mismanagement and totalitarian practices, to nonetheless — within five decades — amass the strength and technological capacity to challenge the might of U.S. imperialism.

The strengthening of the Soviet workers' state and the extension of the world revolution from Eastern Europe and China to Vietnam, to Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada — all this has qualitatively transformed the world relationship of class forces.

The strength of Soviet military power, including its nuclear deterrent, has dealt a death blow to imperialist dreams of conquering the Soviet Union militarily in any foreseeable time period. Since then, the warmakers in Washington have had to recognize that they simply don't have what it takes to attack the Soviet Union militarily and win.

The power of the Soviet Union has also made it impossible for the imperialists to wage large-scale war against each other, as they did twice during the first half of this century. The workers states would emerge the victors from such a war. . . .

The abolition of capitalism all the way from Eastern Europe to China, and from Vietnam to Cuba, and the growing strength of these planned economies, have forced imperialism to retreat and to refrain from using its nuclear arms.

The goal of the current imperialist arms buildup, including the nuclear buildup in the United States and in Western Europe, is to give Washington and its allies the freest hand possible to intervene militarily against the colonial revolution, and against the extension of the socialist revolution. This is the immediate purpose of their military encirclement of the Soviet Union with a worldwide network of bases and their massive nuclear arsenal aimed at the USSR. Right now, as we've seen, Central America and the Caribbean are at the center of this international struggle between socialist revolution and capitalist counterrevolution.

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Why U.S. teenagers have highest pregnancy rate

BY LOUISE HALVERSON

A recent study released by the Alan Guttmacher Institute reveals that the teenage pregnancy rate in the United States is much higher than other industrialized countries. In fact, the U.S. is the only country where the rate of teenage pregnancy is increasing. In searching for the causes of this disparity, the study pinpoints failure to use contraception as the most important factor.

The U.S. pregnancy rate for young women ages 15-19 is 96 per 1,000, compared to 14 per 1,000 in the Netherlands, 35 in Sweden, 43 in France, 44 in Canada, and 45

just some of the difficulties today's young people face.

The lack of socialized medicine and the high unemployment rate among young people mean that few high school students have access to contraception. A doctor's visit and buying the means of birth control are expensive. While sex education is inadequate, all the sex education classes in the world will not prevent pregnancy if the methods and devices are not made available. Also, some doctors demand parental consent if a young patient wants birth control.

The level of sexual activity in the various countries studied was not significantly different. Efforts of the Reagan administration to push chastity as the solution to unwanted pregnancy obviously have failed. In contrast, the report states, "One reason for the more successful experience of the European countries may be that public attention was generally not directly focused on the morality of earlier sexual activity but rather was directed at a search for solutions to prevent increased teenage pregnancy and child-bearing." Also, birth control is available at no charge or is inexpensive for teenagers in many countries. For example, French schools are closed on Wednesday, so the family planning centers have a special teen day. Contraception has been free for teens there since 1974.

U.S. teenagers also have more abortions than those in the other countries. While in Sweden, 30 of every 1,000 women have had an abortion by the time they turn 18,

here the figure is 60.

Abortion rights have been under increasing attack. And young women are hit especially hard by restrictions on the ability to obtain a safe, legal abortion.

In eight states, laws are in effect that require parental notification before a woman under 18 can get an abortion. In seven other states, parental consent is required. And these attacks are increasing. In the last four months, parental notification or consent laws have been introduced in 12 more state legislatures.

Even when available, an abortion usually costs more than a teenager can afford.

For those teenagers who become young mothers, the added burden can mean an end to their hopes for an education. One example of what can be done is a special program in New York City that enables 500 young women to continue going to high school while providing day care for their children. Without such a program, many young mothers are forced to depend on their mothers to raise their children while they work. Another problem is the absence of affordable housing, forcing young mothers to live with their parents.

In Cuba, where the government actually represents the interests of working people and provides free medical care for all, contraception and abortion are free and available on demand. A rich country like the U.S. could easily provide these services and could also free up resources to research better and safer means of birth control.

AS I SEE IT

in England and Wales. The rate for 14-year-olds in the U.S. is four times or more that of any of the other countries studied.

