

Protests hit U.S. ban on trade with Nicaragua

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

"Embargo South Africa, not Nicaragua," was chanted by thousands of people protesting the U.S. government's embargo against Nicaragua in cities across the country May 7.

The embargo ends all trade and economic relations with Nicaragua. It was announced by President Reagan on May 1, and went into effect May 7. The embargo represents a major escalation in the U.S. war against that country.

Demonstrators tied their opposition to the embargo and escalating U.S. war against Nicaragua to their demand, and the demand of the Black majority in South Africa, for U.S. economic sanctions against the apartheid regime.

In New York City, over 1,000 people picketed the Federal Building. The protest, which included an all-night vigil and civil disobedience on May 8, was sponsored by the Central American Solidarity Network, an umbrella organization of some 20 solidarity groups, and the Pledge of Resistance. The picket line at the Federal Building occurred the afternoon of the city's parade to honor Vietnam veterans. Many participants wore parts of their old uniforms or carried signs identifying themselves as Vietnam vets opposed to a new Vietnam War in Central America.

Speakers at the picket-line rally included David Dyson, Director of the Union Label Department of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU); Clarence Fitch, Vietnam Veterans Against the War; Majorie Tuite, Director for Ecumenical Action, Churchwomen United; a representative of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa; and José Soler, president of the U.S. section of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

In Boston, close to 2,000 people participated in a protest against the embargo. It was sponsored by the Boston Area Network on Central America and the Pledge of Resistance. While some 1,200 people picketed outside the Federal Building, 600-700 people held a sit-in inside. Rally speakers included Carol Doherty, former president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association and cochair of the Massachusetts Labor Committee Against Intervention and for Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador; a representative of the ANC; Mel King, a leader of the local Rainbow Coalition, and Mark Anner, a leader of Tuft University's divestment fight. This was the second protest against the embargo in Boston. The first, which

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U.S. embargo: act of war against Nicaragua

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The U.S. trade embargo against Nicaragua is an act of war. Above and beyond the economic damage it will do is the political meaning of the embargo.

It is now clear that the U.S. ruling class is united behind the perspective of overthrowing Nicaragua's workers and peasants government through direct U.S. military intervention. This is the course agreed to by both Democratic and Republican politicians and is the underlying meaning of the "debate" in Congress over aid to the mercenary army known as the *contras*. The debate is not over *whether* to overthrow the Sandinistas, but over tactics and timing — how to limit the political price the U.S. government will pay internationally and here at home.

'National emergency'

In his May 1 executive order imposing the embargo, Pres. Ronald Reagan stated that "the policies and actions of the Government of Nicaragua constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States." Therefore, he continued, "I . . . declare a national emergency to deal with that threat."

The immediate measures include a ban on U.S. exports to Nicaragua and on Nicaraguan imports to this country, as well as prohibiting the landing on U.S. territory of Nicaraguan ships and the Nicaraguan airline, Aeronica. These steps will hurt the Nicaraguan economy and are also clearly aimed at trying to slow down the trips by thousands of U.S. citizens to Nicaragua to



U.S. troops and helicopters in massive military maneuvers along Nicaraguan-Honduran border. Maneuvers are dress rehearsal for U.S. invasion of Nicaragua. Trade embargo helps lay basis for direct U.S. intervention.

learn about the revolution there.

But the declaration of the "national emergency" itself is the most important aspect of this new escalation of the war. It is designed to set the political framework for further steps leading to direct U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua.

On May 2, the day after the embargo order was made, U.S. government officials announced they were preparing a joint

communiqué with the Honduran government, pledging U.S. military forces will aid Honduras if it is "attacked" by Nicaraguan troops. On May 6, it was announced that U.S. military "advisers" will begin training four companies of the Costa Rican Civil Guard. Again, the stated reason was preparation for alleged plans by Nicaragua to invade.

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1,300 at New York rally hail Vietnam

BY PAT GROGAN

NEW YORK CITY — In an impressive show of solidarity with Vietnam and determination to oppose Washington's current war in Central America, some 1,300 people attended a rally here May 5 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Vietnam's April 30, 1975, victory over U.S. military intervention. The meeting was held in the auditorium of New York City's Washington Irving High School, which rang throughout the afternoon with chants of "Vietnam! Vietnam!" "Long Live Vietnam!" and "No more Vietnam Wars."

This was the broadest and most successful action in support of Vietnam in some time. The executive board of the Vietnam Tenth Anniversary Committee consisted of representatives from Casa de Las Ameri-

cas, Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos, Communist Party USA, National Lawyers Guild, Nicaragua Support Project, Oficina de Informacion Internacional para La Independencia de Puerto Rico, Peace and Solidarity Alliance, Socialist Workers Party, Union of Democratic Filipinos, War Resisters League, and Workers World Party.

More than 75 organizations and individuals sponsored the event. They represented solidarity and peace groups, Black and Latino organizations, civil liberties groups, and women's and gay rights activists. Significant support also came from area trade unionists. A broad range of left-wing political parties united behind the meeting.

As the program booklet for the event

noted, "There has been nothing like this in support of Vietnam since the end of the war ten years ago."

In a signal victory for democratic rights, the meeting took place without any physical attack or intimidation by enemies of the Vietnamese revolution. This was a result of the meeting's breadth of support and the political campaign waged beforehand by meeting organizers. (See article on page 4.)

This meeting came at a crucial time. It was an important step in countering the flood of lies from capitalist politicians and the big-business media slandering the Vietnamese revolution and the U.S. antiwar movement. That slander campaign is aimed at justifying the stepped up imperialist pressure on Vietnam and Kampuchea — including for the first time the threat of providing open military aid to murderous counterrevolutionary Kampuchean forces based in Thailand.

The anti-Vietnam propaganda is also being used to justify increased efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan revolution and crush the national liberation fighters in El Salvador.

Embargo against Nicaragua

A representative of Nicaragua was scheduled to speak. Professor Johnetta Cole of Hunter College, who cochaired the meeting, explained that no Nicaraguan representative could be present, however, because they were in emergency meetings to respond to the imposition of the U.S. trade embargo against Nicaragua. The embargo would never work, she said, "because you cannot blockade freedom. The people of Nicaragua will never say 'uncle.'"

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Socialists score democratic rights victory

BY MARY SMITH

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Supporters of democratic rights scored a big victory May 4 when the San Jose Socialist Bookstore/Liberia Socialista reopened for regular business — six days after right-wing Vietnamese forced the bookstore closed on April 28. The bookstore is also headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

Book sales, banner-making, and political meetings proceeded uninterrupted despite a vehement group of right-wing Vietnamese thugs gathered across the street. Their disruption attempt fell flat.

A highlight of the day's activity was a press conference held at the bookstore.

Representatives of women's rights, anti-war, and community organizations along with unionists joined the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance in denouncing the rightist attacks on free speech.

The 100 thugs across the street from the packed bookstore chanted anticommunist slogans and verbally harassed bookstore patrons. Unlike April 28, when a mob of over 200 thugs tried to break into the bookstore while a meeting of the SWP was in progress, this time the cops were forced to keep the rightists away from the socialist headquarters. A week earlier the cops had refused to disperse the violent mob and the socialists had to be evacuated from their own headquarters under police escort.

Since then gangs of 30 to 50 thugs have congregated daily across from the bookstore. One of the rightist goons told the local press that they would continue to attempt to blockade the bookstore until the socialists "say publicly that they no longer support communists in Vietnam."

After several hours of unsuccessfully trying to disrupt activity at the bookstore on May 4, the mob dispersed.

At the press conference, Lynda Joyce, chairperson of the SWP here, declared "We are here today to open the socialist bookstore and to keep it open. We are going to exercise our democratic right to operate freely as a legal political party. We

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—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY TOM LEONARD

On February 11, 1983, the *Militant* reported, "The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance have launched a national effort to involve every member and supporter in weekly *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* sales teams at plant gates as a way to regularly meet workers and reach them with socialist politics."

This decision followed meetings of socialist workers in Chicago who are members of industrial unions that the SWP and YSA are politically active in.

From the beginning, plant-gate sales have been organized primarily to reach members of these unions, with the aim of supporting and strengthening the political and union-building activity of socialist workers in them.

No one believed this would be

easy, as the first plant-gate column by Malik Miah in the February 25, 1983, *Militant* explained. "It may take a week, a month, or even a year or more before some workers will decide to talk to us and buy a paper."

"It is by being there every week — talking to the nearly 90 percent of the working class still working — that the ideas of our party will gain more influence among workers who are looking for answers and political alternatives."

After two years of determined effort, sales are more regular, results are improving, and modest gains are being won.

During the past six months, for example, plant-gate sales have become more and more a regular part of the political life of socialist workers around the country.

We've had columns written

from over 20 areas of the country reporting on sales to workers belonging to the nine industrial unions the SWP and YSA are members of.

During this time, hundreds of workers were introduced to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial* (our sister Spanish-language biweekly), and the *Young Socialist* (a monthly distributed by the YSA). At some plant gates, individual workers buy the *Militant* on a regular basis.

In addition, there have been a lot of reports on how the *Militant* is circulated around the shop and read by other workers.

Another important part of the plant-gate sales is the increasing respect that many workers have shown our sales teams because of the regular and determined way they encourage union members to

read and find out about Washington's war at home and in Central America.

At many plant gates, when a weekly sale is missed, some workers want to know where we've been. Other workers, who are not yet ready to buy the press, often give us a thumbs-up gesture of support.

Some plant-gate columns have talked about the harassment by company and local cops, and how sales teams fought for and won their right to sell.

Regular plant-gate sales have developed an important way to reach workers with socialist ideas.

During the campaign to build support for the April 20 antiwar demonstration, for example, thousands of antiwar and anti-apartheid leaflets were given out at plant gates where the *Militant* and

Perspectiva Mundial are regularly sold. An exciting part of these distributions was that many antiwar coalition members went out to plant gates with experienced sales teams to help distribute literature.

A new member of the YSA recently told the *Militant* that one of the reasons he liked the YSA and SWP was their determination to reach workers with political ideas through plant-gate sales.

At the heart of the plant-gate sales is the effort to reach radicalizing workers who are opposed to capitalist war, racism, and sexism, and are trying to think out how to fight back against the bosses' offensive. *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* plant-gate sales have begun to succeed in putting a small but important handful of these workers in touch with socialist workers on the job.

USWA defeats union-busting at Chicago Danly plant

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

CHICAGO — On April 26, steelworkers at the Danly Machine Corp. dealt the company a big defeat when the results of an April 12 decertification election came in. By a vote of 333 to 277, they voted to reject decertification of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 15271.

The union's victory was much greater than the vote indicates. One hundred fifty votes had been challenged by the company — votes the company conceded were prounion. The fact that of the roughly 600 workers who voted, 440 had either quit the union during the strike or were new hires, is a tribute to the impressive campaign waged by the union.

The company-led decertification effort was organized just several weeks after the end of a bitter nine-month strike at the plant. The strike had been provoked by the Ogden Corp. as part of its plan to drive the USWA out of Danly. Danly is a subsidiary of the Ogden Corp.

The company had hoped to deal a serious blow to the USWA. The Danly union has been one of the most militant locals in the secondary shops organized by the USWA in this basic-steel stronghold. District 31 has the largest membership of any district in the union.

In the decertification drive, the Danly bosses waged a virtual war against the approximately 150 former strikers who were rehired once the strike ended in January. During this time, prounion activists were harassed, while company supporters were allowed free run of the plant to intimidate anyone thinking of voting union. Under the pretext of production meetings, the company would attack the union and promise the workers that they would be better off without a union.

In addition, union militants were suspended, work rules disregarded, and union activists transferred from the better jobs

and replaced by procompany workers. The company also circulated leaflets reminding the workers who had crossed the picket lines of the treatment they had received during the strike. They alleged that if the union won, these workers would be penalized.

Despite this intimidation, the campaign led by the leadership of Local 15271 and 150 prounion workers inside the plant proved to be more than a match for Ogden.

Through a campaign of daily plant-gate leafleting, mass mailings, and union-sponsored socials in order to sit face to face with many of the new hires and those who had crossed the picket lines during the strike, and most importantly, through the constant discussions led by prounion activists inside the plant, day in and day out, the union turned the tide and was able to convince the majority of the Danly workers to retain the USWA.

The victory was so unexpected that the big-business media couldn't help but express their astonishment.

The April 27 *Chicago Tribune* reported, "Labor experts couldn't recall a precedent for the election at Danly, where a proposal to sever ties with USWA and become a nonunion shop was rejected in a 333 to 277 vote."

The same article quoted someone in Danly's management as saying, "The results are a little amazing, but you are dealing here with third and fourth generation union members in some cases. They have been willing to cross the picket line, but ultimately the thought of not having representation scared them."

Joe Romano, president of Local 15271, in analyzing the results of the vote, told the *Tribune*, "Danly threw its best and toughest punches at us and we knocked management cold."

On April 28 at Local 15271 headquarters, the union held a victory celebration for both its membership and those who

supported them during the strike. At the jam-packed celebration, Romano not only reviewed how the union organized to defend itself, but projected a continued campaign to build an even stronger USWA local at Danly.

He also outlined a campaign to continue mass leafleting of nonunion shops in the area to use the victory at Danly to help organize these shops into the USWA.

He said Danly workers would come to the aid of other embattled workers as well. Romano projected a march through the town of Cicero to the front of the Hot Point plant. The Sheet Metal Workers there, who backed the Danly workers in their fight against decertification, are now facing a decertification battle with that company.

The general atmosphere in the celebra-

tion was one of joy, but also realization that the next round in the fight to defend the union has only just begun.

Eighteen disciplinary cases involving workers suspended because of strike-related activities are still to be resolved. Many grievances that the company ignored because they figured there would be no union after the voting also remain to be settled.

The solidarity shown by area workers during the Danly fight and the Danly workers' drive to offer solidarity to other workers under attack are an example the entire labor movement can learn from.

Nelson González works at a small shop outside Chicago and is a member of USWA Local 3387.

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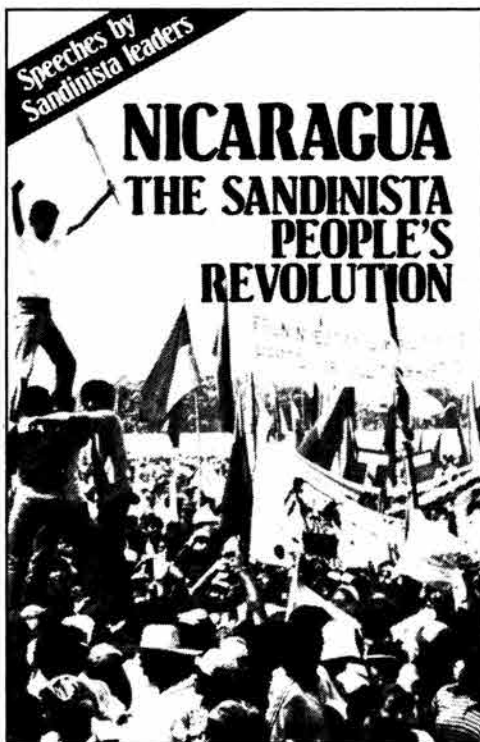
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Swedish socialist ends U.S. tour

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — Göte Kildén, the Swedish socialist and union leader, concluded an 18-day visit to the U.S. with a well-attended meeting of the Militant Labor forum here April 26. His tour included a half dozen major U.S. cities, as well as a weekend in Montreal.

Kildén is national chair of the Socialist Party, Swedish section of the Fourth International and a sister party of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party. A worker at the big Volvo plant in Göteborg, he is chief union steward at the truck division assembly line.

In an interview before returning home, Kildén offered some impressions of his first visit to this country.

He was surprised, he said, to find that the standard of living of working people here seemed significantly lower than that of workers in Sweden and the other northern European countries.

"There's certainly no comparison," he said, "on things like social security, socialized medicine."

Housing, he said, seemed definitely worse here. He was struck by the poor conditions of roads and other parts of the country's infrastructure and astonished by the poor quality of transportation.

Coming by car from New Jersey to New York, he was astonished by a one-hour wait at the Holland Tunnel. "You pay and then you wait," he said. "Swedish workers wouldn't stand for that for a minute."

But though he was fully aware of race discrimination, he didn't really expect what he saw of the living conditions forced on Black working people. "I visited Harlem and East St. Louis," he said. "And I was shocked." Part of East St. Louis, he said, "looked like it was bombed out after a war."

And in Los Angeles, he was taken on a

drive through Beverly Hills, "And I could see the other side. Where great wealth of the country is."

Kildén visited several auto plants and was struck by the working conditions. Some of the departments he found as modern as the Volvo plant, but others seemed far less so. Especially striking were the generally poor safety conditions in the plants and the high noise pollution, "much worse than in Sweden."

His visit gave him a fuller grasp of the scope of the employer-government offensive against the union movement. "They really are out to smash them," he observed.

At the same time he felt he got a better sense of the important role of Blacks and Latinos as a militant force within the labor movement.

"In the early days," he said, "Swedish workers and other European immigrants played a leading role in building the unions here. Today it's the Hispanic immigrants, from Central America, from Mexico."

One interesting experience in this respect was his discussion with workers involved in a United Auto Workers organizing drive at a Los Angeles parts plant where the bulk of the workers are Latino immigrants. Even with the threats of deportation, the unionization drive is being pressed.

And he felt the anti-apartheid protests were having a beneficial effect on the unions. He was able to attend a divestment rally at the Rutgers campus in Newark, New Jersey.

He was also interested in the growing social weight of women in the unions, and by women's fight to break into such non-traditional jobs as coal mining.

In Sweden, he explained, the wage gap between men and women is nothing like here. And there isn't the same big differential between wages in basic industry and



Militant/Harry Ring

Göte Kildén

such public sector jobs as hospital work. So women don't have the same incentive there to fight for nontraditional jobs.

In Minnesota and Missouri, Kildén talked with working farmers and several leading activists in the farm protest movement. He was surprised to see what kind of farmers were being driven off the land here. On one farm he talked with a woman who told him that the farm produced enough to feed 86 people, "and yet we can't feed our family."

He was gratified by the fact that farm activists are coming to see the need to ally themselves with the labor movement and are beginning to get support from unions. "Certainly, that's the way it has to go," he said.

What he saw of the farm movement, he

added, underlined the importance of the approach of the Socialist Workers Party in giving a political priority to its work among farmers.

In Sweden, there is a significant involvement of unionists and others in the movement in solidarity with the Central American revolution and against the U.S. aggression there, so Kildén had a special interest in the U.S. solidarity movement.

