

## 'Contras' ambush Bluefields riverboat

BY BILL GRETTNER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Seventy CIA-backed mercenaries ambushed and destroyed the Bluefields Express passenger ferry, the Nicaraguan government reported. The counterrevolutionaries killed four soldiers, kidnapped at least eight people, robbed the passengers of personal goods and baggage, and burned the ship. The damage was estimated at half a million dollars.

Bluefields is the largest city on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. It is linked to the major cities on the Pacific Coast primarily by ferry service on the Escondido River.

The ship, *Enrique Campbell*, was making the trip from El Rama to Bluefields on the afternoon of July 5 when it was diverted by counterrevolutionary forces with rifles and machine guns. Sandinista soldiers on board the ship chose not to exchange fire with the mercenaries; to do so would have meant certain death for the passengers.

Some soldiers were burned alive when the ship was destroyed. Other military personnel, some of them unarmed, were kidnapped, along with the captain and other crew members.

After the attackers had fled, one soldier, engulfed in flames, leaped from the boat to the river. He is now in the hospital in serious condition.

The 97 civilian passengers were forced off the ship. Their money and watches were stolen and their luggage was ransacked. Many of the passengers were merchants transporting goods to and from Bluefields.

Marina McRea, for instance, works with 52 other women in a collective enterprise making clothing. She was carrying materials and replacement parts for six broken machines. All of it was stolen, although it is not useful to the mercenaries. "I don't know why they stole that stuff from us," she said.

"They struck against the means of trans-

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## South African gov't massacres Blacks

BY FRED FELDMAN

South African cops murdered at least seven Blacks in KwaThema township July 9.

Anglican Bishop Simeon Nikoane and other residents said the massacre began when cops fired tear gas into a theater where Blacks were holding a silent vigil for four of the eight Blacks killed in KwaThema June 26.

As Blacks fled the theater, the cops opened fire.

Despite the police terror, hundreds attended the funeral of the four that day. "Funerals represent one of the few ways for South Africa's Black majority of 23 million to hold legal meetings," reported the July 10 *New York Times*.

Massacres and assassinations by the racist apartheid regime have taken the lives of more than 500 Black freedom fighters in the past year.

On July 3, three Black workers were killed by police at a platinum mine at Rustenburg, northwest of Johannesburg.

Two days later South African cops — wearing hoodlike knitted caps to evade identification — killed four Blacks during

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Above, funeral of Steve Biko, leader of Black student protests in South Africa who was murdered by cops in 1977. Massacres and assassinations by racist apartheid regime have taken lives of more than 500 Black freedom fighters in past year.

## Maine shipyard workers on strike

BATH, Maine — On June 30 production workers at Bath Iron Works, the largest private employer in Maine, voted to reject concessions and begin a strike that is widely expected to be a long and bitter one.

By a strike vote of 3,500 to 25, Local 6 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America (IUMSWA) AFL-CIO, hit the picket lines, joining their sister Local 7 — a primarily clerical and office workers local that had previously been forced on strike. As of the second week the strike is completely solid.

The outlines of the Bath Iron Works' proposed contract are familiar to workers in many industries:

- Two-tier wage system.
- Cuts in health coverage.

• Changed work rules that result in layoffs and endanger workers' health and safety.

The economic blackmail used by the company in mailings to employees at their homes, and in scare stories in the local and statewide capitalist media, is also the familiar story of demanding these cuts "in order to compete."

The Bath Iron Works, however, has not been able to plead poverty or lack of work. The shipyard was recently awarded the lead ship contract from the Pentagon for a new class of destroyers, as well as a substantial Coast Guard contract to buttress an already sizeable backlog of work. Both locals have frequently pointed out that Bath Iron Works and its parent company, Con-

goleum, have been making huge profits while paying no federal income tax since going private in 1981.

Local 6 President Ray Ladd wrote a formal request to the company asking for information on their profits, management salaries, and other financial data that would allow the union to evaluate the request for concessions. A number of pickets regularly wear signs demanding the company "open the books."

The campaign for concessions began nearly two years ago when Local 6, with its 4,500 production workers, was asked to renegotiate its contract.

A more serious company attempt to force renegotiation last fall convinced the union's negotiating committee to recommend acceptance of "minor concessions." The membership, however, insisted in an 80 per cent vote on retaining the existing contract.

The company's stance put the workers on notice that tough bargaining would take place this year and most have taken the opportunity to save money or find other jobs in order to be able to wait out a strike. In the small towns and rural areas where many workers live finding other jobs is not an easy task. But they are thoroughly determined not to go backward.