Behind these figures lie the individual stories of many young women faced with unwanted pregnancies. The problems a high school student faces today can be overwhelming, even without an unplanned pregnancy. Trying to make it through years of schooling that often do not prepare one for life as an adult. Looking for a part-time job when few are available, and those that are pay minimum wage or less and may have poor working conditions. Working out relationships and trying to satisfy sexual needs without having a place to be alone. These are

Supreme Court upholds anti-FBI disruption ruling

BY HARRY RING

The Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal by five FBI agents who had lost in a damage suit filed against them by a group of Washington, D.C., antiwar and civil rights activists.

A Washington jury had awarded financial damages to the plaintiffs who were the victims of illegal disruption and sabotage by the FBI and local cops during the late 1960s and early '70s.

The 1981 verdict by an all-Black jury had been taken to a U.S. court of appeals, which reversed the guilty verdict against the local cops but upheld the findings against the FBI agents.

Now, on March 22, the Supreme Court announced its decision not to hear an appeal by the FBI agents.

The appeals court ruling, which the high court let stand, held that the notorious FBI disruption program called COINTELPRO was improper insofar as its targets were subjected to illegal activity designed to thwart political dissent.

In their unsuccessful appeal to the Supreme Court, the FBI agents argued they were simply "following orders."

In a telephone interview, New York at-

torney Anne Pilsbury, lead counsel for the plaintiffs, explained that it was decided to sue the individual agents because the plaintiffs wanted a jury trial and you can't get one if you sue a government agency as such.

The original plaintiffs in the suit included the late Julius Hobson, a widely respected civil rights fighter; his widow, Tina Hobson; Abe Bloom, a leader of the Washington movement against the Vietnam war; Rev. David Eaton, outgoing president of the D.C. school board; Sammie Abbot, now mayor of Takoma Park, Maryland; publicist Richard Pollock; Reginald Hooker, a civil rights worker; Arthur Waskow, a social activist; the Washington Peace Center; and Women Strike for Peace.

The suit was filed in 1976 and was originally handled by the late David Rein of the National Lawyers Guild, who died while the case was in progress.

During the pretrial discovery process, and at the trial, it was established that the FBI and the city's "red squad" had committed a series of dirty tricks.

Telephones were illegally tapped and activists put under surveillance and subjected

to threats and harassment.

Attempts were made to pit groups against one another. In one such case, an FBI-forged letter, purporting to be from a civil rights group, demanded a cash payment from antiwar protesters coming to Washington.

Undercover agents tried to provoke violence at demonstrations.

A mark of the cop mentality was some of the sabotage activity.

At demonstrations undercover agents posing as movement marshals rerouted buses so that those returning to parking lots after the day's events could find their bus home only with much difficulty.

Once, agents infiltrated the Washington Peace Center, which arranged for residents to provide housing for out-of-town demonstrators. The agents put wrong addresses on housing forms so that people wandered at night trying to find where they were supposed to stay.

Much of the evidence in the case was similar to that established in the Socialist Workers Party suit against the FBI and other government agencies. That trial ended nearly four years ago, and the judge has refused to hand down a decision.

In the D.C. case the jury awarded dam-

ages totalling more than \$700,000.

Reviewing the case, the court of appeals cut back on this and other aspects of the verdict. It dismissed the case against the local red squad, asserting it had not been proven the cops acted from improper motives.

It disqualified three of the plaintiffs under the statute of limitations, contending they knew earlier what had been done to them.

And, while upholding the verdict against the FBI agents, the judges decided the jury's award was too generous.

With the Supreme Court decision, the case will now go back to the district court, which will set the amount of damages.

Those plaintiffs receiving awards said they will pool and distribute them "to further First Amendment rights, peace, and justice."

Attorney Pilsbury said that to her knowledge this is the first time money damages have actually been awarded against individual FBI agents for violating citizens' First Amendment rights.

And, viewing the nearly 10 years of litigation in the case, she added that those fighting against such misconduct "have to be stubborn about it."

LETTERS

'Silent Scream'

Here in Indiana, the state legislature is preparing to consider a bill that would require medical personnel to give a Christian funeral to an aborted fetus.

This is clearly linked to the attack on abortion clinics. So far, the attacks here have been confined to picketing and verbal harassment. No bombings as yet.

Also on the abortion issue, I saw an editorial in the *New York Times* March 11. It reported that a panel of doctors appointed by the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists declared that the antiabortion film, *The Silent Scream*, is a fraud.