He was particularly pleased at the extent of involvement of unionists. "I think already it's more than during Vietnam," he observed.

In this respect, he was interested in the activity of the National Labor Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. "It could involve more of the rank and file," he said, "But the fact that some union officials take a position gives room for building solidarity work in the unions."

A high point of Kildén's visit was his participation in the April 20 antiwar march in Washington, D.C.

"For me, being from a small country [Sweden has 8.4 million people], and a small town, it was the second biggest demonstration I've seen."

The biggest, he said, was his participation in a giant protest march at the peak of the Solidarity movement in Poland.

The Washington march, he said, was especially striking in that it included workers and oppressed nationalities, as well as other sectors of the population — "a real

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Congressional liberals demand arms for Kampuchean rightists

BY FRED FELDMAN

Congressional liberals are backing a proposal to revive and escalate the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary war against the people of Kampuchea, Laos, and Vietnam.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee voted April 3 for a proposal by Rep. Stephen Solarz, a Democrat from New York, to give \$5 million in military aid to counterrevolutionary forces based in Thailand that are seeking to bring down the Heng Samrin government in Kampuchea.

The Heng Samrin government came to power in 1979, after Vietnamese troops and Kampuchean rebels overturned the government of Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge army. The Pol Pot regime had been responsible for the deaths of millions during nearly four years in power.

On April 10, the Reagan administration indicated it would back the Solarz proposal.

But, as the March 25 *Washington Post* stated, "it's hanging back, letting others break the path." The liberals are seizing the opportunity to prove their eagerness to strike a blow at the peoples of Indochina. Solarz is using his carefully crafted image as a "dove" for the purpose.

The liberals of both imperialist parties and the Reagan administration are counting on the torrent of anti-Vietnam propaganda from the big business media to muffle protests against their escalation of U.S. military intervention in Indochina.

The move to openly arm the counterrevolutionaries is a response to the further consolidation of the Indochinese revolutions and gains that have been made recently.

Beginning in November, Kampuchean and Vietnamese troops drove the reactionary groups out of the base camps they had maintained on the Kampuchean side of the border with Thailand. Although the Thai regime immediately set up new bases for them in Thailand, the counterrevolutionaries no longer control a shred of Kampuchean territory.

This was a measure of the advances

Kampuchea has made in reconstructing society after the effects of years of massive U.S. bombing followed by the Pol Pot holocaust.

These changes made it possible for Vietnam to announce another major troop withdrawal from Kampuchea.

At the same time, Vietnam has scored significant economic progress.

Even the *Christian Science Monitor*, in an article devoted to portraying the consequences of the victory over U.S. intervention as a "debacle," had to concede "a consistent though very modest improvement in the economy" in the recent past.

Clearly, the U.S. policy of bleeding and punishing Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea

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'In full and on time,' goal for fund drive

BY PAT GROGAN

We are now more than half way through our drive to raise \$75,000 by June 15.

With just five weeks to go, this is a good time to take a look at how we're doing and what it's going to take to make our goal.

In the first half of the drive, pledges and contributions lagged behind schedule. But this isn't unusual in socialist fund-raising efforts. It takes time to discuss, think about, and organize a major fund-raising effort, just as it does any other political campaign.

The April 20 antiwar mobilizations showed us just how right we were to aim at raising the funds that would enable us to expand our socialist publications. The tremendous response from new fighters at those demonstrations to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and especially our new book of speeches by Sandinista leaders — which sold out at the demonstrations — made that clear.

After the April 20 actions, we appealed to our supporters to step up the pace and organization of the drive. We especially put emphasis on the organization of pledges from each city as the next big step. The response to that appeal has been excellent. Although we haven't received responses from all the cities yet, we have received pledges of over \$45,000 as we go to press.

Houston is a good example. More than \$5,500 has been pledged to the drive.

Some members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union have pledged \$500 each to the fund, about a week's pay. And

some of them have decided to contribute what they get from forced overtime. Supporters in other lower-paying jobs are also aiming at a week's pay — a real mark of commitment.

In next week's *Militant*, we will run a scoreboard of where we stand on pledges. But with time getting short, the next step is

to organize to make sure that the pledges are paid on time.

Setting goals that meet the needs of a situation and then meeting those goals is the hallmark of a revolutionary workers movement. And that is why we are confident that we will reach our goal by June 15 — in full and on time.

<p>In the March 22 issue of the <i>Militant</i>, we launched the Socialist Publication Fund with the goal of raising \$75,000 by June 15.</p> <p>A major purpose of the fund is to help finance publication of the <i>Militant</i> and our Spanish-language sister publication <i>Perspectiva Mundial</i> and other socialist publication projects.</p> <p>Checks should be made out to: Socialist Publication Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014.</p> <p>Enclosed is my contribution to the Socialist Publication Fund of \$ _____</p> <p>I pledge a contribution of \$ _____ to the Socialist Publication Fund to be paid by _____.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Organization/Union _____</p>	<p>\$75,000</p> <p>Collected: \$17,520</p>
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1,300 hail Vietnam at New York rally

Continued from front page

The crowd responded with chants of "No Pasaran!" [They will not pass] — a slogan of the Nicaraguan people reflecting their confidence that they will defeat any U.S. invasion.

Cole opened the meeting on behalf of the sponsoring organizations and individuals.

"The people of Vietnam are unshakeable in their determination to be free at last," she said. "It is our responsibility to pressure the U.S. government to cease any and all of its hostile actions against Vietnam."

"The victory of the heroic people of Vietnam over U.S. military intervention inspires us," Cole added, "to rededicate ourselves and to say from the depths of our being, 'No more Vietnam Wars, anywhere, ever!'"

The meeting was cochaired by Don Luce of the Asia Resource Center.

Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations, Hoang Bich Son, was the featured speaker and honored guest at the celebration.

He was preceded by Kithay Vongsay, the ambassador of Laos to the United Nations. Vongsay said his people were "proud to have fought to shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese and Kampuchean people" and that they today "remain unified against U.S. imperialism, which although defeated, continues its aggression against Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea, and encourages counterrevolutionaries to oppose the process of rebuilding our countries."

He said that 3 million tons of bombs were dropped on Laos, a country of 4 million people.

Victory for humanity

Ambassador Hoang Bich Son was met with a standing ovation. He addressed the meeting in Vietnamese, which was translated into English.

The ambassador thanked the organizers and participants in the celebration, and said: "April 30 does not only belong to the Vietnamese people. It also belongs to the whole of progressive humanity and to all peace- and justice-loving people on this planet."

"The April 30 victory brought an end to an unjust and costly war which had disastrous

consequences for the American people. It also warned the forces of war and intervention that future Vietnam Wars will certainly lead to other victories of April 30s," he continued.

Ambassador Son commented on the destruction caused by the 1978 U.S.-instigated invasion of Vietnam by China and the aggression from the "genocidal Pol Pot clique," but said that "the indomitable Vietnam of Ho Chi Minh stands firmly on its feet and is rapidly advancing."

He pointed to the success of the Vietnamese people in the last decade in reunifying the country, overcoming the consequences of war, achieving self-sufficiency in food production for the first time, and advances in technology, culture, medical care, and education. And the southern half of Vietnam, he said, "is joining the rest of the country on the road to a new era of independence, freedom, prosperity, and happiness."

"The Vietnamese people have always regarded the American people as friends, and wished to always develop the bonds of friendship between our two peoples," the ambassador said. "Vietnam, for its part, is willing to establish normal relations with the United States without preconditions. But the normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam should not be construed as a favor to impose preconditions on Vietnam. Vietnam has existed for the past 4,000 years without normal relations with the United States, and Vietnam will continue to exist without normal relations with the U.S.," he said to cheers.

'Continuing war' on Vietnam

Another speaker was Dave Dellinger, a prominent leader of the anti-Vietnam War movement. Dellinger had just returned from Vietnam, where he participated in their anniversary celebration as a guest of the Vietnamese government. Dellinger gave the meeting a message of gratitude from Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong to the U.S. antiwar movement.

"We have the slogan, 'No more Vietnams in Central America,'" Dellinger said. "But we should add the slogan, 'No more Central Americas in Vietnam.'" Saying that the U.S. government is "continuing



Militant/Lou Howort

Vietnamese ambassador Hoang Bich Son (left) and interpreter. Rally protested Washington's continuing aggression against Vietnam and its dirty war against Nicaragua.

the war against the Vietnamese people," Dellinger called for an end to U.S. government backing of "contras in Thailand and Kampuchea, an end to economic sanctions and attempts to punish and isolate Vietnam."

Dellinger gave firsthand accounts of how the major U.S. news media that were in Ho Chi Minh City during the recent celebrations in Vietnam deliberately lied, twisted, and distorted the truth.

One example was a U.S. reporter — one of many — who filed a story saying it was "forbidden to talk to Vietnamese." Dellinger pointed out that he freely walked the streets, and when he met people who spoke English, he was invited to talk over food or a glass of beer dozens of times.

"What I found," Dellinger said, "was the great gains being made in the lives of the poor, and the pride in their revolution. As in Nicaragua, the poor are making gains — gains in medical care, gains in education. 'Of course they have problems,' he said. 'Of course they are poor. They were bombed back almost to the Stone Age and then embargoed and boycotted.'"

Referring especially to "some in the antiwar movement who have drifted away," Dellinger said to applause, "It's not our job to abandon the Vietnamese now. . . . Our job is to get the U.S. government off the backs of the people of Vietnam, Central America, South Africa, and the rest of the world."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson was among the main speakers at the rally. In a 45-minute speech, Jackson's main theme was how to improve the U.S. government's image abroad.

He opened his speech by introducing the families of what he called prisoners of war in Lebanon. He then spoke of his upcoming visit to Germany, where he will speak before the European Parliament.

He also appealed to those present to become part of the Rainbow Coalition inside the Democratic Party.

Jackson distanced himself from the main theme of the rally: A celebration of the victory of Vietnam over U.S. military intervention. "We cannot look back with any sense of joy or victory," Jackson said. "Our only sense of joy is that the war is over."

He criticized the media for hiding the important role played by Martin Luther King, Jr., and by Black organizations like the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in the anti-Vietnam war movement.

Jackson said that just as the embargo against Cuba didn't work, "the embargo against Nicaragua will not and should not work. A nation as strong as ours should talk it out, not starve the Nicaraguans into submission."

Jackson called for "No more Vietnam Wars, no more murder manuals, no more overthrowing governments in Central America. We should feel good about the Vietnam protests," he said. "We won the protest and stopped the war. That's what we did and what we should keep on doing: Keep on marching and keep on voting."

Struggle in South Africa

Ahmad Qono, chief representative of the African National Congress (ANC) to Senegal, greeted the rally with clenched fist and the words, "Amandla! Power!" and was met with chants of "ANC! ANC! ANC!"

"We are here to thank you for your contribution in bringing the war in Vietnam to an end," Qono said. "You are an important front in the struggle for peace in Vietnam and wherever people are struggling for their rights." He said that just as in Vietnam, with your assistance those who wield power will be forced to withdraw from Nicaragua and El Salvador.

"The people of South Africa, through the ANC, have since 1959 called for sanctions against Nazi South Africa. But those who wield power in the United States have always said that sanctions won't work. Yet today, they are the ones imposing sanctions against Nicaragua," Qono said, pointing to the hypocrisy of the U.S. government.

"The ANC," he said, "has never lost sight that the major battle outside of South Africa itself is to be fought in the United States." He said that without the support of the people of the United States, the battle for freedom will be harder.

"The oppressed people of South Africa, of Namibia, are greatly impressed today by what is taking place in the United States," Qono said. He urged the continuation of the demonstrations and pressure against the U.S. government's support to apartheid.

Honored guests who were introduced included members of delegations to the United Nations from Burkina, Cuba, and the Soviet Union, as well as a representa-

Continued on Page 6

NYC meeting wins strong support

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

NEW YORK — The successful May 5 meeting to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Vietnamese people over the U.S. war occurred without incident. This was a victory in itself.

In the past, a small rightist group functioning inside the Vietnamese community in the United States has physically assaulted similar meetings. In the week leading up to the celebration, these right-wing forces attacked forums and educational gatherings on the revolution in Vietnam in San Jose, California, and St. Paul, Minnesota. In addition, these reactionaries have claimed responsibility for the murder of a supporter of the Vietnamese revolution in the United States, Lam Thi Luu. They are suspected of involvement in the murder of another supporter of Vietnam, professor Edward Cooperman.

The New York celebration occurred without similar incidents partly because of the breadth of the coalition that organized the meeting. Some 75 organizations and individuals sponsored the celebration and took unified responsibility for its defense.

The coalition included several trade union leaders such as Al Evanoff, DC 1199J National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees; Bill Nuchow; and Ed Ott, vice-president of Local 8-132 Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers.

The broad participation in the meeting — either as speakers or honored guests — included representatives of the Vietnamese and Laotian missions to the United Nations, as well as representatives of the UN missions of Cuba, Burkina, the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Republic, and others.

The presence of Jesse Jackson, a nationally prominent capitalist politician and former contender for the Democratic Party's 1984 presidential nomination, also played an important role in guaranteeing a police presence to discourage right-wing thugs.

As part of the political preparation for the celebration, the executive committee of the coalition in the last weeks leading up to the meeting sought and won the sponsorship of prominent local Democratic Party politicians such as Assemblyman Herman (Denny) Farrell, Assemblyman José Riv-

Solidarity from U.S. unionists

The May 5 commemoration of Vietnam's victory won broad support, which included significant support from trade unionists in the New York-New Jersey area. A leaflet included in the packet of material at the event was entitled, "Solidarity from U.S. Trade Unionists" and said in part, "It has been ten years since the end of U.S. military intervention in Vietnam. Yet the United States has continued to attempt to injure the people of Vietnam. The economic boycott and attempted political isolation has caused unnecessary hardship."

"In the face of the current campaign to rewrite history and glorify the U.S. war in Southeast Asia, we trade unionists affirm that the American people were correct to oppose the intervention in Vietnam. We call on the United States to end its senseless policy toward the people of Vietnam, Nicaragua, and El Salvador."

"To the people of Vietnam we continue to offer our hand in friendship and pledge

era, and New York State Senator Olga Mendez.

Several weeks before the May 5 event, the committee contacted the mayor's office and police department. They explained the past problems and pointed out the city's responsibility for upholding the democratic right to have Vietnam solidarity events. A significant number of Democratic Party politicians and civil liberties figures also contacted the mayor's office and police urging the authorities to make a serious commitment to cooperate with the committee and provide adequate police protection.

to continue the struggle for normalization of relations.

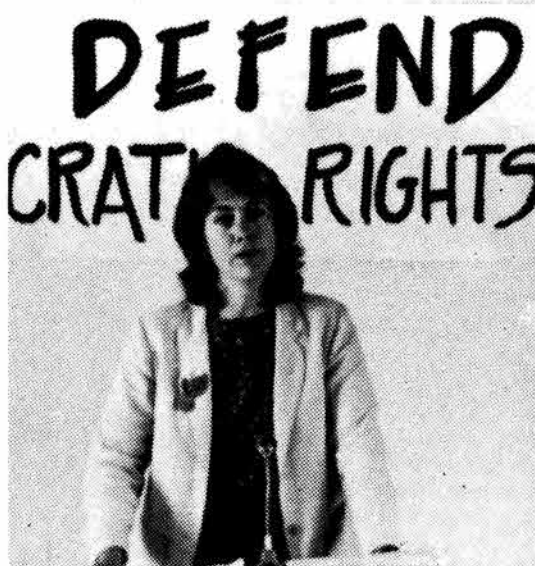
"We further pledge ourselves to continue our opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America."

Among those who signed the statement were Margarite Aguilar, president Local 3882, American Federation of Teachers; Grace DuBreuil, New Jersey State Coalition of Labor Union Women; Al Evanoff, DC 1199J, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees; Benny Foster, chair, Transit Workers Union Local 100; Key Martin, unit chairperson, Newspaper Guild Unit 3; Anthony Mazzochi, director, Workers Policy Project; Ed Ott, vice-president, Local 8-132 Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; Ira Williams, vice-president of Legislation and Political Action, Social Services Employees Union Local 371, District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

San Jose socialists gain in rights battle



Militant/Larry Lukehart



Militant/Roberta Frick

Right-wing thugs amassed across from the Socialist Bookstore. Lynda Joyce (right), San Jose SWP chairperson, speaking at May 4 press conference that formed part of a broad political campaign that successfully pushed back the right wing and reopened the bookstore.

Continued from front page

have asked people to be here today to show their support for the democratic right to hold political meetings and operate a bookstore free from threats or violent disruption by right-wing outfits. Ultrarightist thugs and their threats and intimidation will not stop us from getting out the truth about U.S. foreign policy."

Ellen Schwartz, president of the Santa Clara County chapter of the Women's In-

ternational League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) read a letter sent to San Jose mayor Thomas McEmery. The letter demanded an immediate response to these attacks. Noting that none of the thugs involved in the April 28 violence had been arrested, Schwartz said, "the mayor's inaction will allow such assaults to flourish."

Jody Calvert, coordinator for the South Bay chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), likened the attack by

the right-wing exiles to the terrorists who bomb abortion clinics. Earlier in the week South Bay NOW voted unanimously to send a message protesting the attacks to the mayor and police chief.

Dan Mayfield, president of the Santa Clara County chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild, pointed to the cops' complicity in allowing one of the thugs to enter socialist offices after the socialists had been forced to leave on April 28. He said

Alaska Airlines strikers seeking aid

BY DEAN PEOPLES

SEATTLE — On May 3, ground workers at Alaska Airlines, members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 2202, voted 3 to 1 to reject the latest contract concessions demanded by the company, and 84 percent voted in favor of continuing the strike.

Mechanics and related crafts have been on strike for 10 weeks in the face of Alaska Airlines' attempt to impose a two-tier contract, under which new hires would not reach full pay for 12 years, and other takebacks. Union officials described the latest company proposal as worse than the original offer.

According to Linda Layton, IAM Local 2202 president, the latest contract offer would have allowed scabs hired during the strike to continue working, and union members would only be called back to work as needed. The new company proposal also included the two-tier wage structure; elimination of the closed shop; the farming-out of work normally done by union members; and provisions to allow up to 25 percent of the work force to be hired on a part-time basis.

Layton explained that under the Railway Labor Act, which governs bargaining procedures, contract language is amended during bargaining periods. After all bargain-

ing procedures have been exhausted, the company can implement any work rule changes it wants.