When negotiations began many workers felt that a wage freeze would be acceptable as long as there were no actual cuts. The majority, however, have come to see two-tier wage scales as hurting all employees, not just new ones, and now consider this a strike issue.

More than 375 workers in Local 7, mostly women, were forced on strike April 21. Local 6 overcame a long history of the different shipyard unions ignoring each others' picket lines and stayed out of work in solidarity.

The company and many members of both locals were surprised to see support for office workers from the production workers of Local 6, some 95 percent of whom are men.

After two days the leadership of Local 7 unfortunately requested that Local 6 return to work. The clerical workers reasoned that

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## Victory for Black rights in Alabama

BY KATY LARKINS AND MARK CURTIS

SELMA, Ala. — A victory for Black rights was scored here July 5 when a 12-person jury found Albert Turner, Evelyn Turner, and Spencer Hogue not guilty on all charges of vote fraud.

The verdict was reached after only four hours of deliberation by the jury of seven Blacks and five whites. The defendants' supporters, many of whom had attended every day of the three-week trial, rushed outside to the courthouse steps, singing and chanting that the Marion Three — as the defendants are known — were free.

The defense attorney led supporters in a round of cheering as the jurors filed out of the courtroom.

The Turners and Hogue were the first victims of a U.S. Justice Department probe into "voting irregularities" in Alabama's majority Black region known as the Black Belt. The probe is an effort by the U.S. government to intimidate civil rights activists and part of the effort to take away many of the gains Blacks have made here in the last 20 years.

Another trial involving five activists from Greene County, Alabama, on similar

charges is scheduled to begin in Birmingham later this month.

After hearing the verdict, defense attorney Morton Stavis, from the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York, called for the indictment against the Greene County Five to be dropped and for a halt to the Justice Department's investigations in nearby Wilcox, Sumter, and Lowndes counties.

"I just hope the Reagan administration gets the message and takes steps to discontinue its remaining prosecutions, which are obviously designed to diminish Black voting," Stavis told the media.

The jurors indicated that they felt the government had failed to present a convincing argument that the Turners and Hogue had altered absentee ballots without the voters' consent. In fact, during the course of the trial, U.S. District Judge Emmett Cox had dismissed more than half of the 29 original counts of vote fraud for lack of evidence.

The government's case rested on twisting the testimonies of elderly, infirm, and illiterate Blacks who needed the assistance of people like the Turners and Hogue to cast their ballots. Under Alabama law, this

kind of assistance is legal, as is erasing or crossing out an original vote if the voter changes his or her mind.

However, FBI agents who interrogated the prospective witnesses opened their questioning by informing them that their ballots had been "illegally tampered with." They neglected to tell them, however, that there was nothing illegal about asking someone to change their marks on an absentee ballot.

In their closing arguments, defense attorneys stressed that the prosecution witnesses had been frightened into making the accusations against the Marion Three.

"The government will tell you that it is only trying to protect voting rights in Alabama," Stavis told the jury. "I would have a lot more confidence in the government's arguments if we had seen these [prosecution] attorneys and FBI agents fighting alongside Albert Turner these past 20 years."

The defense presented its entire case in one day, following three weeks of prosecution testimony. The key witness for the defense was Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, who vouched for Albert Turner's honesty.

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# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY CHRISTINE GAUVREAU

BOSTON — The contract between General Electric and 55,000 workers represented by the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) and the United Electrical Workers (UE) expired on June 30.

Socialist union members who work for GE and plant gate sales teams at GE plants around the country received a good response to the article on the GE contract talks, written by a worker at the GE plant in Lynn, Massachusetts. More than 100 copies of the *Militant* were sold at GE plant gates or inside plants in Massachusetts, Ohio, New York, Kentucky, and Washington.

At the giant Lynn GE plant, more than 50 copies of the *Militant* were sold, including 17 at two splitshift union meetings attended by some 50 workers each. GE was so successful in keeping news of negotiations out of the capitalist media that workers were starved for information. Several union activists, including shop stewards, welcomed the paper simply be-

cause "it contained a lot of good information."

Twenty-three *Militants* were sold by socialists to their coworkers following discussions about the contract. In one such discussion a woman benchworker, faced with the news that GE was definitely asking for concessions, said, "You know, no one can afford to strike. I have five children to feed. But how can we let them take away the benefits that our parents and grandparents fought for? I mean, some people died in the fights for what we have."

*Militant* sales teams had distributed a special leaflet and had a large sign at the Lynn plant gate advertising the contract article on GE. Ten *Militants* were sold and a number of workers going in said they had already read it.