The film includes a section supposedly showing a fetus reacting to an abortion procedure. The narrator says that the "baby" is becoming "agitated" and "moving away" from the suction tip. What is actually happening is that they slowed the film down and then rapidly brought it back to normal speed. The doctors also said that when you supposedly see the "baby" scream, it is not a scream at all, and that it is impossible for the fetus to feel pain.

J.W.
Indianapolis, Indiana

Not for sale

It's apparent, as stated briefly in

Caroline Lund's article, "Labor meeting blasts S. Africa," in the March 22 *Militant*, that there are many unions within this country whose leadership has consistent, close relations with industry's big executives and are nothing more than capitalist sympathizers.

With a few million dollars, the AFL-CIO and others like them thought they could purchase South Africa's unions and get them to merely handle labor problems only, and not be politically active. Workers in quite a few countries have shown capitalist governments and their corporations that sound principles can not be bought at any price, especially when it affects them, their families' and friends' everyday lives, they can't sell out.

W.A.
Represa, California

Farm program

Bravo! Doug Jenness addressed some of the stickier problems confronting the farmers' movement. [See "Grain traders pit farmer against farmer," *Militant*, March 29, 1985 — ed.]

One very basic problem is that U.S. imperialism exports U.S. produce to poor Third World countries to the detriment of these countries' health and economic independence. At the same time

they suppress efforts by the rural population to grow its own food.

I think the most effective tactic imperialism has used here and abroad is to discourage scientific and diversified farm production.

What Doug's article lacks, I think, is a clear vision of what a workers' movement can or must do to end capitalist farming.

I think the demand for government support for family farms is unscientific and lacks vision. Workers' and farmers' control over food production is a demand that cuts across the idea that a backward layer of farmers have: that they should be able to participate in the capitalist monopoly on food. Socialists should demand, "Food production for human needs, not profits. For a workers and farmers government."

Daniel Priest
Cleveland, Ohio

Racist legal system

On Feb. 25, 1985 at 9:30 a.m. at the racist Criminal Court Building in Los Angeles, my wife, daughter-in-law, three-week-old grandson and myself watched in helpless agony as our only child was sentenced to 10 years for felonies he was alleged to have committed.

First he was arrested on Nov. 15, 1984, and released on the 18th. At that time, all charges

were dropped against him for lack of evidence.

However, on Dec. 3, 1984, he was rearrested and was beaten and coerced into signing a confession of guilt by two racist detectives, without the presence of his attorney. The detectives were interested only in clearing their books, even though my son is innocent.

My son, along with thousands of others of Black youth, are targets and victims of a racist legal system. I will not sit by and watch my son destroyed. I will die first.

I greatly appreciate any advice, help, or publicity anyone can give, William Jones
Los Angeles, California

Supreme Court vs. gays

The February 25 decision by the Supreme Court, allowing a high school teacher to be fired solely because she revealed that she was bisexual, reaffirms the U.S. government's contempt for gays and women.

Equal protection under the law has never, and will never, exist in capitalist society. While several cities have passed gay-rights ordinances, there is no federal protection for homosexuals. In many cities, gay rights ordinances have not been enacted or have been repealed following mobilizations by religious hate groups and the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1972, the Supreme Court ruled that states' antihomosexual laws were constitutional, enabling homosexuals to be fired from work, thrown out of public places, and evicted from their homes. In addition, the permanent occupation by police at gay bars is used to entrap and harass and ultimately silence gay militants.

The right to control one's body must be chipped away in order for the state to deepen its assault on all working people. The refusal of the government to protect abortion clinics from terrorist attack and prosecute the terrorists is a serious attempt to reverse and eliminate the gains women have made.

Gay activists need to support their allies: women, Blacks, workers and farmers. Only by solidizing with those fighting for their liberation, will gays be able to win support. The April 20 march on Washington for peace, jobs and justice is a step forward in that direction: all out for April 20!

Richard Gaeta
Miami, Florida

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.

Abortion rights battle in Canada

BY PAT GROGAN

TORONTO, Canada — Two thousand supporters of abortion rights jammed into Convocation Hall here at the University of Toronto on March 29. They came to hear a speech by Dr. Henry Morgentaler, the Montreal physician who has been leading the fight for abortion rights by opening clinics in defiance of Canada's restrictive abortion law.

The mainly young women and men rose to their feet in a prolonged, chanting, footstomping ovation when Morgentaler entered the hall and told the crowd, "The fight is on!"