Russ Orcutt, Local 2202 vice-president and chair of the strike committee, said, "The majority of members felt that they couldn't possibly work under the conditions of this contract. There seems to be a growing attitude of management these days that they can dig deeper into our pockets and make us sacrifice some of our own people."

"Alaska Airlines has never made so much money. This is the 12th consecutive year of record profits — almost \$24 million last year. The company forced the union into the strike, and is now trying to make them ratify a contract which would take the union back 20 years."

Orcutt said that many of the Clerical, Office, and Passenger Service workers (COPS) have been honoring the picket lines.

By asking the mechanics and related workers to ratify a proposal that excluded any provision for COPS workers, the company was trying to divide the union. The COPS workers are also members of Local 2202, but their contract does not come up for amendment until the end of September.

When the strike began, the Flight Attendants, numbering about 50, honored the picket lines. They were eventually forced to go back to work under threat of losing their jobs when they settled on a new contract with Alaska Airlines. Before the strike began the company started training new flight attendants to be hired if those honoring the mechanics strike refused to go back to work. The pilots never did honor the picket lines.

Local unions have been sending in financial contributions and statements of support. Orcutt said most freight handlers have been respecting the picket lines.

The Alaska Airlines strike received enthusiastic support from people who attended the April 20 Peace, Jobs and Justice march in Seattle. Members and supporters of Local 2202 carried "Don't fly Alaska" picket signs in the labor contingent at the march, and Local 2202 president Layton received strong applause when she addressed the rally.

Contributions and messages of support can be sent to IAM Local 2202, P.O. Box 3491 Midway Office, Kent, Wash. 98032. Phone: (206) 878-5498.

Dean Peoples is a member of IAM Local 2202.

So. African student leader wins political asylum

BY ALLYSON BEST

NEW ORLEANS — Exiled South African student leader Selby Semela was granted political asylum by the U.S. State Department on April 11.

Semela, Tsietshi Mashinini, and Barney Mokgatle were leaders of the Soweto student uprising. They eluded police and government agents and fled South Africa into neighboring Botswana in August 1976 amidst the demonstrations.

According to Semela, the three had been identified as being responsible for the bombings of buildings, trains, and police vehicles. He said that the police, in their search for them, would raid their homes and harass their families several times a day. Roadblocks were also set up to prohibit their passage into Botswana.

As a result of false information published by *The World* — a Black-owned newspaper that is now banned — saying that the three had already left the country, the roadblocks were lifted and they were able to flee.

The threat to Semela's life did not end there. Several days later the house in which he was staying was bombed. Years later in London, he was ambushed on the street by men he believes were South African agents. People passing by saved his life.

When asked about the U.S. role in South Africa and Central America, he said, "The U.S. government is the common enemy of ours because it is allied with the oppressors."

Semela, cofounder and president of the New Orleans Committee Against Apartheid (NOCAA), participated in the April antiwar, anti-apartheid march in Houston on April 20.

NOCAA organized "Soweto Remembered" on June 16, 1984, and a candlelight vigil at the residence of the Honorary South African Consulate on March 21, 1985, commemorating the 1960 Sharpsville massacre. The consulate has since been consolidated with the Houston office.

The closing of the New Orleans consulate was announced on March 20 in a minute article in the sports section of the local newspaper, the *Times Picayune*.

The consulate had been picketed, first by NOCAA and then by the Free South Africa Coalition, on an almost weekly basis since November of 1984. Pat Bryant, a local tenants' rights organizer, was arrested at the consulate on December 14 when several protesters attempted to force entry in order to be arrested. On that same day, state representative Rev. Avery Alexander, Rev. Cudjoe Livingston of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Craig Shelton, former president of the National Organization of Black University and College Students, were arrested at a coin shop where the Krugerrand (a South African gold coin) is sold.

Of the present uprisings in South Africa and the closing of the New Orleans consulate, Semela said, "Change only takes place when people take to the streets, and when the protesting stops, progress stops."

this was "an incredible threat not just to the liberties of the Socialist Workers Party but to all of us."

Andrew Hunt of the Young Socialist Alliance announced a May 8 planning meeting to organize a broad protest action to defend democratic rights.

The press conference received wide media coverage in the Bay Area.

Throughout the day unionists, antiwar activists, and other supporters of democratic rights visited the bookstore to express their support. Over \$100 worth of literature was sold.

All weekend *Militant* sales teams fanned out across the city publicizing the attack on free speech. They went to the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration held by thousands in downtown San Jose. They also attended a festival in the Japanese community where they gathered signatures on petitions demanding a full investigation of the mob action and demanding the mayor take full responsibility for the safety of people using the bookstore.

After the press conference a delegation from the Young Socialist Alliance took a message of solidarity to anti-apartheid protesters in San Jose State University. While the cops have taken no action against the thugs involved in the violence against the socialists, on May 4 they arrested four students who were peacefully protesting the university's ties to South Africa.

The socialists' fight to exercise their democratic right has met with enthusiasm at meetings of solidarity committees and anti-apartheid groups. Lynda Joyce spoke at a May 3 picket line called to oppose the U.S. blockade of Nicaragua. She pledged to redouble the socialist effort in solidarity with Nicaragua and exposed the activity of San Jose's own version of the *contras* — the right-wing Vietnamese. She described their attacks against the right of working people to discuss U.S. foreign policy.

The first day back at work after the successful reopening of bookstore, socialists sold over a dozen *Militants* in the main plant of FMC — the largest manufacturer of military tracked vehicles in the world.

The mayor's office reported to Joyce on May 3 that they had received messages protesting the violent attack from all around the country. But the city administration still has not investigated the violence nor issued any statement in support of the rights of San Jose citizens to engage in political activity free from the threats of harassment.

To ensure that the violence of April 28 is not repeated, an ongoing campaign is under way. Messages demanding a full investigation of the mob action, prosecution of those responsible, and protection for the safety of all those using the bookstore should be sent to Mayor Thomas McEmery, Office of the Mayor, 801 N. 1 St., San Jose, Calif. 95110 and to Joseph McNamara, Chief of Police, 201 W. Mission, San Jose, Calif. 95110. Copies should be sent to SWP, 46 1/2 Race St., San Jose, Calif. 95126.

Militant forums on Vietnam victory

Successful Militant Labor Forums celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Vietnamese victory over U.S. military intervention in that country were held in New York City on May 3 and Washington, D.C., on May 4.

The New York forum was titled "Defend the Indochinese Revolution! Vietnam and Kampuchea." All three speakers spoke out in defense of the Vietnamese revolution.

They were Franklin Siegel of the National Lawyers' Guild, who spoke as a member of the executive committee of the Vietnam 10th Anniversary Committee; Chan Bun Han, from the Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos; and Dave Zilly, member of the Socialist Workers Party and a Vietnam veteran.

The Washington, D.C., forum, "After Ten Years, What is the Legacy of Vietnam? Why Vietnam Defeated the World's Strongest Imperialist Power," featured speaker Mike Fitzsimmons, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Ramírez to Latin America: aid Nicaragua

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "I will not surrender... I want free homeland or death!"

With these words — the words used by Gen. Augusto César Sandino in response to an ultimatum from U.S. invaders 60 years ago — Nicaragua's workers and peasants have answered the latest escalation in the U.S. war against their revolution.

"With the force given to us by justice and by reason, we declare that we will never tolerate foreign meddling, that we will never accept a cowardly peace," said acting president Sergio Ramírez in a May 4 address on the U.S. trade embargo. He concluded with Sandino's message.

Ramírez spoke on the Day of National Dignity, which commemorates the day in 1927 when Sandino refused to lay down his arms before invading U.S. marines.

Ramírez warned that "the boycott decreed by President Reagan against our small and dignified nation constitutes a premeditated step that puts the U.S. government on the road toward a direct military intervention against Nicaragua," just as in Sandino's day.

Appeal to nation

Speaking on behalf of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front as well as the Nicaraguan government, Ramírez appealed to the entire population to rally around the revolutionary government to defeat the U.S. embargo. "A country forged in the constant struggle for dignity and inspired by the force of its revolution cannot be dealt mortal blows. We will learn many new lessons from this new and trying period in our history, marching forward, advancing."

"We will find new markets for our exports," he explained. "We are going to

rationalize our imports and to substitute with seriousness and creativity for those things that it is not possible to import." He said that the leaders and members of the Sandinista Front must "be first in giving an example of constant devotion to work and of austerity."

"It will be our own forces, the energy of the people, that will give us the answers and solutions. The task calls on everyone, on all dignified Nicaraguans, on the entire nation."

The Sandinista leader, who is acting head of state while Pres. Daniel Ortega is traveling in Eastern Europe, added that "those who exclude themselves from this patriotic call, those who in this trying hour listen to the voice of the aggressors rather than the clamor of their own aggrieved homeland, will be abandoning their place, their posts, in the ranks of national dignity."

Attack on all Latin America

Ramírez explained that the U.S. blockade is aimed not only against Nicaragua, but against all Latin America. Nicaragua's workers and peasants revolution, he said, "opened with its example a possibility for independence and a possibility for justice and change, which is rejected by the imperial Reagan administration."

"They want the Sandinista revolution to succumb so that Latin America succumbs," he said.

"We are conscious of representing this example," the Nicaraguan leader continued. "We are not the strongest link of the continent, but precisely because we are carrying forward a national revolution in a small and weak country of this very continent, we are a vital link."

Ramírez appealed to all Latin Americans to stand up to U.S. blackmail. "We



Militant/José G. Pérez

Sergio Ramírez, vice-president of Nicaragua's workers and farmers government.

call on the nations and the peoples of Latin America to not let Nicaragua be put in the isolation in which the U.S. government wants to place us to deliver us blows with impunity."

"To prepare that blow the U.S. government has occupied Honduras and is increasing its naval and air forces in the Central American region. It builds airports, arms warehouses, and fuel depots. It amasses tanks, armored cars, helicopters, and planes."

"The measures of economic aggression

announced by President Reagan, along with those he proposes to announce in the immediate future, will undoubtedly be a source of new suffering, shortages, and limitations for our homeland, for our efforts to transform society," said Ramírez.

"There will be problems and sufferings with a new dimension, that will be added to those that have been accumulating in the social and economic life of the country since President Reagan launched his mercenary war against Nicaragua."

Today the United States buys 8 percent of Nicaragua's exports and accounts for 16 percent of its imports. This includes many spare parts for factories equipped with U.S. machinery.

Despite the seriousness of the embargo, Nicaragua's workers and peasants and their revolutionary government have responded with calm steadfast determination to deepen their revolution and make the necessary adjustments.

Initial steps

The revolutionary government and the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front have been holding emergency meetings on the national and local levels to plan a response to the measure.

Some alternate markets and sources of supplies have already been announced.

Cuba will be sending laying hens to replace those that were to be bought from the United States. Workers from a John Deere factory in Spain have pledged \$100,000 worth of spare parts for agricultural equipment, and the first consignment is already on its way. The Mexican government, in addition to condemning the U.S. sanctions, announced it would continue supplying Nicaragua with petroleum on preferential terms even though Nicaragua has been late with some payments for the oil.

In Nicaragua itself, technicians and skilled workers are seeing how many production bottlenecks they can get around by improvising or manufacturing their own replacement parts.

In every sector of the economy, from cattle ranching to the Coke and Pepsi bottling plant, consultations are under way with the workers, the management, and the owners to come up with ways to deal with the situation.

The mood in Nicaragua was summarized by a Sandinista leader in Bluefields, on the Atlantic Coast. "They are not going to demoralize us," said Gilberto Martínez Leal, who is in charge of the Sandinista Front's Propaganda and Political Education Department in that region. "Cuba's example shows us that."

"And if they invade us," Leal told the *Militant*, "they also won't enslave us. We have the example of Vietnam and of our own history, Sandino's struggle, that lets us say with absolute certainty that they will never defeat us and we will never surrender."

1,300 at N.Y. rally hail Vietnam

Continued from Page 4

tive of the Movement for a Free Philippines.

Barry Romo, coordinator of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, gave one of the most powerful speeches of the afternoon.

He said that just before leaving for the meeting, he had received a call from CBS. They were trying to track down four Vietnam vets who had supposedly gotten in a fight with some antiwar demonstrators in 1971. Romo angrily told the reporter that he didn't remember that incident but he did remember that in 1971 there was a demonstration of 2,000 Vietnam veterans who marched on Washington to protest the war, and 1,200 of them threw their medals away. He asked why CBS wasn't looking for them.

Romo told the story of his nephew, drafted from a steel mill, who died 12 years ago in Vietnam. "Bob's death," he said, "is no more attributable to the Vietnam liberation soldier who pulled the trigger, than it was to the Vietnamese people or the Vietnamese government. It was Lyndon Johnson... and the rest of the U.S. policymakers who are the ones that pulled the trigger on the vets who died."

Romo said that the reason the Vietnam vets have problems is not because of the antiwar movement, but "because of the nature of the war we were sent to fight in, the policies we were forced to carry out — the forced relocations, search and destroy, free-fire zones, assassination, torture, and genocide."

Romo said what made him most angry was that the media, which didn't report the truth of the war while it was happening, and the politicians, who supported the war and who opposed benefits for vets, are now for "taking the blood of guys who died and rewriting history with it...so that our children and our younger brothers can fight in Central America. All I can say is that it's about time the U.S. government and the media allow these Americans to rest in peace."

Other speakers included Mel King, 1984 candidate for mayor of Boston and leader of the Rainbow Coalition; and Leslie Cagan of the Mobilization for Survival.

A taped message was played from Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, former foreign

minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, and now minister of education of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

El Salvador

The final speaker was Guadalupe González, representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FDR-FMLN) of El Salvador.

She thanked the "people of Vietnam and Indochina for guaranteeing one more victory for the people of the world" and pointed to the "pride we feel in saying Vietnam was an example for us."

"If it wasn't for the determination of the Vietnamese people," she said, "the people of the U.S. would never have learned to condemn the U.S. policies abroad, would

never have learned to fight U.S. policies in Nicaragua, in El Salvador, in Chile, in Angola, in Palestine, in Ethiopia."

"It was the victory of the Vietnamese people over the U.S. that made us think it was possible to win," she said, and that gave us the "courage, patience, and determination," to fight the long, hard struggle.

"The people of Vietnam have always given their solidarity to the people of El Salvador, and we will return it," she said.

The meeting ended with the presentation of a peace scroll from the people of the United States to the Vietnamese ambassador.

Poetry and songs of protest and struggle were provided by June Jordan and Adrienne Torf, Holly Near and Jeff Langley, and Puerto Rican independence activist and singer Roy Brown.

'IP' reports on Cuban women's congress

On International Women's Day, March 8, the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) concluded its fourth congress. More than 1,300 delegates attended the six-day congress, representing the FMC's 2.7 million members (about 84 percent of all Cuban women between 14 and 65 years old).

Cuban president Fidel Castro addressed the closing session, reviewing the gains the revolution has made for women and the contributions of women to the development and defense of the revolution.

The next issue of *Intercontinental Press*, dated May 27, will print the first half of Castro's speech. The remainder of Castro's speech will appear in the following issue of *IP*.

Castro's speech and the main report adopted by the congress, which was presented by FMC president Vilma Espín, stressed the progress in integrating women into the work force. At the time of the revolution, only 12 percent of Cuban workers were women. The most recent figure, cited at the FMC congress, is 37 percent.

The current issue of *IP* includes further coverage on the revolution in the West African country of Burkina. An article by Ernest Harsch describing the work of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs) accompanies an interview with CDR national secretary-general Pierre Ouédraogo.

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Protests Hit U.S. War Against Central America



Sudan: Why Nimeiry Was Overthrown

Cuba's New Housing Law

U.S. embargo: act of war against Nicaragua

Continued from front page

In both cases, the charge of Nicaraguan "aggression" is simply a cover for increasing the military buildup against the Sandinistas and laying the "legal" basis for an eventual U.S. invasion of Nicaragua.

Each step of the way, Washington is testing the reaction to its escalation. The imposition of the trade embargo brought protests from some Latin American governments, including that of Mexico, which pledged to continue selling oil to Nicaragua. In this country, thousands of U.S. anti-intervention activists, a significant number, demonstrated against the embargo in more than a dozen cities.

As the U.S. government takes further steps, such as invoking a ban on travel to Nicaragua and eventually breaking off diplomatic relations, resistance will increase.

Within Congress, however, the reaction to the embargo registers the bipartisan consensus for the rulers' course. No wing of the Democrats has challenged the declaration of the "national emergency." Many have hailed the economic sanctions, such as Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), who also happens to be leading the pack in demanding aid for the anti-Kampuchea counterrevolutionaries based in Thailand. Democratic House leader Thomas O'Neill, who claims he's for keeping U.S. troops out of Nicaragua, had only one complaint about the embargo, that it was "premature."

Contra aid 'debate'

The degree of bipartisan unity on the war reveals what was actually behind the so-called debate in Congress in April over aid to the contras. When the House of Representatives failed to adopt any of the bills for funding the terrorists, the capitalist media initially called it a defeat for Reagan and the contras. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Sen. David Durenberger, Republican head of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, explained this in a column printed in the April 28 *Washington Post*. Durenberger was one of the "opponents" of aiding the contras. His column was titled "It Wasn't a Vote Against the Contras."

"There was greater consensus in Congress about the need for action on Nicaragua than last week's vote on the president's request would indicate," Durenberger

wrote. He explained how in the course of numerous discussions between senators and the White House "it became clear... that there existed a strong consensus on the nature of the Sandinista government and the potential threat it poses to U.S. interests."

In fact, contrary to reports hailing the "defeat" of Reagan's contra aid bill, the measure lost by only two votes in the House. More important, it was the liberal Democrats themselves who urged that economic sanctions be imposed.

The House Democrats barely waited for the ink to dry on the embargo order before putting contra aid back on their agenda. Suddenly, with the embargo in place, they were ready to grant millions to the mercenaries. "There's a movement on our side to accommodate the lust members feel to strike out against Communism," declared Rep. William Alexander, Jr. (D-Ark.), a key Democratic leader. "[Daniel] Ortega's trip to Moscow triggered a reaction in the House and provides overwhelming support for the need to show the flag."