At the big Evendale aircraft plant in Cincinnati, which is organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW) and International Association of Machinists (IAM), the contract was the big thing on everyone's mind. The Evendale contract expires July 14.

There was a lot of interest in the

*Militant* article on the contract and one Black UAW steward who bought the paper said it was the best thing he'd read in a long time.

An IAM member started to read the article and then bought the *Militant* saying, "More union people ought to read articles like this."

An IAM steward and committeeman said the article had been important in helping them get an overall picture of the negotiations. The steward said, "I guess the only way you get the big picture is by having people all over the country who let you know what's going on, like with that article."

One IAM member who had been in the service said, "That article was perfect. It ought to be printed in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, only they'd never print it because that's a Republican newspaper. The people who own these big companies are always scheming to get us off to war. I don't care if the DuPonts and Morgans do lose all their money, I'm not going to go off and fight for them anymore."

Socialists sold 20 *Militants* to coworkers and 3 at the plant gate,

and the paper is getting around. One UAW member complained that he hadn't been able to finish the article yet because other workers were always borrowing it.

Louisville workers at GE's Appliance Park went into negotiations with nearly half of the previous work force laid off after GE opened its new, highly automated dishwasher manufacturing facility. When a sales team showed up at the Louisville plant gate with a large sign advertising the *Militant* to IUE members entering the plant, many workers mistook it for a strike picket sign and the sales team decided to take it down. Despite the fact you could only sell to cars stopping at a red light, five *Militants* were bought.

Another seven were sold in the community including three to workers wearing GE hats and T-shirts.

When the plant-gate sale at GE's large turbine plant in Schenectady, N.Y., was rained out, the sales team went to a nearby community and sold seven *Militants*, including three to IUE members.

The GE lamp division complex in Cleveland has been hard hit by plant closings and layoffs in recent years and *Militant* sales teams found expectations around the contract were low. They sold 13 *Militants* to coworkers and at the plant gate and are planning more sales there.

IUE members at a GE aircraft engine repair shop in Seattle have not been hit hard by the layoffs wracking other GE divisions and have been expecting smooth contract negotiations. For some of them, the *Militant's* GE coverage provided the first explanation of GE's offensive against its workers. Workers there have been buying three to four *Militants* a week.

Aggressive sales of the *Militant* around the article on the contract won a number of new readers in the IUE and other unions, sales that can be built on in coming weeks as workers draw the lessons of the new GE contract.

Christine Gauvreau is a member of IUE Local 201 at the GE Riverworks in Lynn.

## Miami Haitians prevent move to disrupt festival

BY STU SINGER

MIAMI — Hundreds of participants in a Haitian community festival here June 23 prevented a small group of right-wing Cubans from disrupting the activity.

The right-wing group was led by Gely Gutierrez, a Cuban woman who has announced as a candidate for mayor of Miami. The form the disruption took was an attempt by her and her entourage to stop the sales of antiwar, antiracist, pro-union, and socialist literature from a table at the festival.

The Haitian festival was sponsored by the Haitian Task Force and the city. Northeast 54th Street was closed off for the event, which is the block that includes the Pathfinder Books storefront. The socialist literature table, with books and newspapers in English, French, Spanish, and Creole, was set up outside Pathfinder Books, as were displays in front of other stores on the block.

Gutierrez, who was walking through the crowd with her supporters, spotted the table and started shouting, demanding that it be removed.

The group of Cubans may have expected to get support from the crowd for their anti-communist tirades, but the reaction was the opposite. Many people joined those already looking at and buying literature from the table. The mostly Black and Haitian crowd shouted back at the right-wingers. People were angry that this small group would try to censor what they could read.

Haitian community leaders present who protested against Gutierrez included Jacques Despinose of the Haitian-American

Democratic Club and activists from the Haitian Refugee Center.

Community opposition to the right-wingers' attack was so strong that the Miami cops were forced to refuse Gutierrez's demand to remove the socialist literature table from the festival.

Disappointed in not whipping up any support, Gutierrez and her group left the area. They told a policeman that they would use the Spanish-language radio stations to launch a campaign against the bookstore.

Spokespeople for the bookstore, which

also houses the offices of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance, take this as a serious threat.

In a letter to the mayor and the chief of police, Harvey McArthur from Pathfinder Books pointed out that previously such threats have led to violent attacks by right-wing Cubans and Nicaraguans.