A dozen or so "right-to-life" anti-abortion picketers were outside the meeting. A few came into the hall and repeatedly tried to prevent Morgentaler from speaking by heckling and shouting out. When it became clear that the "right-to-lifers" would not allow the meeting to continue, the crowd again rose to its feet, chanting, "Choice Now!, Choice Now!, Choice Now!," and "Out!, Out!, Out!," until campus security escorted the disrupters out of the meeting.

"This is what women are subjected to at the Toronto clinic," Morgentaler told the crowd. "All they know how to do is to threaten you, to intimidate you, to threaten to kill you and bomb the clinics. And I've made up my mind never to give in to this kind of intimidation."

"We don't talk the same language," he said. "I talk about the rights of women, their dignity, their safety, their health, and civil liberties."

A sense of victory rang throughout the meeting. Against the efforts of the government, the courts, the police and the "right-to-life" anti-abortion forces, supporters of women's rights had succeeded in keeping a Toronto abortion clinic open.

"This victory was won because so much support was organized — from the unions, from the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics, from the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, and because of the support of the overwhelming majority of the people of Ontario and across Canada for our cause," Morgentaler said.

Determined fight

This meeting at the University of Toronto is part of a determined fight being waged in Canada for abortion rights.

I spent a week in Toronto and Quebec attending meetings and demonstrations and talking with leaders of the abortion rights movement from women's groups, unions, student groups, and others. Fighters for women's rights in the U.S., who are facing relentless attacks against abortion rights, can learn



Toronto mass meeting is part of determined fight in Canada for abortion rights. Past months have seen largest actions for abortion rights in Canada's history.

important lessons and draw strength from the battle being waged in Canada.

Those forces who have been working to deny women the right to safe, legal abortion in Canada — the federal government, the governments of several of Canada's ten provinces, the courts, the police, the Catholic Church hierarchy, and the right-wing, "right-to-life" organizations — are meeting with deep resistance.

In both English Canada and the oppressed French-speaking nation of Quebec, women's rights fighters, unionists, students, and others are fighting back.

The last months have seen the largest demonstrations for abortion rights in Canada's history. New abortion rights coalitions are being organized in many cities, and Canada's unions are joining the struggle in an active way.

Not only have supporters of abortion rights organized to meet new attacks, they have taken the offensive. A renewed campaign to defy and challenge Canada's highly restrictive federal abortion law has gained steam. This struggle takes the form of a fight to establish and maintain free-standing abortion clinics, which are illegal under present law.

In 1969, Canada's laws were changed to make abortion legal, but only under very

restricted conditions.

Under the Criminal Code, abortions are only legal if performed in hospitals that have been specially accredited to perform them by establishing a Therapeutic Abortion Committee (TAC). This is voluntary, however, and only one-third of Canada's hospitals have set up TAC's that would permit them to provide abortions.

The law does not recognize the right of a woman to choose abortion. To get an abortion, a woman must get the consent of the TAC, which is comprised of three physicians. Under the law, an abortion may only be granted if the continuation of the pregnancy is considered dangerous to the life and health of the woman.

This law severely restricts access to abortion. In 1983, for example, an estimated 20 percent of the hospitals that do have TAC's authorized and performed no abortions. Access varies widely throughout the country, and in some areas legal abortion is completely unavailable.

Women are subjected to the arbitrary decisions of the TAC's, whose members may or may not choose to grant an abortion. Many hospitals limit the number of abortions they will perform. Long delays of six to eight weeks are common, forcing women to undergo an abortion later in the

pregnancy, when the procedure becomes more complicated and potentially dangerous.

History of Struggle

There has been a long struggle to break the shackles of this law.

One of the key battles was fought out in Quebec.

In 1973, Dr. Henry Morgentaler openly challenged the federal law by publicly announcing that he had performed about 5,000 abortions, outside the hospital, and without the approval of any committee. The maximum penalty for this under federal law was life imprisonment.

Three times the provincial government of Quebec brought Morgentaler to trial.

Three times Quebec juries refused to find him guilty. Despite this, Morgentaler spent 10 months in jail — the Quebec Court of Appeals simply refused to accept the "Not guilty" verdict of the first jury, declared him guilty, and the provincial government clapped him in jail, while bringing new charges against him. "They tried to bring me to my knees," said Morgentaler.