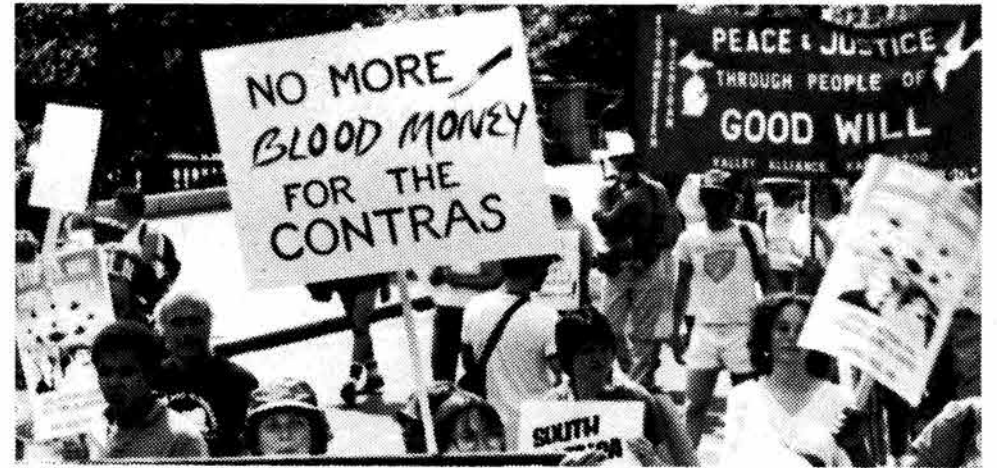
Why the escalation

But the visit to Moscow by Ortega, Nicaragua's president, had nothing to do with Congress waving the flag. The bipartisan moves to step up the war would have taken place with or without that trip.

What is driving the U.S. rulers and their mouthpieces in office deeper toward direct military intervention are the continued advances of the Nicaraguan workers and peasants and the success of the Sandinista leadership in consolidating the gains of the six-year-old revolution.

This is most graphically seen in the utter failure of the contras to take and hold a single town inside Nicaragua after four years of trying and millions of dollars in U.S. aid. When the liberals in Congress complain about the contras, *this* is what really bothers them — their hired terrorists cannot establish a social base inside the country.

The Sandinistas are not only winning the war, but making gains in other arenas as well. Despite escalating U.S. sabotage of the economy, the country's workers and exploited peasants are advancing in confidence and organization in their battle against the Nicaraguan capitalists and big



Militant/Fred Murphy

Protesters in Washington, D.C., April 20. These initial demonstrations indicate potential to forge a mass antiwar movement as U.S. war escalates.

land owners. Major steps forward have taken place in incorporating the Atlantic Coast's Miskitos and Blacks into the revolution and its leadership.

The U.S. escalation is in response to these victories, to the fact that in the face of war and economic and political pressures, the Nicaraguan working people and their leadership refuse to back down and are instead deepening the revolutionary process.

This is why the U.S. rulers are preparing for a major U.S. war, involving thousands of GIs from the start.

In this respect, the war against Nicaragua will be different from the way the war against Vietnam unfolded. In that war, Washington had a puppet government in the south upon which to base its invasion. The direct use of U.S. troops began with very small numbers and increased only gradually. In 1960, there were 685 GIs in Vietnam. The number reached 16,000 in late 1963. By the end of 1965, the figure had grown to 184,000 troops. It was not until 1969 that the number peaked at 500,000.

But in Nicaragua, it is excluded that Washington can begin its invasion with only a few hundred or few thousand soldiers.

As shown by the fate of the contra invaders, Washington will not be able to send just a few troops in to back up a "provisional government" of mercenaries on Nicaraguan soil. They can't even get their "provisional government" established. They will have to invade without a social base inside the country. They will be up against a battle-tested army and hundreds of thousands of armed militia members on farms, in factories, and in working-class and rural communities.

So when U.S. troops do go in, it will be in massive numbers. This explains the constant military maneuvers by U.S. troops across the border in Honduras. The U.S. Army is trying to train an invasion force as rapidly as possible in the hopes such an in-

vasion could be successful. They are deeply aware that their 1983 attack on the small island of Grenada was a disaster, militarily speaking. It took thousands of GIs a whole week to overcome a leaderless, poorly armed group of Grenadian soldiers and a handful of Cuban construction workers. U.S. soldiers will confront quite a different opponent when they go into Nicaragua.

Polarization will deepen

As the war against Nicaragua deepens, so will the polarization in this country. This is already signalled by the wailing of those liberals who are beginning to denounce the Sandinistas as uncompromising, "hardline," and "heavy-handed."

Their complaints about Nicaragua go together with their rush to join the capitalists' anti-Vietnam chorus. Many of these liberals, who took a formal position of opposing the war against Vietnam while it was in progress, now say they regret their involvement in the antiwar movement of that time. This is all aimed at disorganizing the new, young generation of working people who oppose the current war in Central America and want to do something about it.

This generation came out on the streets by the tens of thousands April 20 in nationwide demonstrations against the U.S. war in Central America. There was significant union participation, particularly by Black workers, in the protests. This will increase as the war and the attacks on workers and farmers at home step up. Thousands took to the streets again in over a dozen cities the week after the trade embargo was imposed.

It is important to note that these initial protests are occurring *before* U.S. GIs have even invaded Nicaragua. This underscores the dimensions of the class battle shaping up as the war escalates, and the importance of these preparatory actions, which already bear the stamp of the working class, in forging a massive antiwar movement.

Thousands protest U.S. embargo

Continued from front page

took place May 3 only two days after Reagan announced the embargo, drew 500 people.

In San Francisco, 1,000 people demonstrated outside the Federal Building. Some 300 were arrested in a civil disobedience action at the entrance of the building.

In Washington, D.C., some 400 people participated in a picket line outside the

Spain: 500,000 protest Reagan visit, U.S. war against Nicaragua

An estimated 500,000 people demonstrated in several Spanish cities May 5 to protest President Reagan's visit to that country. The actions were called by a coalition of pacifist and left groups with the backing of the socialist-led General Union of Workers.

Chanting "Yankees go home," 75,000 marched in Madrid. The march ended at the Christopher Columbus Plaza where youths raised a Sandinista flag while the crowd chanted against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua.

In Barcelona, 225,000 demonstrated. There were also similar actions in several other cities, including Bilbao and Victoria.

Prior to the Reagan visit, there was a marked increase in anti-U.S. sentiment in Spain. A public opinion poll by the Madrid daily, *País*, showed that 54 percent of those polled favored Spain's withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Only 19 percent of those polled supported Spain's continued affiliation to NATO.

A full 64 percent said they did not consider the U.S. an ally of Spain.

White House. The picket was organized by the Nicaragua Information Committee, the Washington Area Labor Committee on Central America and the Caribbean, and Pledge of Resistance. Earlier in the day, 100 people picketed the Senate hearings on the embargo.

In Denver, 250 people demonstrated against the embargo at a noontime action outside the Federal Building. The picket line was organized by the Pledge of Resistance. Afterward, 18 people participated in civil disobedience at the door of the building and were arrested.

In Detroit, 140 people participated in a picket line at the Federal Building sponsored by the Michigan Interfaith Committee on Central American Human Rights, the Central America Solidarity Committee, and Detroit Peace Committee. Among the participants was a representative of Bishop McKey, as well as representatives of congressmen Conyers and Crockett. A major part of this action was the Tools for Peace Campaign. Participants brought tools to send to Nicaragua to help rebuild the country destroyed by the U.S.-backed mercenaries.

In Springfield, Massachusetts, about 100 people were arrested for civil disobedience at the downtown federal office building. In Hartford, Connecticut, 25 people were arrested after staging a sit-in at the U.S. Customs Office.

There were also actions May 7 in Los Angeles; Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Greenville and Pittsfield, Massachusetts, among other cities.

In the week since the embargo announcement, other protests have taken place including a May 4 picket line in San Jose, California. In Twin Cities, Minnesota, 150 people picketed hours after the embargo was announced.

Press conference hits sanctions

BY MATT MUNRO

MIAMI — At a press conference in the Miami International Airport, U.S. workers and antiwar activists denounced the U.S. embargo against Nicaragua. They had just returned from a fact-finding tour of Nicaragua where they met with factory and farm workers, students, and militia members.

One tour participant, Cecelia Moriarity, a laid-off coal miner from Utah, condemned the embargo as an "act of war which is not in the interest of U.S. working people." She said, "In Nicaragua we found people ready to defend their independence. Nicaraguans want peace but are ready to fight against any aggression from the United States."

A young activist from Portland, Amy Husk, who helped to build the April 20 antiwar action, reported that "Nicaraguans were quick to point out that they are in solidarity with the people of the United States." She also pointed out that "the youth in particular suffer from the U.S. government's attacks. They are the ones that fight and die in defense of their country."

Concerning Soviet aid to Nicaragua, Lane Satterblom, a Chicago railworker, said that the war and the new embargo by the U.S. government made this assistance very valuable. He reported that the Nicara-

guans are very glad to receive this aid and believe that the U.S. government should be aiding them as well, instead of attacking them.

The press conference was covered by two local television stations.

Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea

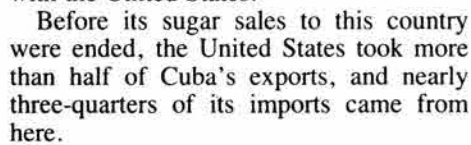
By Diane Wang & Steve Clark

The authors spent three weeks in Vietnam and Kampuchea in 1984 and wrote this compilation of articles that originally appeared in the *Militant* and *Intercontinental Press*. This pamphlet covers the advances made in the postwar reconstruction of these two countries, and Kampuchea's recovery from the devastation brought by the Pol Pot regime. It contains valuable lessons for the fight against Washington's new Vietnam-style war in Central America. Price: \$2.

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., N.Y., N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for postage and handling.

How Cubans responded to Washington's economic and military aggression

Cuban agriculture was converted into a



The October 1960 trade embargo supposedly came after Cuba acquired military supplies from the Soviet Union. But, again, the hue and cry was but a smoke

According to Hentoff, FBI agents from Washington, Baltimore, and Minneapolis worked on the case of the library reshelver. They in turn enlisted support from the D.C. police; the U.S. Park Police; the Civil Service; the Hennepin County, Minnesota, sheriff's office; plus the Minneapolis and St. Paul police departments.

For 24 years since then, an ever stronger Cuba has held the U.S. aggressor at bay and been an inspiration and example for oppressed and exploited working people around the world, not least of all in revolutionary Nicaragua.

If the appeals court decision stands, Clark's case will go back to the district court to determine if he should be awarded damages, as well as whether he should be reinstated in the job from which he resigned, or into one of the jobs for which he had been improperly passed over.

Nicaraguan workers fighting U.S. war in the workplace

'Production is war front's rearguard'

The following article, "Rearguard's mission — increase and improve production," is reprinted from the April 18 English-language edition of *Barricada Internacional*, published in Managua, Nicaragua.

"We support the drastic changes made in economic policy to defend and deepen our revolutionary process. Production constitutes a rearguard to the war fronts, and as such, we must dedicate the nation's resources for war needs. This calls for greater discipline, spirit of sacrifice and combative will from workers than was required to overthrow the Somoza dictatorship." These statements come from one of the final resolutions of the fourth national assembly of unions held at the end of January which brought together representatives of more than 90 percent of Nicaragua's organized workers.

Since then, measures taken by the revolutionary government to help resolve the country's difficult economic situation have been implemented. At the end of March, 925 union leaders from throughout the nation met again in Managua to evaluate what progress had been made during the year's first quarter in regard to meeting the objectives set forth by their membership: raise production by increasing productivity, put an end to price speculation which has been undermining production and real wages, and firmly support the country's military defense.

Defense

The unionists all agreed that the attention given to workers mobilized to active duty has been better in the cities than in the countryside. Urban industrial unions have proved to be more active than their rural counterparts in responding to the health and food supply problems faced by the families of the workers mobilized to the war fronts. This has resulted in higher military recruitment of young workers in the cities than in the countryside.

A considerable part of the country's labor force is now fulfilling defense activities. However, the union leaders concluded that the role workers play as the country's strategic rearguard has not been weakened, but rather strengthened. This is primarily due to two factors: the redoubling of workers' efforts and a greater participation by women in production, especially in war zones. A clear example of the latter phenomenon was the recent coffee harvest, in which women made up 70 percent of the work force.

Production

Despite attempts by the counterrevolution to sabotage production, in particular the coffee harvest, during the recent season more than 55,000 tons of coffee were harvested; this surpassed the goal set by the government by 2 percent. In addition, 250,000 tons of cotton were picked, fulfilling 90 percent of the goal set.

Success in both harvests was due to the efforts made by the labor force: 32,000 full-time and 11,000 weekend volunteers joined the country's 80,000 professional harvesters throughout the nation. The new wage policy, which ties wages to production and gives incentives to the most efficient workers, has already had visible results. The number of professional harvesters rose from 61,000 last year to 80,000 in 1985; the average yield per picker in the coffee harvest rose from five tins daily last year to seven in the recent harvest. This season, 9.7 tons of cotton were gathered daily by mechanical harvesters, surpassing the 8.5 picked in 1984.

The evaluation made by the unions was critical of the administrative weaknesses and bureaucratic attitudes of some state officials, who hampered the workers' efforts and impeded the fulfillment of production goals. An example of this was insecticide

management: on several occasions blight affected crops that could not be sprayed due to late delivery of insecticides to the cotton fields.

Looking inward with a critical eye, the union leaders also pointed out that despite the advances made in production, unions had not come up with concrete plans for economizing on raw materials, adequately maintaining equipment, nor improving worker discipline.

The unionists agreed that it was necessary to continue promoting the job control evaluations already being carried out in 21 industrial and 27 agricultural enterprises. These have resulted, in some cases, in unprecedented increases in production. The work day in the countryside, for example, went from the traditional year-long average of three hours a day, to the present six hours.

In addition, job control evaluations have made possible the establishment of a system of wage incentives and emulation aimed at raising productivity. These have already been put in practice in the production of coffee, cotton, and tobacco, where in addition to individual incentives, bonuses for the entire work forces of production centers have been implemented. It is estimated that at present there are more than 40,000 workers participating in the incentives program.

Significant progress has also been made in the participation of workers in management. Work committees made up by management and union leaders from each department establish production goals and the mechanisms for incentives to stimulate efficiency and productivity. In this way, the



Barricada

Mobilization of thousands of workers throughout Nicaragua brought in successful coffee harvest despite attempt by U.S.-backed contras to sabotage it.

control and guarantee that goals will be met also becomes the responsibility of workers.

Distribution of goods

The guaranteed distribution of provisions plays an important role in the price-salary system of the new economic policy. In this respect, the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), in representation of its members, has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Commerce that relates production to the acquisition of goods. The contract ties distribution to the level of production achieved and the preferential supply of goods to the war fronts.

Commissaries at work centers and a territorial distribution network by *barrios* are the mechanisms that will assure the distribution of basic goods to salaried employees. Priority goes to workers in the basic services and productive sectors.

Since January more than 215 new commissaries have been opened, some of which have been financed by the workers themselves, as in the case of the Nicaraguan Teachers Association (ANDEN).

As yet, there is inadequate control of

distribution channels, which has prevented speculation from being completely eliminated. Progress has been slow in forming a movement of inspectors, abolishing the payment of salaries in goods at some production centers, and doing away with bartering among companies.

Aggression

Lastly, the unionists underscored the efforts being made by organized workers in pursuit of national unity. During the first three months of the year, the labor movement as a whole carried out joint activities which have given greater unity and cohesion to the workers movement.

On the international level, with the support of labor organizations in other countries, Nicaraguan workers have denounced the U.S.-backed aggression against this country, urging the U.S. Congress to reject the U.S.\$14 million that the Reagan administration is requesting for the counter-revolution and calling upon the U.S. government to return to the negotiating table at Manzanillo and support the Contadora process.

Harvest a 'victory for Nicaragua'

BY BILL GREYER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "A victory for Nicaragua's working people" is how Daniel Ortega, the country's president, described the results of this year's coffee harvest.

The Nicaraguans, who volunteered for the harvest in the thousands, succeeded in bringing in more than 55,000 tons of coffee. This exceeded the government's goal by 2 percent.

The previous year, about 60,000 tons were harvested.

"The enemy wanted to prevent us from bringing in the crop," Ortega explained in a speech in March to volunteer pickers in Matagalpa. Coffee is Nicaragua's second most important export. Mercenaries organized by the U.S. government attempted to block the harvest through terror and sabotage in the coffee-growing regions. They failed, but not before killing 39 people on the harvest, destroying 17 private farms, and causing overall \$1.19 million in damages.

The success of the harvest is doubly significant because 20,000 students who were to have been mobilized to pick the coffee instead had to be assigned to help bolster the defense of Managua, following U.S. military threats against the capital city.

Other Nicaraguans came forward to take their place. More than 10,000 farm workers, and 13,144 volunteer pickers joined the harvest. More than half of these were government workers. The Sandinista unions, Sandinista Youth, National Union of Farmers and Ranchers, and Sandinista Defense Committees organized volunteers. Volunteers came from the Miskito communities and from the universities and high schools.

International volunteers from more than two dozen countries participated.

In his speech, Ortega drew special attention to the role of the army and militias in making the harvest possible, defeating the mercenaries' plan to prevent it.

In assessing tasks for 1985, Ortega said

that Nicaragua would go on a major offensive against the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries. He explained that Nicaragua will face imperialist attack "as long as a government exists in the United States with the disposition, will, and resources to kill our people."

"But," he said, "we can make special efforts to deal decisive blows to the mercenary forces, as we have already begun to do this year."

A second priority for 1985, he said, is

the resettlement of thousands of peasant families displaced by the war in the north. This involves providing land where the peasants can be both productive and safe from mercenary attack.

The government will not only make land available, but facilitate bank credits; postpone, reschedule, or cancel previous debts; and provide material for building houses. Some social programs in the cities will be cut to provide the funds to make this possible, he said.

U.S. — S. Africa's #1 trading partner

"No business, no business, no business in South Africa."

This chant has become increasingly popular at demonstrations and picket lines across the United States against the racist regime in South Africa.

It refers to the demand to divest, to force colleges, cities, and states to take their investment out of companies doing business in South Africa and to get the U.S. companies themselves out of that country. Since U.S. investments form an important part of the South African economy, the fight for divestment is an important part of solidarity with the struggle of the Black majority against apartheid.

Over 14 billion U.S. dollars are invested in South Africa today. This money is concentrated in some of the most important parts of the South African economy — auto, oil, and electronics. The U.S. is the number one trading partner — import and export — with the apartheid regime.

The actions for divestment have forced a number of local governments to pass bills either pulling out or restricting their investments in the 300 U.S. companies doing business in South Africa. Already 24 cities from Rahway, New Jersey, to Miami, Santa Cruz, California, and East Lansing, Michigan, have passed such bills.