A debate on Nicaragua was violently broken up at Florida International University here in 1981. A 1983 news conference in downtown Miami protesting U.S. government attacks on Nicaragua was broken up by armed thugs while the police and city

officials looked on.

And the SWP office and socialist bookstore was firebombed two years ago when located at a different address.

One Spanish-language radio station, La Cubanísima, and a weekly Spanish-language newspaper, *La Nación*, have publicized the incident and support Gutierrez's call for protests to the city commission against the bookstore.

The daily *Miami News* ran an editorial in its July 1 issue condemning Gutierrez's attack on the festival and bookstore as an "exercise in intimidation."

## L.A. socialist bookstore celebrates reopening

BY JAN ARAGON

LOS ANGELES — Over 60 people attended a celebration of the reopening of the *Militant-Perspectiva Mundial* Bookstore here on June 22. The bookstore had been closed for two weeks for remodeling and expansion.

The event was chaired by Jeannie Frankel, a co-coordinator of the bookstore, who opened the meeting calling for a big applause for the many bookstore supporters who contributed hours of their time to help complete the painting and construction in time for the reopening.

Frankel explained that it was the success of the bookstore over the past year — the number of people coming to buy books on Central America, the Black struggle, labor, South Africa, and other subjects — that led to the decision to double the number of book titles and to expand the

space available for the store.

Elsa Diza, a speaker representing Casa Nicaragua, praised the bookstore for having materials that tell the truth about the Nicaraguan revolution. She reserved special praise for the book, *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*, which she said was the most truthful and honest book on the Nicaraguan revolution.

The featured talk of the evening was given by Sam Manuel, a member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party. Manuel stressed the importance of the Los Angeles bookstore, and similar ones throughout the country, as an organizing center for activists seeking to learn from the experiences of today's revolutionaries and those of the past. He asked, "Where else can people come to read the writings and speeches of Marx and Engels, Lenin, Trotsky, Maurice Bishop, Malcolm

X, Fidel, and of Daniel Ortega and the other leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution? Where else can you regularly get *Barricada*, the newspaper of the Sandinistas, or the Cuban paper *Granma*?"

The important role such socialist bookstores play is now being demonstrated in San Jose, where right-wing Vietnamese have attempted to close down the one there. Manuel, who has been active in the fight to keep that bookstore open, described the broad support it has received in the face of this attempt. The right-wingers attempt to deny the right of free speech and exchange of ideas to those who buy books and attend forums on Vietnam and other issues at the bookstore.

"The defense of the bookstore is part of the defense of the working-class right to discuss politics," he said.

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# Ramos: end U.S.-armed terror in El Salvador

BY JON HILLSON

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Reporting on his recent three-month stay in El Salvador, U.S.-based spokesperson for the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FMLN-FDR), Arnaldo Ramos, gave his assessment of the civil war there to 250 solidarity and antiwar activists here June 28.

Ramos, who spent time in FMLN-controlled zones, as well as the country's capital, San Salvador, told the crowd that despite a massive escalation of the regime's war effort, the guerrillas have "held their ground."

The FMLN, he said, controls a third of the country's territory.

Aerial bombardment and battalion-sized invasions by government forces of FMLN zones are routine, Ramos explained, describing his participation in a retreat under fire from one such government foray in Usulután Province.

The reason for more sophisticated military operations by the Salvadoran armed forces, including concentrated bombing and smaller attack units, Ramos said, is the central role of U.S. military advisers.

The aim of the U.S.-financed air war, he said, quoting regime military spokesmen, is to "drain the water from the fish," the fish being the guerrillas and the water the people.

The major U.S. media, Ramos said, is engaged in a "total blackout" of the brutal air war in El Salvador. In rebel-controlled Guazapa, he and other civilians were victims of five aerial bombardments in four days.

There now exists in Congress, Ramos told the gathering, an "overall consensus to support the [Reagan] administration at all costs."

A key figure used to forge this prowar "bipartisanship," Ramos said, is current Salvadoran president José Napoleón Duarte, for whom Washington has fashioned the image of a "democrat" who stands between the "left and the right."

This is a charade, the FMLN spokesperson explained. Duarte is central to the war effort. With the huge infusion of U.S. economic and military aid, "a million and a half dollars a day to avoid economic collapse," Ramos said, Washington has been able to bring the army high command, key sectors of Salvador's ruling oligarchy, and other important forces around Duarte. This has allowed them to better prosecute the war and sell "Salvadoran democracy" in the United States.

This *Duartismo*, Ramos said, has also been embraced by the "liberal wing of the Democratic Party" in the United States and has played an "indispensable role" in deepening bipartisan opposition to the Nicaraguan government.