In 1976, the Parti Quebecois (PQ) — which held a position favoring the independence of Quebec — was elected to head the provincial government of Quebec. This came on the crest of a massive struggle by the Quebecois people against their national oppression.

The fight of women for their rights was a big part of the struggle of the Quebecois people. And the Quebec labor movement had a strong position favoring abortion rights.

Finally, under mass pressure, the PQ government announced that the federal law was unenforceable, and that it would not be enforced in Quebec. The minister of justice announced that no doctor would be prosecuted for performing abortions under proper medical conditions.

(Under the Canadian system, the federal Criminal Code is administered by each of the provincial governments. The attorney-general of each province has the right to decide whether or not to enforce a federal law, and may decide not to prosecute.)

Since that time, women have been able to obtain abortions in Quebec clinics, without getting permission from any committee, although this is formally a violation of the federal law and remains illegal in the rest of Canada.

This tremendous gain was won through the militant actions of the Quebecois and supporters of women's rights throughout Canada. The very fact that the federal law has been declared unenforceable in Quebec stands as a challenge to the law throughout Canada.

Taking the offensive

In response to growing attacks on abortion rights throughout Canada and in the U.S., supporters of women's rights launched a new challenge to the federal law restricting abortion rights.

In 1983, Dr. Morgentaler announced that he would open two abortion clinics in English Canada. "I decided it was time to extend the benefits of safe, legal abortion to women throughout Canada," Morgentaler said. Two clinics were opened: one in Toronto, Ontario, and another in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The provincial governments of both Ontario and Manitoba responded by shutting the clinics down and bringing charges against Morgentaler and his associates.

Key victory in Toronto

A key battle was waged to establish an abortion clinic in Toronto. The clinic was opened in June of 1983. It was raided by the police the first week of July. The day after the raid, some 5,000 supporters of a woman's right to abortion came out to defend the clinic.

Continued on Page 10

U.S. racist campaign against Mexico

BY RAÚL GONZÁLEZ

SAN FRANCISCO — With accusations of violence against U.S. citizens and government-condoned drug trafficking and corruption, the U.S. government unleashed a racist campaign aimed at disrupting the Mexican economy. In this way the U.S. government hopes to pressure Mexico into toeing the line and supporting U.S. policies in Central America. (See editorial on page 14.)

The campaign began last year when the U.S. State Department issued exaggerated tales of violence against U.S. tourists in Mexico to the press. By October 1984, U.S. ambassador to Mexico, John Gavin, was publicly accusing the Mexican government of inaction in cases of criminal activity against U.S. citizens.

The U.S. news media joined in, referring to "Mexican bandits" — aiming to paint Mexicans on both sides of the border as "lazy," "corrupt," and "good-for-nothing."

Gavin alleged that it was unsafe for tourists in Mexico. He threatened to request that the State Department institute a

"travelers' advisory" warning against Mexico. Such a warning would hurt Mexico's \$2 billion a year tourist industry.

In response to these charges, the Mexican Ministry of Tourism issued a statement that explained that since 1980, over 17 million U.S. tourists have entered Mexico. In that time there were only 51 incidents against U.S. tourists. Eleven were accidents involving no criminal activity.

The figures show that U.S. tourists are as safe, or safer, in Mexico than in most U.S. cities. It was with full justification that the Ministry of Tourism denounced Gavin's accusations as a "slander campaign."

The racist campaign against Mexico rapidly escalated after Enrique Camarena, a cop with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, disappeared in Guadalajara on February 7.

The U.S. government accused Mexico of stalling, covering-up, and corruption in the case. They made Camarena's disappearance into an international incident.

Eight days later, on February 15, Washington, without a word of warning to Mexico, ordered all 15 official border crossings to stop all cars with Mexican license plates. In practice, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) cops stopped all cars with Mexican or Chicano riders regardless of license. Supposedly they were searching for Camarena or clues to his whereabouts. As the border slow-down went into effect, Washington recalled Gavin for "consultations."

Although even *Time* magazine commented that "no one seriously believed that Camarena would turn up in the search," for ten days the U.S. backed up traffic for as long as seven hours at the border.

The border slow-down, like the tales of crime and violence and the threats of a "travelers' warning," are aimed at hurting Mexico's tourist industry. Tourism is the second-largest source of foreign exchange for Mexico. These blows come at a time when Mexico is trying to refinance its \$96 billion foreign debt, half of which is owed to private U.S. banks.