Several state legislatures, including

those in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Michigan, Nebraska, Maryland, and Wisconsin, have passed similar legislation. Twenty-seven states have divestment bills pending.

New York City and Newark, New Jersey, have been forced to pass bills that go further still. Their legislation prohibits the buying of goods and services from South African companies, and in some cases from companies doing business in South Africa. Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, as well as the states of Washington, Florida, Maryland, and Oregon, have similar bills pending.

There are some 20 bills before Congress that would restrict investment in South Africa by U.S. companies.

This growing pressure for divestment in the last five years has led to 41 U.S. companies pulling out of South Africa. An article in the April 20 *New York Times* quotes a New York-based consulting firm explaining why these pullouts could accelerate: "South Africa could deteriorate rapidly into another Rhodesia-like situation of protracted guerrilla warfare. Corporations operating in South Africa should be prepared to write off the country if this occurs. We are not pushing the panic button. But we are advising clients to be prepared for the worst. It could happen at any time."

'Economic crisis is passed on to least developed countries'

Castro interview on foreign debt

This is the second part of a series in the *Militant* in which we are reprinting the entire text of Cuban president Fidel Castro's major interview on Latin America's foreign debt. The interview was conducted by Regino Díaz on March 21 for the Mexican daily *Excelsior*. The interview is entitled, "How Latin America's and the Third World's unpayable foreign debt can and should be canceled and the pressing need for the new international economic order."

The Cuban government has issued the interview as a pamphlet, underscoring the importance they attach to the ideas and proposals in it, which are having a broad impact throughout Latin America.

In part one of the interview (see the *Militant*, May 3, 1985), Castro gives a detailed breakdown of the crushing \$360 billion debt. He shows that it is impossible — as well as unjust — to pay it off.

Castro points out that the underdeveloped economies of Latin America are financing the economies of the richest industrialized countries in the world with huge sums of money. In interest payments and profits alone, the net flow of resources from Latin America in 1984 and 1985 amounted to \$56.7 billion. It is expected that the interest on the debt will be \$400 billion over the next 10 years!

Some countries are being forced to use an extremely high percentage — as much as 35 to 57 percent — of their exports in order to pay off the foreign debt. It is considered practically impossible to keep going when even 20 percent of exports are absorbed by debt payments.

It is impossible, Castro said, for any country to develop under these conditions.

Some countries, like Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina, have tried to meet the debt payments by drastically increasing exports and cutting imports to the bone in order to obtain favorable balances of trade — with all the surplus used to pay the debt. In doing so, they have practically exhausted their stocks of raw materials and may not be able to finance maintenance and replacement of productive facilities.

Finally, Castro begins to describe the political and social effects. He points to the resistance in the Dominican Republic, Panama, and Bolivia to the intolerable economic conditions imposed on working people, and the repression used by these regimes to enforce it.

At the conclusion of the first part Castro describes a recent massive upsurge of workers, farmers, and students in Bolivia. It is in response to this that Regino Díaz asks the first question in this section of the interview.

Information in brackets is by the *Militant*.

* * *

(Second of a series)

Question. Why hasn't there been a coup d'état [in Bolivia]?

Answer. I should talk about this later on, when I go into how I think events in the various countries will develop as a result of this situation. I am simply pointing out things that have taken place spontaneously as a result of the economic crisis and the debt.

The economic situation has the most serious characteristics in Bolivia. There, as I've already said, the GDP [Gross Domestic Product] dropped by 16.1 percent between 1981 and 1984, and the per capita GDP dropped by 24.6 percent in just three years.

The value of Bolivia's exports dropped from \$828 million to \$730 million between 1982 and 1984. Its modest imports increased from \$429 million in 1982 to \$460 million in 1984 — very meager figures. It is practically impossible for a country with Bolivia's population, problems and needs to keep going with just \$460 million worth of imports.

The \$270 million in its favorable balance

of trade for the last year had to be used to pay the interest on its debt.

That is, in the three countries mentioned [Dominican Republic, Panama, and Bolivia], the International Monetary Fund's measures, or attempts to apply those measures, have caused serious political and social conflicts based on a situation in which the people are totally opposed to the imposition of new measures to lower the standard of living and to making new sacrifices.

A democratic opening has been created in the South American countries, and this has awakened enormous interest and great support in Latin America and the rest of the world.

Almost simultaneously, democratic openings have appeared in three important countries: Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. With regard to Uruguay, this is important not so much because of the country's size or resources as because of the symbolism involved in its return, after long years of military oppression, to a constitutional regime, since this is a country that had been a model of democratic institutions for a long time. Uruguay, like Chile, used to be called the Switzerland of the Americas.

The U.S. administration declares — almost presenting it as a result of its policy — that democracy is making advances in Latin America. What is really making advances is the crisis.

These democratic openings have come about, of course, partly because of the people's struggles and resistance to the military dictatorships. But the fact that the economic crisis is so serious that the military men — who are demoralized and bewildered — don't feel capable of handling the situation has contributed a great deal.

The military men are withdrawing from public administration. If the economic situation had been less serious, they would have resisted, would have tried to remain in government longer. Now, they have turned state administration over to the civilians and have left them a terrible inheritance, to be sure.

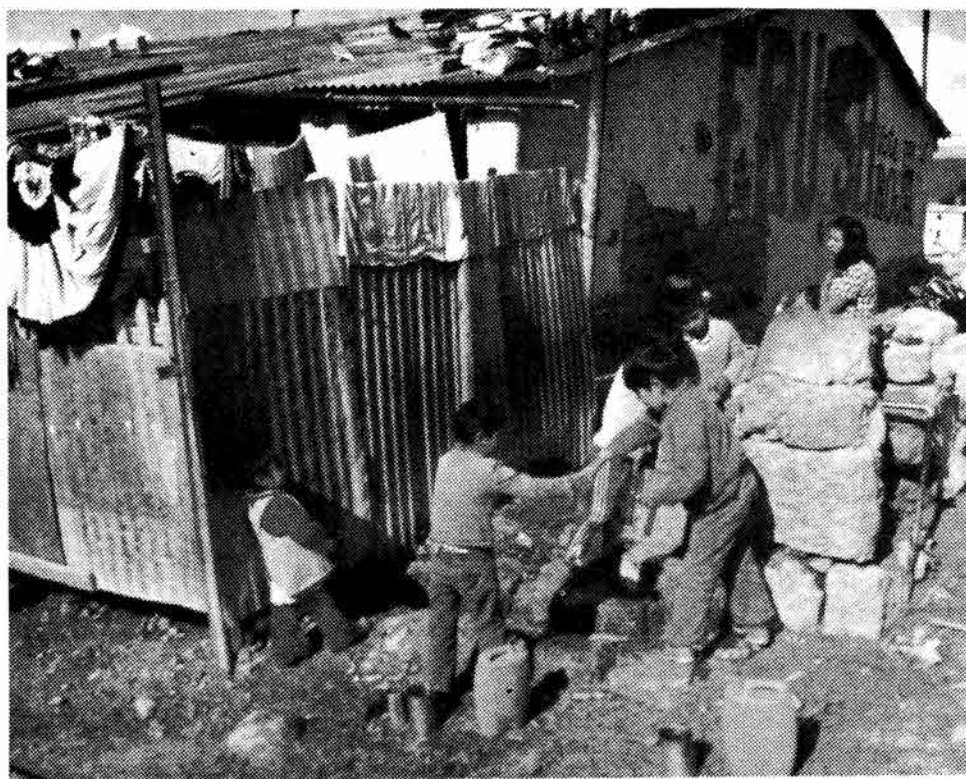
If the economic problems stemming from the debt aren't solved, those democratic processes, too, will inevitably enter into crisis.

In Uruguay, as people close to the new government have said, the foreign debt amounts to \$5.5 billion; exports amount to only \$1 billion. Such important markets as the textile market in the United States have just been hit by protectionist measures, and important meat markets have been seized by the European Economic Community, whose meat production is subsidized. The standard of living dropped by 50 percent during the years the military government was in power. How can the government of a country in those conditions — where civilians have just taken control, thanks to the people's support, after years of savage repression — apply the International Monetary Fund's measures and demand new sacrifices by the people? The democratic processes in Argentina and Brazil are confronted with similar situations.

It is impossible to conceive of the new leaders of those countries, who headed the democratic processes during the long years of military dictatorship, ordering the army and the police into the streets to fire on the people in order to apply the International Monetary Fund's measures and pay every last cent of their debts.

These leaders have stated three things perfectly clearly: that they aren't about to burden the people with the consequences of the debt, that they aren't about to apply recessive policies, and that they aren't about to sacrifice their countries' development. That is, they have stated these three basic premises. What hasn't yet been said is how these premises can be applied if no solution is found for the problem of the debt.

The first thing the IMF demands is a reduction in the rate of inflation, a reduction in the budgetary deficit, and restrictive



Children in Bolivian slum. Crushing international debt weighs heaviest on workers and farmers of countries dominated by imperialism.

measures of a social nature that increase unemployment and aggravate the problems that have been accumulating and multiplying for long years.

Consumer prices in Latin America as a whole rose by 130.8 percent in 1983 and by 175.4 percent in 1984. With these levels of inflation, it is practically impossible to manage the economy.

I wonder how it is possible, in these circumstances, to demand that this group of Latin American countries — whose economies have not only stagnated but regressed in the last few years, while the population has continued to grow at a high rate — extract \$40 billion from their economies each year and, in ten years, turn over \$400 billion just for the interest on their foreign debts. What new sacrifices would these countries have to demand and what restrictions would they have to apply in order to pay that fabulous amount of interest, plus reduce inflation and promote development? What prospects and hopes do they have with which to stimulate this epic, costly effort? What arguments can they use to move the people and obtain the consensus, unity, support, and spirit of sacrifice required by such an enterprise? It is a practically impossible task.

In some cases, the levels of inflation are truly astounding — as in Bolivia, where it was 2,300 percent; Argentina, where it was 675 percent; Brazil, 194.7 percent; and Peru, 105.8 percent. How can anyone ask that, in a single year, those countries reduce their inflation, balance their budgets, and also pay astronomical amounts as interest on their debts?

Moreover, the figures on the transfers of resources to the industrialized world which I've already mentioned refer exclusively to what has left those countries officially, as interest payments and profits. The flight of capital should be added to this — a figure that, because of the way this capital leaves, is practically impossible to estimate. It is known, however, that tens of billions of dollars were sent from Venezuela to the United States in the last few years and that the same thing happened in Argentina. The Mexicans know that, when economic difficulties arose and a devaluation was seen to be inevitable — there are always many indicators that make it possible to guess when a devaluation has become inevitable — tens of billions of dollars were also sent from Mexico to the United States.

I have referred to just three countries, but this has happened throughout Latin America, because of a very logical, very simple and perfectly understandable mechanism: when the money of a Latin American country — any Latin American country — begins to be devaluated at an accelerated rate, people lose confidence in it.

Q. And in the government?

A. People usually lose confidence in the government, but it isn't always right to do so; sometimes new governments come along and inherit this situation. It could be said that not even men can be blamed for this crisis; it is the result of a crisis of a system of domination and exploitation that has been imposed on the underdeveloped

world. Later, I will go into this idea further; I have tried to be orderly in setting forth my points of view.

The economic crisis has hit, and the brunt of it has been passed on to the economies of the least developed countries. It may be said that this is a process that has been developing for some time and has had more or less serious consequences, depending on each country's economic resources and also on the greater or lesser efficiency with which it has defended itself against or tried to overcome the crisis; there is a wide range of cases.

Doubtless, the policies followed in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay — the official policies of the military regimes — have had terrible consequences. [On Sept. 11, 1973, Gen. Augusto Pinochet organized a bloody coup that crushed a popular upsurge. The coup overthrew the Popular Unity government headed by Pres. Salvador Allende and established a brutal dictatorship.]

That wasn't the only thing Pinochet did. He presented himself as a champion of Western principles, Western values, capitalism, and free enterprise. As a result, economic advisers, economic specialists, and professors of the Chicago School [of economics, adherents to the free-market theories of Milton Friedman] immediately appeared and showed him how Western interests and the interests of capitalism really had to be defended. They expounded the theory that, if he wanted to have efficient industry, he would have to open the doors to foreign competition and place Chilean national industries in competition with European, U.S., and Japanese industries and those of such countries as South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore, where the big transnationals had taken their technologies and imposed their discipline — for which, of course, they also needed authoritarian regimes based on force. The principle that is axiomatic for any developing country and has been accepted for a long time — that the nascent industries of the developing countries have to be protected against the competition of countries with more resources, more technology and more development — was abandoned. As a result, industry was ruined, the number of the unemployed increased and the debt shot up.

In Chile, where the most sophisticated economic principles of the Chicago School were applied rigorously, the foreign debt, which had been only \$4 billion when Allende was President, rose to \$23 billion — of all the figures that have been mentioned, this is the one that seems most realistic to me — and unemployment reached a record high for the Latin American countries: 18.6 percent of the work force. You know that, in addition to the unemployed, there is always a large number of the underemployed, who work only a few hours in various activities trying to subsist.

The same economic policy that was applied by the military dictatorship in Chile was also applied in Argentina and Uruguay. You can imagine what it meant to place Argentina's automobile, truck and tractor industries, which produce high-quality vehicles — as we know, because

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1,000 hit farm foreclosures in Southwest

BY CRAIG LANDBERG

OKLAHOMA CITY — A Southwest Farm Crisis rally drew nearly 1,000 farmers and trade union supporters at the state fairgrounds arena here on April 27. A majority of the farmers were from Oklahoma and adjoining states.

Two hundred United Auto Workers (UAW) members, mainly from Local 1999 in Oklahoma City and Local 1093 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, helped set a tone of farmer-labor solidarity. Local 1999 had hundreds of picket signs saying "UAW supports the family farmers" and "Stop farm foreclosures." Additionally, the arena was decorated with banners including one reading "Organized labor and the family farmer fighting together to save our livelihood."

The rally was sponsored by a broad range of traditional farm organizations with the Farm Union playing a central role. Its stated purpose was "to bring more attention to the Congress and the President the crisis situation in farming and rural America."

In keeping with this theme, there was an empty chair for Reagan and the rally was recorded so a tape could be sent to the White House. Alongside the stage there was a cross with a light that lit every six minutes to symbolize another farm failure.

After welcoming remarks by Oklahoma governor Nye, the rally opened with a panel discussion on the crisis facing farmers.

Burton Schubert, a wheat and milo farmer from Spearman, Texas, explained that his wife wasn't here today because she had to take a job a year ago to help keep their farm going. He explained that not only had many farmers gone under in the Spearman area but 188 jobs had been lost from businesses in town that are related to farming. Spearman has a population of 3,500.

Another panel member, Lyle Scheelhaas of Mapleton, Iowa, said that land values in his area had dropped by one-third between 1981 and 1984 and by another 16 percent in the first four months of this year.

Bill Casstevens, vice-president and director of the Agricultural Implement Department of the United Auto Workers, opened his remarks by outlining the history of solidarity between the UAW and farmers. Casstevens then presented what he said was a four-point program for workers and farmers: lower real interest rates, fair prices for agricultural products, stop farm foreclosures, and "fair trade" measures.

Casstevens spent much of his time pushing protectionism. A UAW banner in the arena read, "Imports affect the farmer and the workers. We need fair trade for everyone." This protectionist campaign was also reflected in copies of *The Reporter*, the newspaper of the American Agriculture Movement, which were mass distributed at the rally.

Jim Hightower, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, spoke next and set the tone for the rest of the day. Hightower is popular with farmers because of his populist-like attacks on agribusiness and the Reagan administration's farm policies.

After warming up the crowd with well-deserved attacks on Reagan, Secretary of Agriculture Block, Budget Director Stockman, and the corporations, Hightower presented a solution he said had "percolated up from the ranks": the Farm Policy Reform Act of 1985, which he helped draft and will be introduced into Congress in early May. Hightower described the bill as having three major aspects: a price floor set at 70 to 72 percent of "parity" (the relationship between the prices farmers receive for their commodities and the costs they incur for production and living expenses); a mandatory supply management program to cut overproduction; and targeting family farmers, not corporations, to be first in line for production quotas.

Hightower called on farmers to go to Washington and lobby for passage of this bill. To go "not in confrontation but in support of free enterprise.... Not driving tractors around the Washington Monument... but in three-piece suits and with briefcases."

The final event of the day was another panel discussion on solutions to the farm crisis. It included the national presidents of the National Farmers Organization; Women Involved in Farm Economics; American Agriculture Movement, Inc.;

National Grange; and National Farm Union. Every member of the panel endorsed the Hightower bill and the perspective of lobbying as the only way for farmers to save their farms.

Socialist unionists from Dallas participated in the day-long activities and engaged in many discussions with farmers and fellow UAW members. A table selling socialist literature was set up in the lobby along with tables of other participating organizations. Several pamphlets and 42 copies and one subscription to the *Militant* were sold. In addition, 500 copies of a leaflet containing both the *Militant* article "Why family farmers are being driven from the land" and a subscription coupon were distributed.

In the course of discussion with farmers participating in the rally it became clear that while most have illusions in Hightower, many are not at all convinced that his farm bill will resolve their crisis. Fewer still were convinced that protectionism was the answer. Some farmers were simply demoralized, but others took heart from the solidarity of the UAW members present, and are ready to continue direct actions against farm foreclosures.

Liberals back anti-Vietnam terror

Continued from Page 3

has run into difficulty. For the imperialists, as the *Washington Post* wrote in a January 11 editorial, "anger vies with frustration at the spectacle."

They understand that the rightists would have been defeated long ago without the aid, backing, and protection the counter-revolutionaries receive from their foreign sponsors.

Liberal politicians like Solarz and liberal capitalist newspapers like the *Post* say they are very concerned about "suffering" in Indochina, and they are. They think there isn't nearly enough of it, and they propose to increase it through arming the Kampuchean rightists.

In moving to openly aid the rightists, however, the liberals had to cover up an embarrassing fact. The Khmer Rouge, headed by ousted mass murderer Pol Pot, is the only counterrevolutionary group with any military capacity — being variously estimated at ten to thirty-five thousand very experienced killers.

For military aid to be effective in bleeding Kampuchea and Vietnam, the lion's share must go to Pol Pot.