North American public opinion, said Ramos, is an important factor that Washington weighs in deciding whether it will carry out an invasion. He urged the assembled activists to get out the truth about the air war in El Salvador, to protest the war as it unfolds, to collect material aid for FMLN



El Universitario

Left, Salvadorans rally on May Day to demand union rights, end to government's war. Right, Arnaldo Ramos, representative of Democratic Revolutionary Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.



Militant/Lou Howort

zones of control, and to go to El Salvador to see the situation for themselves. Ramos also urged greater protest of the U.S. militarization of Honduras. Honduran troops, he said, are now fighting in El Salvador against the FMLN.

The Reagan administration is not yet prepared to militarily invade Central America, Ramos said, despite bipartisan opposition to the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran revolutions.

First, he said, Washington "will exhaust all alternatives," including playing out the "low intensity war" — the escalating mili-

tary operations of the Duarte regime, minus U.S. combat troops.

While these operations are inflicting tremendous suffering, they have failed to alter the military balance. At the same time, inflation, the cost of the war effort, and the profit-priorities of Salvador's ruling rich have taken a heavy toll on the country's working people.

This has stirred union-organized opposition on a scale unprecedented since the apex of the mass movement in 1980.

The "working class has gone into the streets," Ramos said. He cited the ad-

vances of ANDES, the teachers union; the FENASTRAS union federation; renewed worker mobilization in tobacco, textile, and other industries; and public employee strikes and protest demonstrations as key components of this powerful new "challenge to the government."

This "ascending movement," Ramos said, also demands Duarte engage in talks with the FMLN, something which Washington can only tolerate in a superficial manner. Duarte and his masters fear a widening of the opening created by last year's public talks in La Palma, which gave an impetus to the fight for democratic rights and struggles by the labor movement. That is why Duarte only wants the talks to continue behind closed doors or outside the country, he said.

At the same time, military actions by the FMLN have continued, including combat on the outskirts of the capital, in the nation's second largest city, Santa Ana, and against U.S. military personnel.

Speaking prior to Ramos, Julie Meyers, northeast regional coordinator of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), reported on her recent two-week stay in El Salvador as part of a U.S. delegation of educators in solidarity with ANDES.

"We returned with renewed commitment to do everything we can to mobilize opposition to U.S. policy in Central America," Meyers said. "We are more determined than ever to oppose the war."

## N.J. socialist takes campaign to GIs

BY BARBARA MUTNICK

WRIGHTSTOWN, N.J. — Socialist workers from northern New Jersey traveled to this small town on June 29 to talk to the workers and farmers in uniform who are assigned to the military bases here. Located in the southern part of the state, this town serves as one of the major military installations in the northeast. It is the home of Andrews Air Force Base and Ft. Dix, an army base.

Mark Satinoff, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor, was accompanied by five campaign supporters. We visited a busy shopping center in the middle of town, frequented primarily by military personnel and their families.

In about an hour and a half, our team sold 17 copies of the *Militant* and one subscription, and a copy of *Perspectiva Mundial*, the *Militant*'s Spanish-language sister publication.

Satinoff and his campaign manager, Priscilla Schenk, met a young Black woman who is in the military, as is her husband. Her first reaction to the socialists was that she shouldn't buy a paper because it might be against army policy to read a publication that opposed the actions of the U.S. military.

Satinoff and Schenk explained to her

that soldiers — citizens in uniform — have the constitutional right to express their political opinions and to organize politically to advance their views, just like every other citizen.

Further discussions revealed that she opposed the U.S. government's military threats in Central America, and that she saw the danger of a major U.S. intervention there.

After hearing that the *Militant* had first-hand coverage from Nicaragua every week — coverage which presents a different point of view than the big-business media — she bought a copy, convinced that this was a view that she should read.

A young couple with a large family bought a subscription. Though residents of the town, neither one was in the military. The man is a state worker whose wages had been drastically cut, and the woman a laid-off United Airlines worker. When she was laid off, the family was forced to go on welfare. But they were not beaten down. They felt angry and were looking for a way to fight back. Their first reaction to being shown the *Militant* was to say in unison, "How can we subscribe?" The couple had friends who were killed in Vietnam, and they wanted no part of another such war.

A Puerto Rican GI who bought a copy of *Perspectiva Mundial* was apprehensive about a full-scale war developing in Nicaragua. He thought that such a war would not be in the interests of working people in the United States or in Nicaragua.

Another GI felt the same way and worriedly said he knew other GIs who had recently been sent to Central America.

Another campaign supporter talked to two young men just out of high school who were about to enter the military. The friends, one Black and one white, were attracted to the campaign's proposal that U.S. workers and working farmers should form a government of their own, not one run by bankers and businessmen, like we have now. They liked the idea that Satinoff, a member of the International Union of Electronic Workers, was a union member running for office. One of the two bought a *Militant*. He said he wanted to help clear up the confusion he felt about the situations in Lebanon and Nicaragua.

Not every person we met opposed Washington's war moves, or was even open to considering antiwar views.

An older woman, a widow attempting to live on her deceased husband's military benefits and bitter about how meager they were, said she didn't want any literature, including our free handouts, because she shouldn't bite the hand that feeds her, how-

ever poorly.

A young GI in uniform argued with Satinoff for some time, never budging from his conviction that "we have to stop the communists, sir."

What struck the six campaigners, however, was that the large majority of the people we spoke with were opposed to U.S. intervention in Central America and, because of their connection to the military, more alert than other segments of the population to the danger of direct U.S. intervention in that part of the world. These working people in uniform know that they would be the first U.S. victims of such an assault.

We found it encouraging that Washington's prowar propaganda hasn't had its intended effect on these GIs, their families, and the residents of this military-dominated town.

## Demand release of Salvadoran rights activist

LOS ANGELES — At 6:00 a.m. on July 9, Maria Ester Grande Rosales, an activist in the Committee of the Mothers of the Disappeared of El Salvador, was arrested in El Salvador's capital city, San Salvador, by plainclothes officers who identified themselves as military police.

She and her son were taken away in a Cherokee jeep from their home in Colonia Moran Santo Tomás. The police returned at 10:00 a.m. and ransacked the house.

The mothers committee has been outspoken in its demand for an accounting of the thousands of people who have been "disappeared" in El Salvador by government security forces.

A telephone campaign to demand her release was launched on July 9 by supporters of the struggle of the Salvadoran people. They request protest calls to El Salvador's Pres. José Napoleón Duarte. The number is 011 503 2-18 483. Or telephone the U.S. embassy in El Salvador and ask for Kathy Barman or David Passage, human rights supervisors, at 011 503 2-67 100.



Militant/Barbara Mutnick

GI talks with Mark Satinoff, SWP candidate for New Jersey governor.

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The Socialist Workers Party invites you to attend our national convention and educational conference in Oberlin, Ohio, August 10-15.

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Two Socialist Workers Party resolutions — "The Workers' and Farmers' Alliance in the U.S." and "Revolutionary Perspective and Leninist Continuity in the U.S." — that appear in the Spring 1985 issue of *New International* provide the framework for discussion at the convention.

If you are interested in attending, contact the SWP branch nearest you (see directory on page 12) or write to SWP, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

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Militant/Ellen Kratka

Some of 60,000 members of Nicaragua's militia who recently participated in 22-mile-long march that was reenactment of 1979 "Retreat to Masaya."

# 'To crush revolution they will have to annihilate all of us'

BY BILL GRETTTER

MASAYA, Nicaragua — "Could Reagan do this?" asks 18-year-old Elvis Rosales. "Could he lead a march of 60,000 militia members? Would they follow him?" Elvis and his friend Balfor Cales, 23, were looking for their contingent in the sixth annual reenactment of the Retreat to Masaya.

Six years ago, beginning the night of June 27, Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) forces, along with thousands of civilians, withdrew from Managua after some initial battles in the final stages of the war of liberation. In this way they slipped through the fingers of dictator Anastasio Somoza's National Guard. Three weeks later Sandinista forces converged on Managua on July 19, 1979, in the final victory against the dictatorship.

The march this year began with a short speech by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Then Ortega and other government leaders, along with a column of armored vehicles, led the 23-mile hike from Managua to Masaya.

Balfor expressed his satisfaction with what he called the "technical equipment." "The tanks are Soviet-made T-55s," he said. "And 152 millimeter guns, I think." He works at customs at the airport during the day and is studying electrical engineering at night.

## 'I voted with my rifle'

Elvis is doing his military service in the Juan Pablo Umanzor Irregular Warfare Battalion in Matagalpa. "I didn't vote in the elections," he says, referring to Nicaragua's national elections last November. I voted with my rifle."

What does this demonstration mean to them? Both answer with paraphrases of popular slogans. "It means," says Balfor, "that we want a free country, or death." Says Elvis, "It means that nobody here is

ready to surrender."

Isaura and Lucía Castillo are sisters. One is in high school, the other at the university. Both are in the militia in the Riguero neighborhood of Managua. And they have four brothers in the Sandinista army.