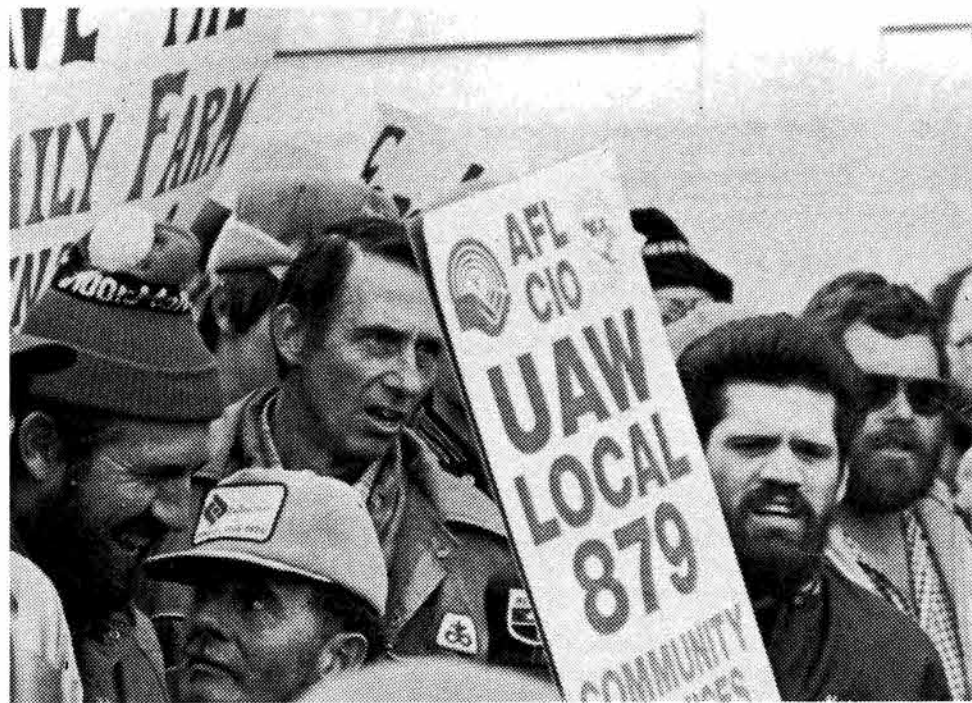
Washington indicates its backing for Pol Pot by fighting for continued United Nations recognition of his government as the representative of Kampuchea in that body.

The Thai military uses some of the massive military aid it gets from Washington to provide the Khmer Rouge with base camps and collaborates with it closely in operations against Kampuchea. Both Thailand and the Peking regime — which backs U.S. policy in Southeast Asia in exchange for diplomatic and economic deals — funnel arms to the Khmer Rouge with Washington's approval.

For Washington, a major objective of the coalition between counterrevolutionary troops headed by onetime prime minister Son Sann, former monarch Prince Sihanouk, and Pol Pot, is to provide a presentable cover for military and other backing to Pol Pot.

As Sihanouk said recently, "You know that Son Sann and his generals are zero on the battlefield. Pol Pot is no zero.... So everybody needs Pol Pot." Sihanouk has described how Leonard Woodcock, then U.S. ambassador to China, pressured him to forge the coalition with Pol Pot. "Only the Khmer Rouge," said Woodcock, "are strong enough to stand up to the Vietnamese."

Son Sann heads the few bands of Khmer Serei, which now calls itself the Khmer People's National Liberation Front. These groups were organized by the CIA in the 1960s to harass the capitalist government of Sihanouk, who Washington thought was too slow in lining up with Washington in the Indochina war. They became part of the base of the Lon Nol regime, which was placed in power in a coup organized by Washington in 1970. It was kept in power through massive U.S. bombing that devas-



Militant/Peggy Winter

Auto workers, such as these from Minnesota, have been participating in farm foreclosure protests around the country. On April 27 members of UAW Locals 1999 and 1093 from Oklahoma City and Tulsa participated in Southwest Farm Crisis rally.

tated Kampuchea. It fell in 1975.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk — whose gunmen form the third and smallest component of the rightist coalition — formerly had some popular support in Kampuchea, especially among the peasantry. His popularity has evaporated, however, since he acted as a front man for Pol Pot during his first bloody year in power, and now again in the rightist coalition.

Solarz claims that his measure bars military aid to the Khmer Rouge "in any way, shape, or form." He says it allows aid only to "non-communist" groups.

Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge formerly claimed to be communist, although their policies aided the imperialists by dealing crushing blows to the workers and farmers. The great majority of Kampuchean Communist Party supporters were exterminated for opposing them.

However, the Khmer Rouge now state openly that they are not communists.

Solarz says the aid would be channeled through the Thai regime "in whatever ways the Thai government thinks would be most

appropriate." The Thai regime can be counted on, as Solarz knows, to support the Khmer Rouge in efforts to kill more Kampuchean and Vietnamese.

Solarz is so anxious to cover up his support to Pol Pot's killers that he demagogically claims he would "rather have the Vietnamese remain than have Pol Pot come back." This shows that Solarz knows the real role of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea. But it is also a lie.

The U.S. imperialists — and Solarz as one of their foreign policy spokespeople — are trying to keep Pol Pot's army alive as a potential alternative to the Heng Samrin government, which bases itself on the toiling people of Kampuchea and on an alliance with the Vietnamese revolution. They know that if Washington succeeded in forcing a Vietnamese withdrawal and toppling Heng Samrin, it would mean the return to power of the Khmer Rouge killers.

Fortunately, there is no prospect of that happening — no thanks to Solarz and other imperialist "doves."

Auto workers protest union-busting

BY ZENA McFADDEN

NEWARK, N.J. — Members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 726 in Union, New Jersey, are registering their protest against a blatant attempt to bust their union. On Friday, April 12, all 245 workers were permanently laid off by Harvard Industries. Harvard recently bought the plant, where the majority of the work force had worked for over 20 years, from Amerace Corporation.

Union members told reporters from the *Militant* that on April 8 they were given notice that they would be laid off on Friday by Amerace, but could reapply to Harvard Corporation. Sixty-one of the 245 were rehired.

Workers explained that these were mostly "lead people" who would set up and train the new hires, and that the company would lay these workers off after the new work force was trained. People hired off the street are being paid three to four dollars an hour less than Local 726 members were paid.

In an effort to enforce a successor clause in the contract that would have required continued recognition of the union by Harvard, the union went to court. The court ruled in favor of the company, saying that Harvard had bought the assets of the plant from Amerace, not its liabilities.

Workers have had informational picket lines at the plant gates since Monday, April 15. Sixty of the 61 rehired workers did not go to work on that Monday, and many joined their coworkers on the line. UAW members from two plants, General Motors and Hyatt-Clark, have marched on the line to show their solidarity. After learning of the union-busting operation on the part of

Harvard, Teamster-organized truckers refused to make deliveries to the plant.

Though the battle is a difficult one — workers told of intimidation tactics being used against them, such as the filming of the picket line by a company cop with long distance cameras and microphones — workers remained determined to fight for their jobs and their union.

Swedish socialist ends U.S. tour

Continued from Page 3

rainbow," he said.

"But not like Jesse Jackson's rainbow," he added. He went on to explain that his visit confirmed for him that Jackson's political perspective of allegiance to the Democrats offered no political solution for the problems of working people. To achieve "a real rainbow coalition" in the United States, he said, "you're going to have to build a labor party."

While on tour here, Kildén missed out on a piece of the action in his home town.

In late April, Henry Kissinger visited Göteborg at the invitation of Volvo and the city council to discuss the question of investments in Southeast Asia.

A thousand protesters gathered outside a Kissinger press conference and, inside, one of Kildén's coworkers was able to raise a banner declaring, "U.S. out of Central America!" Security forces quickly ushered him out, but the protest focused the media on the Kissinger visit, and provided a good reminder of the U.S. aggression in Vietnam.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Famine in East Africa: Legacy of Colonialism. Speakers: Eliza Carney, World Hunger Ecumenical Arizona Taskforce; Sue Adley, Socialist Workers Party. Translation into Spanish. Sat., May 11, 7 p.m. 3750 W. McDowell #3. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Students Protest Apartheid. Speakers: Omowale Jabali, Black Student Alliance, University of California at Los Angeles; Robert Morgan, president, Associated Students of Cal State, Los Angeles; Bernard Walker, president, Black Student Union, University of Southern California. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Grenada: Eyewitness Report and Slide show on U.S. Occupation Today. Speaker: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member, recently returned from tour of Grenada. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 18, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Jose

Grenada Under U.S. Occupation. An eyewitness report. Speaker: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party, just returned from trip to Grenada. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 46 1/2 Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

COLORADO

Denver

New Steps Toward War: U.S. Trade Embargo Against Nicaragua. A panel discussion. Fri., May 17, 7:30 p.m. 25 W 3rd Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Eyewitness Report from Guatemala. Presentation and slide show by Mark Coffin, Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES). Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 3207 Dublin St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Antiwar Activists Speak Out on Central America and Protest Government Harassment. Speakers: Amy Good, Detroit Central America Solidarity Committee, recently traveled to Nicaragua; Catherine González, Michigan Interfaith Committee on Central American Human Rights, the Sanctuary Project; Andrew Wald, Young Socialist Alliance and member, United Auto Workers union. Sun., May 12, 7 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

Malcolm X Forum. Showing of film, *Tribute to Malcolm X*. Speakers: Akua Buda, Free South Africa Movement; representative of the Republic of New Africa; Samuel Farley, National Black Independent Political Party. (NBIPP) Sun., May 19, 5 p.m. Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers at Curtis. Ausp: NBIPP. For more information call (313) 892-2428.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Sexual Harassment on the Job: a Woman's Issue and a Union Issue. Panel discussion.

Speakers: Karen Stockert, Socialist Workers Party and member, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW); Linda Hinton, Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator, Koch Oil Refinery Bargaining Unit of OCAW. Showing of film, *Would You Let Someone Do This to Your Sister?* Sun., May 12, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Divest Now! Speakers: Representatives of African National Congress of South Africa; Rutgers sit-in for divestment; Black Organization of Students at Rutgers, Newark campus; and Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Fri., May 17, 7:30 p.m. (Preforum dinner at 6:30 p.m., \$3.) 141 Halsey St. (Cor. Raymond, one block from Broad.) Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Albany

Legacy of Malcolm X: The Fight Against Racism Today. A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Fri., May 17, 8 p.m. 352 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

Police Brutality Speak Out. Speakers: Ronald Kuby, attorney for Darrell Cabey, Goetz shooting victim, and Darrell Dotson, victim of police shooting; Jimmy Anderson, chair of Police Brutality Investigating Committee, National Black United Front; Michael Warren, one of attorneys in Michael Stewart case; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., May 17, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Preforum dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Forum, 7:30 p.m. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Anti-apartheid Divestment Movement. Speakers: Tanaquil Jones, steering committee, Columbia Coalition for a Free South Africa; Lisa Williamson, chair, Rutgers New Brunswick Divestment Coalition; representative of Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Wed., May 22, 7 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Militant Bookstore Grand Opening Celebration.

1. Program: "Reagan's Wars Against Working People — from the United States to Central America to South Africa." Speaker: Mac Warren, National Organizational Secretary of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$2.

2. Classes: "History and Lessons for the Civil Rights Movement." Sat., May 11, 2 p.m. "The Road Forward for Black Liberation Today." Sun., May 12, 11 a.m. Speaker: Mac Warren. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$1.50 per class.

Ausp: Militant Bookstore. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Jobs Not War! Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speaker: Henry Scheer, SWP candidate for mayor of Cleveland; Gary Watson, candidate of Canadian Revolutionary Workers League in Toronto parliamentary elections; others. Sat., May 11, 6:30 p.m.; reception; 7:30 p.m., rally. 15105 St. Clair. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1985 Campaign Committee. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

Toledo

Labor's Fight Against Concessions and Plant

Forums on Vietnam 10 yrs after victory

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Vietnam: Victory for Humanity. Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Victory Over the U.S. War. Sat., May 18, 7:30 p.m. 205 18 St S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Vietnam: Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Victory Against U.S. Aggression. A panel discussion. Sun., May 5, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Lessons of the Vietnam War for Today. Speakers: Dean Athens, Socialist Workers Party; Morris Starsky, former professor fired from his job at the University of Arizona for his antiwar views; Kerry Walters, discharged from air force for refusing service in Vietnam. Sun., May 12, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of Victory of the Vietnamese Revolution. Speakers to be announced. Sat., May 18, 7 p.m. 402 N Highland. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Price

Vietnam: 10th Anniversary of Victory Over the U.S. War. Speaker: Dave Hurst,

member Socialist Workers Party, participant in Vietnam antiwar movement. Sat., May 11, 7 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., Suite 19. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Vietnam, the Fight Against U.S. Imperialism: Lessons for Today. An educational conference with two classes by Fred Halstead, author of *Out Now!*, a participant's account of the Vietnam antiwar movement. Sat., May 18, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$2 per class. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA

Newport News

Building an Antiwar Movement Today — Lessons of the Vietnam War. A panel discussion with representatives of the Student-Teacher Alliance Against Apartheid and Racism (STARR), Young Socialist Alliance, and others. Sat., May 18, 3 p.m. 5412 Jefferson Ave. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

The Vietnamese Revolution: Setting the Record Straight. A forum with Rashaad Ali, former staff member of the Black Task Force Against the War in Vietnam, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Sat., May 18, 7 p.m. 5412 Jefferson Ave. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

The Vietnam War — 10 Years Later, Its Lessons for Today. Representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 18, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

Closings. Speaker: Toby Emmerich, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Toledo and member, United Auto Workers Local 12. Sun., May 12, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

Socialist Publication Fund Rally and Bookstore Open House. Speakers: John Gaige, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member; Randy Warren, member United Auto Workers Local 12, recently returned from Nicaragua. Sat., May 18, Reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 2120 Dorr St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution. Rally to celebrate publication of book by Pathfinder Press. Speakers: Martín Koppel, editor, *Perspectiva Mundial*; Benjamín Ramos, president, Puerto Rican Alliance; Bernie Dinkin, Philadelphia Joint Board, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Leonel Cepeda, ISTMO; Mario Davila, Salvadoran. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 19, 7 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Pittsburgh

Grand Opening of Militant Labor Bookstore. Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member; Mark Weddleton, SWP candidate for

mayor of Pittsburgh; others. Twenty percent discount on all books. Sat., May 11. Open house, 11 a.m.; report from Nicaragua, 2 p.m.; reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 402 N Highland. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Alaska Airlines Strike: Hear the Workers' Side. Speaker: Chuck Easley, general chairperson, International Association of Machinists District Lodge 143 and a chief negotiator for IAM Lodge 2202; others. Sat., May 18, 4 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Kenosha-Toledo: United Auto Workers Union Fights American Motors Corporation Blackmail. Speaker: Toby Emmerich, member, UAW Local 12 and Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Toledo. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Nicaragua: An Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Marge Sorensen, Socialist Workers Party, just returned from tour of Nicaragua. Sat., May 18, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46 1/2 Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 402 N. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

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

Dallas: SWP, YSA, 132 N. Beckley Road, Zip: 75208. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Almeda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

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

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

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699.

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

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 422 Shrewsbury St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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

Won't work — Coke's new anti-Pepsi formula produced a spate of media comment, none of which noted Coca Cola's status



Harry Ring

as a symbol of Yankee imperialism. For our part, we're ready to predict that the sweeter syrup won't improve the image of the Beast.

Why, it never occurred to us

— Confirming that 45 of the nation's 100 biggest military contractors were under criminal investigation, a Pentagon official assured, "In no way should this number indicate that the defense industry as a whole is behaving improperly."

How about \$\$\$ — We were intrigued by the Procter & Gamble decision to scrap its century-old logo to combat the persistent rumor that the giant corporation was in league with Satan. The apparently widespread credence given the rumor suggests people are ready to believe almost anything about big biz.

Peroxide blond — Agriculture experts have a solution for the

problem of the dark meat of chicken fetching a lower price. With a new process, chunks of dark meat are perforated and then agitated in a bleaching solution of ascorbic acid or hydrogen peroxide. The resulting product is then reconstituted to assertedly look like sliced slabs of breast.

Tsk — There has not been a new nuke plant ordered in the United States since 1978.

Inside dope — Reagan is slated to appoint a director of the National Archives, arousing speculation about who'll get the job. We have the straight scoop. It's the director of the national association of paper shredding machine manufacturers.

Beware the stilted Russian — A Pentagon security manual instructs that when reading classified documents, certain war contractors are to draw the curtains — even if on the second floor.

He should'a used the knife? — Etiquette consultants are busy polishing rising corporate execs. An example of the need: A promising young chap who missed a rung up the ladder for lack of manners. At lunch with the boss, "The young man dipped his napkin in the water to clean his tie, left his butter knife on the table, and the boss, needless to say, never mentioned the promotion."

The socially concerned — The Barbecue Industry Association has

endorsed an earlier start to daylight savings time.

You get both? — Pittsburgh's La Normande restaurant offers a dinner made up entirely of hors d'oeuvres and desserts. \$60.

Next rank, surgeon general? — In 1980, Dr. Donald Billig, a surgeon, was forced out of a New Jersey hospital as lacking in competence, judgment, motivation and honesty. Did that end his career? Not in the land of opportunity. The good doctor became a naval commander and chief surgeon at Bethesda, a top naval hospital. Last month he was severed for an "insufficient level of surgical competence."

Defender of refugee rights speaks out from prison

BY STEVE WARSHALL

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. — Solidarity movement activist Jack Elder began serving his five-month sentence for transporting undocumented Salvadoran refugees on April 8 in a half-way house operated here by the federal prison system.

This is not a "light" sentence for Elder. He is on a 90-day restriction: no personal visits by friends or family, no personal phone calls. The *Militant* was only allowed an interview after a time-consuming application process and several lengthy phone calls.

Elder was the director of Casa Oscar Romero, a refugee assistance center located in the Rio Grande Valley community of San Benito. The center was founded in 1982 by Rose Mary Smith, a Catholic missionary in El Salvador who was forced to end her work there due to threats on her life.

"At first she [Rose Mary Smith] was seeing 30 to 40 people a month," Elder explained, "and by December of 1983, about 5 months after my wife Diane and I had arrived there, we signed in our 500th person. Just one year later, on our second anniversary, the 2,000th person had come through. And this represents just a tiny percentage of those who came through the Valley."

"We felt that through the stories of these people, we had a window to the crisis in Central America. The picture that comes out is of people who did not want to leave their country, but because of expected military obligation, fear for the draft, or because they don't want to see their children starve to death, they leave."

Elder made a point of disputing both

Democratic and Republican politicians who whitewash the record of the Duarte regime and endorse U.S. aid to Salvadoran "democracy."