What does the revolution mean to them? Older sister Lucía answers: "The most immediate thing is education. We can go to the university now." And before, could they have attended? "Oh no, that's out of the question. It was only for the rich."

Rodolfo Harquín is another student looking for the university contingent. To him the retreat shows that "we're prepared to repel any invasion. To crush this revolution they will have to annihilate all of us, Sandinista or not."

We are interrupted by six peasants who conclude that I must be a reporter because I'm taking notes. They want me to meet one of their group who was captured by the U.S.-organized *contras* (counterrevolutionaries) near Puerto Cabezas on the Atlantic coast. Why are they here? "To show that we're ready," says Antonio López Alemán, pantomiming firing a rifle. "When the marines come with parachutes, we'll be down here in the trenches."

What is the revolution to them? Why do they want to defend it? The peasants feel too inarticulate to answer. A young Black man from the Atlantic Coast city of Bluefields who speaks English is appointed as their spokesperson.

"It means . . . a complete change," he says and stops.

Rodolfo undertakes to answer the question. "The people of Nicaragua," he begins, "however humble they may be . . ." At this point he is interrupted by the cheering of the six peasants. They know that "the humble" means them. And more than health or education, even more than land, the revolution to them is a matter of pride.

With Rodolfo is his friend Francisco Al-tamirano, a 24-year-old architecture student who interrupted his studies to do his military service. He speaks quietly and simply: "The problem is that we're stubborn. That's Reagan's problem."

## Life in the mountains

He is stationed in the mountains east of Matagalpa. What is life like in the mountains? He is not eager to talk about it but it is obviously difficult; he shows me insect bites all over his arms and legs. "We're willing to put up with it," he says. "It's a question of revolutionary love. We are determined to gain peace."

"We hope the United States won't have the stupidity to invade. Because this is not like Grenada. To us that kind of situation is inconceivable; the unity of the people and the leadership here is so great. This Retreat is a palpable demonstration of that."

"Any U.S. marines here will be surrounded," says Rodolfo. "Behind every wall in the city, behind every hill in the country, there will be a worker with a gun or a peasant with a machete. This is not a revolution of words. We will not be stopped."

The crowd chants, "This is Sandinista power. This is people's power."

"This is a very important mobilization," says 21-year-old María Mercedes Alvarez. She's a fourth-year chemistry student at the National University and teaches high school chemistry in the mornings. "First of all, it's important to commemorate what happened six years ago, when the FSLN withdrew from Managua. That was a tactical retreat. It was a step backward at the time. But one that would lead to the victory over Somoza three weeks later."

"And now it's important to show that we're willing to make the same kind of sacrifice to defend the revolution. The young people are ready for any call."

Why does she specifically mention young people? She smiles. "Well, look who's here," she says.

She recently joined the Sandinista Youth while on a harvest brigade picking coffee in Matagalpa. Before that she had picked cotton. And the Literacy Campaign? "Oh, yes," she says, "I participated in that too."

## 'We're part of the working class'

A group of auxiliary police who work as security guards are distinguished by their blue shirts. Why are they marching? Mario Rodríguez, 33, answers. "We're part of the working class," he says. "And to me, this revolution means that the working class takes the initiative."

Born into a peasant family in Jinotega, he would move back to the countryside if he had the chance. How are things in Jinotega? "Terrible now. The war is having a devastating effect."

Would he prefer to live on his own land or on a cooperative? "Well," he acknowledges, "there are some advantages to a cooperative. The machinery is used more efficiently."

"Still," I observe, "the peasants want their own land."

"Yes," he says wistfully, "the peasants want their own land."

A young high school teacher from El Salvador is marching. He has lived in Nicaragua for two years. "We know they want to invade," he says. "We have to show imperialism that all of Latin America will oppose an invasion of Nicaragua."

He introduces me to Armando Castillo from the Department of Economics of the National University. Six years ago he was accused by the Somoza regime of being in-

volved in "subversive activity" for publishing a poetry magazine called *Libertad*.

"The joy and enthusiasm you see here tonight is a result of confidence," he says. "This is a demonstration of people's power. To really understand it, you have to imagine this crowd of people well armed. Imagine every one of these people with a gun in their hands ready to defend their country."

At 10:15 p.m. we are in Las Jagüitas on the periphery of Managua. Some of the militia units that left at the head of the march are probably half way to Masaya by now. For them this is a training exercise. The goal is to do this hike as quickly as possible. For others, the pace has begun to slow and the chanting is less spirited.