"It's that aid to Duarte that has caused tremendous suffering to the people of El Salvador — and the harvest has been a steady stream of refugees to this country as a return on that investment."

Once they arrive at the border, the refugees face a new set of problems. "The biggest problem," he continued, "is exploitation, which can take the form of outright robbery, to rape, to murder. Beyond that, they face the problem of getting out of south Texas. That's difficult because of the distances and the constant presence of the Border Patrol."

"In fact, the whole Rio Grande Valley area is now being closed off by the Border Patrol. Even refugees who have posted a bond are prevented from leaving the south Texas area by INS patrols even though they are not in custody."

"The INS is turning the entire Valley into a detention camp," he said.

"An obvious solution to this crisis would be to have an open border. Before 1924 there was no Border Patrol. I don't think we need a Border Patrol and this kind of repression along the border in order to keep people out," Elder said.

Because of his work at Casa Oscar Romero and his views, Elder has been the victim of persistent government harassment and surveillance leading up to his two frame-up trials and his conviction last month.

His first indictment in connection with his work came one year ago in April, when

the government brought him to trial for giving a ride to three refugees from the Casa Romero to the bus station in Harlingen, Texas, six miles away.

"When the case finally came to trial in Corpus Christi, Texas, in January, the judge effectively prevented us from presenting our views. But we were able to show that because these people were refugees, they had certain rights under U.S. law. . . . The jury acquitted us."

The second trial in Houston involved six different charges against Elder and co-defendant Stacey Merkt. The INS charged that Elder had picked up a Salvadoran family near Brownsville and driven them to Casa Romero.

The government's leading witness was one of the refugees. Pulled off a bus by the INS, he had been separated from his children. The INS promised to reunite them only if he testified against Elder.

"I was convicted of the six counts and Stacey was convicted of conspiracy."

"The judge sentenced me to a year in prison on each count to be served concurrently, but at the same time he said that he would suspend the sentence and give me probation if I agreed to leave the Valley by

8:00 a.m. the next day; not to associate with anybody from El Salvador who is undocumented; and thirdly was the gag order — not to talk about the case, Casa Romero or the sanctuary movement with anybody in the media for the length of my probation. So each one of them was unacceptable."

Stacey Merkt was able to accept the conditions proposed to her, and she is now out of Texas, but planning to return to the Valley in August at the end of her probation. Merkt is planning to resume her work in defense of the refugees at that time. Both Merkt and Elder are in the process of appealing their convictions.

Elder explained that as a former Peace Corps volunteer, a Vietnam vet, and now as an activist convicted for his work in the sanctuary and solidarity movements, his thinking had evolved on Central America. "I used to think the Peace Corps was a maverick arm of U.S. foreign policy, but both Vietnam and the revolution in Nicaragua showed me that the United States is only interested in 'pacification.'"

"I think that Nicaragua is a tremendous source of inspiration for other countries fighting the battle for liberation."

Steel bosses push new attack on United Steelworkers union

BY TOM LEONARD

A major escalation of employer attacks on United Steelworkers union (USWA) members covered by the master basic-steel contract, which expires July 31, 1986, was announced by United States Steel Corp. on May 2.

Speaking on behalf of five of the country's largest basic-steel producers, the management of U.S. Steel said the five companies "voted unanimously to dissolve the committee for collective bargaining with the United Steelworkers of America." The other four members of the company bargaining committee which has existed for nearly 30 years are Armco, Bethlehem Steel, LTV Steel, and Inland Steel. Together the five companies employ 136,177 union members. A total of some 250,000 USWA members are covered by the current master steel contract.

This latest employer attack is aimed at the heart of the potential strength and strategic fighting power of steelworkers — the industry-wide contract.

The companies' managements make no secret about their reasons for negotiating contracts company by company instead of industrywide. The head of U.S. Steel's bargaining panel, J. Bruce Johnston, for example, told the press that each company will now be able to seek reductions in labor costs without regard to what the others do.

Johnson also made clear the employers' intent to raise profits by lowering wages. In one press report, Johnson bluntly stated U.S. Steel's intention to reduce wages and benefits and alter working conditions at several plants or on separate product lines.

An example of what U.S. Steel wants is the big concessions union leaders gave the owners of Bethlehem Steel at their rod and wire mini-mill in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The agreement defers payment on part of the wages and benefits due each

worker — a total of \$4.91 an hour — until after they retire. This means that USWA members in the rod and wire division will be working for less pay than union members in other Bethlehem Steel plants.

These kind of plantwide concessions have been escalating since the March 1, 1983, national steel contract, which gave the company wage concessions of \$1.25 an hour, plus other benefit cuts. And none of these takebacks have halted the steel bosses' greed for more concessions, as the latest attack demonstrates.

Thus far, USWA Pres. Lynn Williams has responded cautiously to this attack on the union. He told the press that the latest move was "not necessarily a disaster for the union," and could provide flexibility.

Williams, who ran for union president on a no-concessions platform in 1984, said the union would continue coordinated bargaining and would resist pressure "to trade off cheap wages and cheap benefits against each other."

Among rank and file union members, this new attack by the owners of U.S. Steel and the four other large steel companies is sure to provoke a wide discussion and debate on the master steel agreement and industrywide bargaining.

Meanwhile, in recent USWA local elections, a number of longtime union officials have been booted out of office. This includes in District 31, the union's largest district.

There were turnovers in locals 1014, 1033, 6787, and 65, among others.

It is clear that these elections are the result of workers being fed up with layoffs and worsened working conditions — looking for a change, hoping for the best. But in the absence of a real fightback perspective, the effect of the elections was merely to replace the "ins" with the "outs."

Castro: 'Economic crisis passed on to least developed countries'

Continued from Page 10

we have Argentine trucks, cars, and other equipment here — that meet the Argentines' needs perfectly well and that meet our needs for transporting sugarcane and providing taxi service, in competition with the Japanese truck and automobile industries, which have highly automated plants that employ robots in many operations and use Japanese steel made with high-technology, high-productivity industrial processes. In short, they were placing Argentine skilled workers in competition with the robots of Japanese industry.

I asked an emissary of the party that won the [1984] election in Uruguay, who visited us recently, if the military men in Uruguay had done exactly what the military had done in Chile and Argentina. He said, "Yes, exactly the same thing." He even mentioned the case of an industry that produced hair curlers or something like that: when the same — but cheaper — South Korean articles appeared, the Uruguayan industry was ruined. That is, the same economic formula was applied in the three countries, though the political formula of a military coup, the overt use of force against the people and the most ruthless methods of oppression was applied first in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. You can appreciate the disastrous consequences of those political methods and eco-

nomics measures.

The paradox of all this is that the United States, the most industrialized country in the world, uses all kinds of tariff and other formulas to jealously protect not only its industries, which are far from competitive in many branches, but also its agricultural products, such as beet sugar and even corn syrup for sweetening soft drinks. Yet its professors come to teach us how to tear down our tariff barriers and make our industries competitive.

I don't have enough information about Brazil, about what the military men did there in the economic field and how they did it — which formula they used and what gave rise to its enormous debt. Rather, I have the impression that Brazil didn't follow the exact same policy as Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay, that it may have protected its national industries more against foreign competition and that what it did was fling open its doors to the transnationals so they could make big investments there and set up plants, attracted by cheap labor, offering them all the advantages, guarantees and securities that a strong-arm regime could. But I have the impression that the Brazilian military men were more concerned about protecting their national industries than the Chileans, the Argentines, and the Uruguayans were.

(To be continued)

Vietnam rally hits lie machine

The imperialist lie machine is still churning out falsehoods about the revolutions in Indochina. But the truth made itself heard in New York City May 5, when 1,300 people met to voice solidarity with Vietnam and opposition to the U.S. war in Central America.

The meeting celebrated a simple fact: on April 30, 10 years ago, the Vietnamese people won a victory over U.S. imperialism. Today, the U.S. rulers try to obscure or deny that reality as they prepare to send massive numbers of U.S. troops against the workers and farmers of Nicaragua.

Dave Dellinger, a longtime antiwar activist who recently returned from Vietnam, punctured the big-business media's portrayal of Vietnam as a totalitarian nightmare. He revealed a country where, "as in Nicaragua, the poor are making gains — gains in medical care, gains in education."

The meeting told the truth about how the anti-Vietnam War movement helped force the U.S. government to stop the bombing and bring the troops home. By telling the truth about the important role played by GIs and Vietnam veterans in the fight against the war, it answered the media lies that portray the antiwar movement as hating U.S. soldiers.

It placed responsibility for the deaths of millions of Indochinese people and 58,000 U.S. GIs where it belongs — on the imperialist warmakers.

The sight of 1,300 people chanting "Long live Vietnam!" exposed the imperialist lie that Vietnam has no support among U.S. working people.

In the course of telling the truth about Vietnam, the meeting also told the truth about the Nicaraguan revolution. It pointed to the need for a massive movement to combat Washington's war against Nicaragua.

The cosponsorship of the meeting by seventy-five organizations and prominent individuals was an example of the kind of unity in action that can further advance the struggle against imperialism's dirty war in Central America.

The meeting marked a big victory for democratic

rights, taking place without any physical attack or intimidation by right-wing enemies of the Vietnamese revolution.

In San Jose, California, on May 4, Socialist Books and the headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance — with broad support from antiwar, labor, civil liberties, women's rights, and other forces — reopened and ended the blockade imposed by reactionary exile remnants of the fallen Saigon dictatorship.

Across the country, activities in solidarity with Vietnam were held successfully.

These events show the political isolation of the right-wing Vietnamese exiles. They have no mass support, including among Vietnamese, Kampuchean, and Laotian working people in this country.

In the recent past, they have disrupted meetings and even murdered friends of Vietnam — with the government doing little or nothing to protect the victims. A united campaign in defense of the democratic rights of those opposed to U.S. policy on Vietnam is called for.

There is potential to build significant meetings, educational, and teach-ins on Vietnam, as the May 5 celebration showed.

The celebrations of Vietnam's victory were an important step in building and educating the movement to stop Washington's new Vietnam in Central America. It reaffirmed the truth of what Hoang Bich Son, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations, told the New York meeting:

"April 30 does not only belong to the Vietnamese people. It also belongs to the whole of progressive humanity and to all peace- and justice-loving people on this planet."

"The April 30 victory brought an end to an unjust and costly war which had disastrous consequences for the American people. It also warned the forces of war and intervention that future Vietnam Wars will certainly lead to other victories of April 30s."

Sandinista book: antiwar weapon

The May 1 announcement of a U.S. economic embargo against Nicaragua is an act of war against that country and will bring added hardship to Nicaragua's workers and farmers.

The embargo includes provisions that will make travel by U.S. workers and farmers to Nicaragua more difficult. This, along with FBI harassment of those who have visited that country, is aimed at trying to isolate workers and farmers here from our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters and to keep the truth about the Sandinista revolution from working people in the United States.

The U.S. government, in order to win support for its war, must replace the truth about Nicaragua with lies and slanders.

The U.S. rulers can't let workers and farmers here know that Nicaragua is a sovereign country where the workers and farmers, the majority, hold political power — not the minority of rich, as is the case in the United States.

The truth about the revolution would expose the U.S. government as a defender not of democracy, but of brutal dictatorship and oppression. The truth therefore is a powerful weapon for all opponents of the U.S. war. And learning the truth about the Nicaraguan revolution can only help win more working people to the fight against the U.S. war.

A powerful tool to get out the truth about the Nicaraguan revolution and answer the U.S. government's lies is a new book by Pathfinder Press: *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*. It contains the major speeches of leaders of the revolution from the last two years. Through their voices, we learn about the revolution's program, goals, progress, and historic roots in that country. This week, the "Our Revolutionary Heritage" column includes excerpts from one such speech in the book by Sergio Ramirez, vice-president of Nicaragua.

This book should be read and widely circulated by all opponents of Washington's dirty war against Nicaragua (see special offer on page 2).

Defend affirmative action

The U.S. Justice Department has, beginning with its suit against the city of Indianapolis, initiated a wide-ranging attack that seeks to overturn affirmative action programs in 50 cities and states by eliminating quotas in hiring and promotion of Blacks, Latinos, and women.

In response to this racist assault, the NAACP organized a protest action in Washington, D.C., on May 8. The labor movement, along with Black groups and women's organizations, should condemn the government attacks and join in similar protests.

The Justice Department was given a boost to its reactionary initiative by the 1984 Supreme Court decision on the Memphis, Tennessee, Fire Department's affirmative action plan. The court struck down provisions in the plan that would maintain the percentage of Blacks in the department during layoffs. The federal government was further encouraged by a federal court ruling this year that struck down the promotion quotas of the Washington, D.C., Fire Department's affirmative action plan.

These attacks are done under the government's new interpretation of the civil-rights laws — that the laws should be "color-blind" in hiring and promotion.

But U.S. society is not now and has never been "color-blind." Blacks, Latinos, and women have suffered generations of discrimination.

"Color-blind" and "merit" civil-rights laws will be a green light to step up racist and sexist discrimination. They will embolden the most reactionary elements in society.

Furthermore, in the name of equality the government

will seek to make victims of discrimination demanding their rights appear to be the perpetrators of discrimination. This will mean further legal challenges to gains won by Blacks and others in education and housing.

The cutting edge of this assault on affirmative action is opposition to quotas.

Quotas, for all the noise against them, are simply a set number or percentage of Blacks, Latinos, and women that must be hired, promoted, and maintained in the work force.

Without these definite numbers, Blacks, Latinos, and women would be left to the goodwill of employers and city and state governments. It is these exact same employers that are responsible for institutionalized discrimination that affirmative action was designed to alleviate.

To defend affirmative action programs with quotas or goals requires the mobilization of all working people. The labor movement, along with Black, Latino, and women's rights organizations, must champion affirmative action programs with quotas, answer the lies about "color-blind" civil-rights laws, and fight these attacks.

Each success by the government against affirmative action encourages new attacks by the government and employers on other rights of oppressed nationalities, women, and other working people.

Moreover, it strengthens divisions imposed on the working class by the bosses between workers and their potential allies. This undermines working people's ability to unite in action against the rulers' attacks at home and abroad — especially their war in Central America.

U.S. war in Nicaragua 'fighting to defend Yankee bankers'

Slanders, half-truths, and outright lies are the material the U.S. government is using to whip up support for its war against the workers and farmers of Nicaragua.

In a speech to a meeting of the Standing Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of Our America held in Managua on March 4, 1982, Sergio Ramirez, then a member of the Government of National Reconstruction and today vice-president of Nicaragua, explains whose interests are served by Washington's aggression against Nicaragua. He appeals to the U.S. working people to fight against this war.

The section of the speech entitled "U.S. Working People Can Stop Intervention" is reprinted below. It is © Copyright 1985, Pathfinder Press and reprinted with

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

permission of the publisher. The full text of the speech is available in the new book, *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*.

This 412-page book is a collection of more than 40 speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. It is a valuable weapon in the struggle against the U.S. war in Nicaragua.

It is available through Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014, at a cost of \$7.95 (plus \$.75 for handling). There is also a special offer on the book with a subscription to the *Militant*. (See ad on page 2.)

* * *

We vehemently deny that our revolutions and the establishment of truly democratic regimes pose a threat to United States territorial security.

Aggression against any one of the peoples of the Caribbean or Central America, an intervention in El Salvador, an attack on Nicaragua, could change the history of Latin America. . . . The peoples of Latin America . . . have viewed the Nicaraguan revolution as a beacon of hope, and we are sure they will be ready to defend that hope with fervent solidarity, mobilizing to prevent any aggression against our nation.

I want to speak also about the people of the United States. A few days ago I read in a cable statements from [U.S. ambassador to the UN Jean] Kirkpatrick claiming that we have refused to change a line in our national anthem which calls the Yankees "enemies of humanity." In fact, this line is not in our national anthem but in the anthem of the FSLN [Sandinista National Liberation Front] and we certainly have no intention of changing it. The "Yankee" to whom the Sandinista anthem refers is that Yankee who has intervened in our country twice this century; he is the Yankee who drove our country into poverty, plundering our forests and mines. . . . He is the Yankee who wanted to prevent Somoza's dictatorship from being overthrown, and he is the same Yankee who propped up that dictatorship for fifty years. He is the Yankee who today cannot accept the reality of our victorious revolution and is arming, training, and funding the *somocista* ex-guardsmen.

When we speak of that Yankee we do not mean the working people of the United States, so often manipulated and cheated. We do not mean the humiliated and discriminated-against Black people, thousands of Spanish-speaking immigrants; we do not mean the ordinary U.S. citizens, their academic communities, their students, their honest intellectuals, their trade union organizations which understand Latin America. Neither do we mean the members of religious orders, the priests and nuns, who have shed their blood in Guatemala, El Salvador. . . . These are the people who can stop a Yankee intervention in Central America. It was that people who, together with the Vietnamese people, defeated the Yankee aggression in Vietnam. And now we are sure that that people will not forget the lessons of history; that they remember Vietnam and that they will oppose, with all their strength, a new imperial incursion into Central America. It is time for that people to decide whether there will be another Vietnam in its history or whether that second Vietnam be avoided.

In 1927 a father in the United States, a man of the people, wrote to President Calvin Coolidge after his son, a marine, had died in the mountains of Las Segovias in Nicaragua fighting against the Army for the Defense of National Sovereignty, whose general was Sandino. In that letter he wrote that his son's death in Nicaragua was an injustice, that he had died fighting unjustly against a people who had never done the United States any harm at all, and — what was worse — fighting to defend interests which were not his own, but those of Yankee bankers, hegemonic ambitions which were far removed from the interests of the U.S. people.

We know that the U.S. people's sense of justice has not been dulled, and that they cannot so easily forget their past. We are confident that they will stand beside the peoples of Latin America and the world, that they will form a bastion to hold back intervention in Central America.

UAW in recognition fight at Van Nuys plant

BY SARA MATTHEWS

LOS ANGELES — The United Auto Workers (UAW) and Superior Industries, an auto parts manufacturer in Van Nuys, California, are locked in a battle of endurance over union recognition. Superior, which employs 1,200 overwhelmingly Latino workers, is working hand in glove with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to exhaust and demoralize UAW supporters who won a union election at the plant August 31, 1984.

The NLRB case came to trial January 31, five months after the union victory. Time after time the company has asked for continuances to prepare its case. The union has insisted that these delays are denying workers at Superior their rights, since they continue to work under the same conditions that motivated them to vote in the UAW eight months ago.

Conditions include the illegal denial of breaks and lunch periods for foundry workers. Workers have collapsed working under such conditions at high temperatures. Workers are often required to work two and three machines at a time. Pay starts at \$3.50 an hour. Average pay is a little over \$4.00 an hour. Arbitrary demonstrations and firings are common.

The organizing effort started in February 1984. A committee of young, mostly Latino immigrant workers won a quick battle to reinstate sick pay and then decided to get UAW support to organize a union.

The organizing committee distributed leaflets and organized several demonstrations at the plant gate. In response, the company published its own leaflets, bribed and promoted some workers, and began firing others. Leading up to the elections, 22 firings had been linked to the organizing drive. Despite this, the workers voted in their majority to be represented by the UAW.

The support of UAW Local 645 has been important to this effort from the beginning. The Superior plant is a few blocks away from the giant GM assembly plant in Van Nuys, and GM workers and other workers from shops organized by Local 645 have participated in demonstrations at Superior and have helped organize community participation. Many GM workers understand that their relatively higher wages will be hard to maintain alongside plants with low pay and sweatshop conditions like Superior.

Staff members, volunteers, and union lawyers from Local 645 have worked with the organizing committee at Superior, which was elected by union supporters at the plant. Local 645 has also backed the drive with tens of thousands of dollars, as has the national union.

After the initial victory in the union election, Superior's owners escalated their attacks on the workers and their union.

In September 1984, 118 objections challenging the election were filed with the NLRB. While the NLRB did not schedule hearings on these objections for months, the company instituted a point system in the plant, giving arbitrary numbers of points for mistakes on the job, seeing the nurse, or for lateness and absence. If the points add up to 100, the worker is fired. This is being used to silence and fire union supporters.

By January the number of firings formally linked to the organizing effort reached 33. Many more were fired or pressured to quit, but have not protested.

The union committee continued to put out weekly information and demonstrated at the gate to protest the firings and to demand immediate certification of the election.

When the hearings opened on January 31, the organizing committee and the local built a picket at the NLRB offices. Two hundred people, including Superior workers and members of about 20 local unions, chanted, "Certification now!" and "NLRB, you can't hide, we know you're on the company's side."

Superior management pulled out a new weapon at the hearings. One of the initiators of the organizing committee, Francisco Guzmán, broke and became a fink for the company. The company bought him. Now he is their star witness in the case.

Through Guzmán the company is trying to prove fantastic charges. He claims that union supporters threatened workers who did not vote for the union. He says he used union money to pay workers \$5 and \$10 for their signatures on union authorization cards. He charged a member of the organizing committee and two other men with attacking him, breaking his nose and three ribs. But his face never showed any sign of injury, nor was he ever inconvenienced by his "broken ribs." He also claimed that a UAW organizer, another UAW member, and an organizing committee member shot out a window at Superior and trailed supervisors to their homes.

Most fantastic of all, Guzmán claims he has evidence that UAW Local 645 is part of a nationwide conspiracy spearheaded by the national union whereby Salvadorans will organize into the UAW in exchange for the national union supplying arms to the guerrillas in El Salvador. He says the local maintains a warehouse of machine guns for this purpose.

The union was able to get these charges dropped from the official record. At the same time, the company states it has called

in the FBI to investigate the shooting and gun-running charges.

These gun-running charges and all Guzmán's lies are aimed at victimizing the workers at Superior and taking the spotlight off the real question for workers at the plant — the low pay, the terrible conditions, and the right of workers to fight for better conditions with a union of their choice.

At the hearing itself, Guzmán's lies were exposed time and again. There were constant contradictions between his testimony and that of the few other company witnesses, and Guzmán was obviously very nervous on the stand.

Most damaging to Guzmán's story was the testimony of Robert Dunton. Dunton testified as a union witness and explained that Guzmán told him that George Musson, director of Industrial Relations for Superior Industries, had offered him \$20,000 to testify against the union. If Dunton would join Guzmán, the company was sure to relocate

him and give him another job. Dunton also testified that he himself had gotten a call from Musson trying to bribe him.

Despite the weak company case, the hearings have gone on for a record number of days. This has been a tremendous drain on the union and the organizing committee. Workers are kept on the stand for hours at a time. Union lawyers, officials, and organizing committee members have to attend. The company again asked for another continuance. The NLRB granted it. Another round of hearings will start May 6.

Meanwhile, the union committee continues its activities. Several pickets in front of the plant are planned. A demonstration to demand union recognition will take place at the stockholders' meeting, Wednesday, May 22, between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Local 645 has invited unionists and community groups to join the May 22 protests. For more information or to lend support call (818) 782-7981.

500 protest killer cop

Continued from back page

for the Stevenson family were conducting an independent investigation.

The facts of Stevenson's death are not completely clear, but statements from Stevenson's widow and witnesses at the scene indicate that Stevenson went to a 7-11 convenience store around 11 p.m. Saturday, April 20. At 11:30 he helped store clerks subdue a shoplifter, and the police were called. The police arrived, arrested the shoplifting suspect, and then attacked Stevenson, who was in the store's parking lot when the cops arrived.

Police versions have been neither consistent nor logical. They first claimed two cops showed up, arrested the suspect, then went over to stop a fight between Stevenson and two white men. They claim Stevenson hit one of the cops, Bruce Pantley, and the other, Gary Barbour, then put him in the choke hold.

In a new version police admit several more cops had arrived before Stevenson was attacked, and it took three cops to bring him down. With Barbour's arm around Stevenson's neck, they forced him into a sitting position and strangled him for fifteen seconds. Herndon has put the number of cops against Stevenson at five.

Not until after he was handcuffed did the police notice Stevenson had stopped breathing. It is not clear how long the cops waited before taking him to the hospital. It is known that Stevenson died at 12:15 a.m.

However, the police didn't notify his wife until shortly before 6 a.m. Sunday morning.

The chief of police, Penny Harrington, temporarily suspended the use of the hold and appointed a "citizens committee" to review the use of force by the police. Some of the citizens include a U.S. marshal, a police chief from the state of Washington, the state medical examiner, and a representative from the district attorney. Apart from this, a public inquest into the death of Lloyd Stevenson is scheduled May 9.

The extent of the racism that runs through the Portland police is coming to light in the aftermath of Stevenson's killing. At the April 25 rally, Ron Herndon identified Pantley as one of the cops involved in a blatantly racist incident. In March 1981, two cops admitted placing dead opossums in front of a Black-owned restaurant.

The day of Stevenson's funeral, two cops were selling T-shirts with the inscription "Don't choke 'em, smoke 'em," at a precinct parking lot. In cop slang, "smoke" means shoot to death.

Herndon said of the incident, "This is what you would expect from police hit squads in El Salvador." The two cops were later dismissed by the mayor. And the chief of police temporarily banned use of the choke hold until an investigation by a special police task force on the use of force makes its recommendation.

LETTERS

Attack on Free Speech

I want to bring a serious attack on the right of free speech to the attention of *Militant* readers. On March 24, a rally of 100 activists occurred at the Homestead Air Force Base to commemorate the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero by right-wing death squads in El Salvador, and to protest the U.S. war against Nicaragua.

Leaflets persuading servicemen to oppose the war were distributed. The protest went well until a member of the Community Relations Board (CRB — an agency that is supposed to be a liaison between the cops and the community), recorded license-plate numbers of protesters' cars.

The antiwar activists wrote a letter to the CRB protesting its attempt to prevent demonstrators from exercising their right to free speech.

Following an organizing meeting for the April 20 march on Washington, a press conference was held with the *Miami News* to publicize the activists' case and to expose the cop agency. The news about the attack was also carried by the *Miami Herald* and several radio stations.

The antiwar activists are de-

manding that the CRB cease its practice of recording license-plate numbers of activists and that the CRB turn over its files to the activists.

The CRB has not responded to the demands as of this writing. The American Civil Liberties Union is considering legal action against the board.

Rich Gaeta
Miami, Florida

'Maurice Bishop Speaks'

I have just finished reading *Maurice Bishop Speaks — the Grenada Revolution 1979-83*.

As a class conscious prisoner of war, I enjoyed immensely reading the political and historical heritage of the brave and courageous people of Grenada, the making of their history and their struggle for a new society and international economic order.

Imperialism's fascism is vicious, and will get worse as the world balance of forces is tipping the scales in favor of revolutionary socialist democracy.

It is our duty to bring home the truth to workers about this murderous system of political injustice and economic exploitation, and to break the oppressive shackles of

imperialism, which is murdering millions of kids, women, and men throughout the world. The workers in the factories, in the streets, the unemployed, in the schools and the prisons must be reached and re-educated. Maurice Bishop's book teaches us the road.

Also, Malcolm's teachings and evolutionary experience will always serve as an inspiration to all oppressed people the world over. A former prison slave, Malcolm turned his prison experience into a "university school of thought".

A prisoner

Iran: 'U.S. puppet'

On April 5 in the article, "U.S. backs Iraqi aggression against Iran," on page 3 of your newspaper, Fred Feldman has defended the inhuman regime of Khomeini and tried [to present] this imperialist dominated regime of the Islamic Republic as an anti-imperialist regime.

Mr. Feldman must know that in recent decades, or maybe in the history of mankind, no government has done such bad things to people as the Khomeini regime, a government that uses the name of Islam and God to abolish all democratic rights of the people, execu-



ting and torturing.

The Khomeini regime has so far killed 40,000 people and this inhuman regime has 120,000 political prisoners. All of these people were from revolutionary forces or progressive forces, or they were Communists. All of these young people were anti-imperialist.

The Khomeini regime is a U.S. puppet and this anti-people regime will never want to stop the war or help a progressive regime like Nicaragua.

An Iranian student
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send

reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

South Africa leader: 'Divest now!'

BY MAX SPEAR

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Some 200 people enthusiastically welcomed Oliver Tambo to this city at an April 25 meeting. Tambo is the exiled South African leader who is president of the African National Congress. He was beginning a tour that will take him to several U.S. cities.

The cheering and chanting, largely Black crowd included many activists from the daily anti-apartheid protests at the South African embassy here.

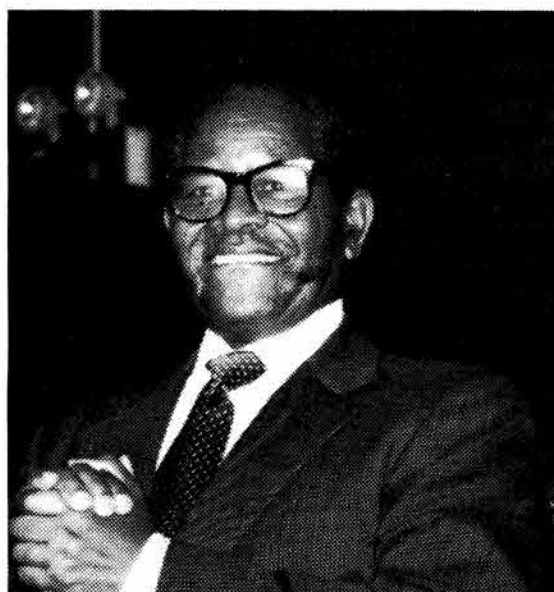
Tambo referred to the embassy protests as a "remarkable development." He said that while South African freedom fighters have always followed U.S. politics, interest has peaked "particularly since the 21st of November, 1984" — the day the first protest and arrests took place at the apartheid embassy.

"You have given birth," he said, "to a movement that now demands the attention of the entire world, not least of all the entire people of South Africa, those who are with you and those — in Pretoria and Washington — who are against you and fear the implications of your fight."

Tambo's public talk was sponsored by the Free South Africa Movement and the Southern Africa Support Project as part of "Southern Africa Week — 1985," an annual solidarity event organized by the support project. While in town he was also interviewed by editors of the *Washington Post*.

Tambo dismissed, to great applause, the "reforms" of the regime of South African President Botha, which have been touted by the Reagan administration. "The apartheid system cannot be reformed. You cannot reform a crime. You can only stop a crime."

The current situation in South Africa, he explained, is a "political upsurge by the oppressed Black masses." Key to this, Tambo stressed, is the "continued rise in industrial workers' action, a sure sign of the growing unity of our people in struggle."



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Oliver Tambo (left), president of African National Congress, praised divestment struggle such as one at Columbia University.



Militant/Fred Murphy

This upsurge is becoming general, he said, and is "beginning to challenge the operational capacity of the apartheid system on the ground."

Tambo emphasized the "phenomenal growth" of the United Democratic Front, a mass anti-apartheid organization that has developed out of the struggles of recent years. "The United Democratic Front is a barometer of the rising offensive of our struggle and the sense of unity our people are building among themselves."

Loud applause greeted Tambo's call for total U.S. divestment from South Africa.

"Time is the most precious ally of the apartheid system. That is why we say divestment must take place now. Please spare no effort in fighting for divestment now. The racist regime talks of 'reforms' and 'negotiations' — these are attempts to maneuver out of the crisis. For us, the issue is the struggle for power."

(As part of his visit to the United States, Tambo also spoke April 28 to over 500

people at a Harlem church in New York City. Among the crowd were a number of students from the ongoing divestment protests at Columbia University.)

While Tambo spoke at a church in the heart of D.C.'s Black community, Democrats and Republicans across town on Capitol Hill engaged in maneuvers as several bills calling for economic sanctions against South Africa were introduced.

On May 2 the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee approved by a vote of 29 to 6 a bill that would provide limited sanctions against South Africa. The bill included prohibiting new investments and bank loans in South Africa, cutting off existing computer contracts with its government, and prohibiting the importation of the Krugerrand, a South African gold coin sold to collectors and investors.

As Congress was discussing these limited sanctions, anti-apartheid actions for total divestment continued on college campuses across the country. On May 1 some

200 people were arrested in campus protests from coast to coast, including 63 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and 89 at the University of Oregon in Eugene. At Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 200 students barricaded the door to a room where the consul general of the South African consulate in New York was speaking.

On the same day, 200 people held a rally in front of the Deak-Perera offices in Boston. Deak-Perera is a money exchange outfit that sells Krugerrands. Six unionists entered the offices after the rally and stayed the night. They were arrested on trespassing charges the next day.

One hundred seventy people were arrested in campus protests for divestment May 2 at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Iowa, Iowa City. There were also divestment actions at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Boston desegregation plan under attack

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — As federal district judge W. Arthur Garrity's June deadline for withdrawing the Boston school system from more than a decade of court supervision approaches, foes of school desegregation here have stepped up their efforts to undermine Black rights in education.

On April 23, Boston University president John Silber, most widely known for his participation in President Reagan's pro-war Central America commission headed by Henry Kissinger, blasted proposals made by Black parents' attorney Thomas Atkins to increase minority enrollment in the prestigious Boston Latin High School, an examination school.

He said Atkins' affirmative action guidelines would "embarrass the more enlightened members of the Ku Klux Klan."

While the Boston public school system has been overseen by Garrity since racist mobs and city officials tried to block school busing for desegregation in 1974-75, Boston Latin has remained out of reach for many Black and Latino students. Sixty-two percent of the white students entering this highly-rated secondary school have come from private and parochial schools, many of them sent there by parents seeking to avoid the desegregated system.

Atkins' plan, currently before Garrity, would increase the number of minority students.

Silber, president of the university paired with the high school under the desegregation order, called the Atkins plan "racist on its face," and said it showed "contempt for Blacks."

Atkins termed Silber "woefully misinformed." He explained that desegregation guidelines were necessary for the school because it should not be treated as "a private school operating in a public school system." Some 37 percent of Latin's students are from private schools.

The flare-up came as final overall plans are being debated before Garrity, prior to his June departure date from the historic case. He is readying final orders before returning total control of the school system to the Boston School Committee.

In 1974 Garrity found the school committee guilty of unconstitutionally segregating the schools. To remedy this violation of Black rights, Garrity ordered system-wide busing to achieve equal educational opportunity, along with a variety of support programs. This included affirmative action in hiring to achieve equality in the then overwhelmingly white teacher and administrative staffs.

School committee and school department attorneys are now arrayed against Atkins and cocounsel Robert Pressman over the character of the final order. The two desegregation attorneys are pressing for measures that will halt the trend towards resegregating the schools and undercutting Black, Latino, and other minority gains made over the past 10 years.

Atkins and Pressman, opposed by the school committee, are seeking a ceiling of 80 percent on Black enrollment at any given school. Currently, 48 percent of the system is Black.

Under the de facto segregation that still largely exists, all-Black and largely Black schools have gotten less funding, poorer

supplies, fewer adequately trained teachers, and more meager services — hence the effort to put a cap on the composition of the schools.

Garrity, meanwhile, is returning numerous areas of control of the system to school committee jurisdiction.

Outgoing Boston school superintendent Robert Spillane, has termed Garrity's administration of the system as over a "plantation" — a racist remark that Black teacher and administrator protests forced him to retract. Spillane has also slammed the Atkins-Pressman enrollment ceiling. Spillane called Atkins a "Johnny come lately" to the school situation.

Atkins was the central leader of the

Black community struggle for desegregation in the early 1970s.

The attacks on Atkins, who is especially identified with this historic battle, signal renewed efforts by the school committee in particular and Boston's rulers in general to squeeze the most out of the desegregation process before Garrity withdraws, to better enable the gutting of desegregation after the judge leaves.

Boston University president Silber's racist attack on Atkins' affirmative action proposals, along with an unrelenting year-long campaign by the liberal Boston *Globe* to "overhaul" desegregation, underscore the seriousness of this challenge to Black rights.

500 protest killer cop

BY K. C. ELLIS

PORTLAND — Chanting, "We're fired up; won't take no more!" nearly 500 people, largely from Portland's Black community, marched here April 25 to demand justice in the killing of a Black man by Portland cops. About 8 percent of Portland's 370,000 population is Black.

The Black United Front (BUF) and the Urban League issued a call for the demonstration in response to the April 21 death of Lloyd "Tony" Stevenson, a 31-year-old father of five. Police used the "choke hold" (or "sleeper hold") on Stevenson.

This deadly neck hold cuts off the flow of blood to the brain, causing the victim to lose consciousness. One of the demands of the demonstration was the banning of the

choke hold.

During the rally in front of City Hall, Ron Herndon, cochair of the Black United Front, blasted the cops for giving several conflicting versions of the events leading to Stevenson's death. He called on the mayor and the district attorney to hold a public inquest into the killing, saying he wanted to see people on the jury "that look like me and you."

Herndon asked witnesses to the killing to contact BUF, asking, "If you can't stand up for one of our best, what will you stand up for?" Prior to the march and rally, Herndon told the *Militant* that witnesses calling BUF disagreed with the official cop version of the killing. He also said lawyers

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