## Consciousness

Pedro is a 34 year old press operator originally from León. He walks alone, at a steady and determined pace, with a slight limp. Why is he here? "I'm patriotic," he responds.

Balbino Reyes, 25, was born in Somotillo in the northern part of the country. He is now in the Sandinista Army. He carries a guitar over his shoulder; he intends to party when he gets to Masaya. "We made this revolution to defend our class," he says. "No one else will do it for us."

He has participated in the march every year. How does this one compare in size? "Much bigger," he says. "They tend to get bigger every year. It's a question of consciousness."

Alejandro Martí is a 33-year-old primary school teacher, walking with his 11-year-old son Alejandro, Jr.

Born in the city of Granada, he studied medicine for one year, then dropped out to play electric guitar in a rock band.

"The original march was very different," he says. "Very sad. Not like this at all. And the weapons they had were ridiculous. Shotguns and .22 caliber pistols."

He smiles a little. "We have much better equipment now. The BM-21 multiple rocket launchers, for example: 20 tubes above, 20 tubes below. Very impressive."

About 2:00 a.m. we come to the highway. Many people have stopped to sleep along the side of the road, some of them on the pavement itself. Others go off the highway into the small town of Hindirí where the original marchers rested and were fed by the people of the town before proceeding on to Masaya in the early hours of the morning.

## Masaya

The lights of Masaya are visible in the distance. Looming in front of them in a dark silhouette is Coyotepe Hill. From the fortress on the top, Somoza's artillery shelled Masaya and the surrounding towns.

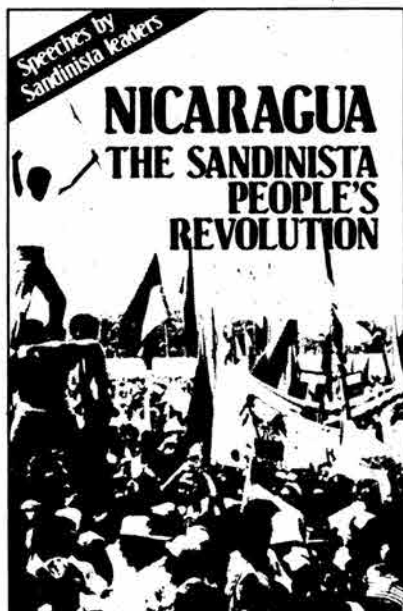
Two hours later the roosters are crowing loudly. Soon daybreak begins. The Masaya militias have built barricades and line the road approaching the city, re-creating the welcome of the original combatants. By 5:00 a.m. it is light and we have arrived in Masaya.

How do the marchers feel? Verónica, 20, and a friend of hers feel "more or less okay." They work on a poultry farm. Both are in the militia. They marched, she said, "to defend the [revolutionary] process." And how has that process changed things for them? "Under Somoza we were marginalized. Yes, practically all of us; the majority of the population of the country was marginalized."

"Now we feel free," says Socorro, a 30-

Continued on next page

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# General opposes U.S. troops to Nicaragua

## Press opens public debate on invasion issue

BY CINDY JAQUITH

In a major interview with the *New York Times*, the commander of U.S. Army and Air Force combat forces, Gen. Wallace Nutting, stated that he strongly opposes a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua. According to the *Times*, Nutting's opposition to an invasion "reflected a view widely held among senior military officers and echoed recommendations made by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the President and the Secretary of Defense."

The interview with Nutting, who commanded U.S. armed forces in Latin America from 1979 to 1983, shows the extent of the debate that is going on in ruling-class circles about invading Nicaragua, a discussion that until recently was conducted secretly. A significant section of the U.S. rulers, concerned by the possibility of an invasion and worried about its consequences, has decided to take the debate public.

On June 4 and 5, the *Times*, a prominent big-business daily, ran a two-part series quoting unnamed military and intelligence officials who argued in favor of a direct U.S. military assault on Nicaragua now. One official said such an attack would be "like falling off a log."

Another official claimed, "They'd never know what hit them."

Said a third: "The U.S. would come in heavily for a month or so, mostly with air strikes against major facilities. Then a new government would be put in place, and it would come with its own army."

In his interview with the *Times*, Nutting responded to these seemingly absurd pro-invasion arguments one-by-one, in a manner suggesting that the June 4-5 *Times* articles were prepared for the purpose of answering them through the Nutting interview. The interview with Nutting, conducted on June 25, appeared June 30, the day he retired from the military.

### Problems with invading Nicaragua

"We have learned to live with Cuba for 25 years," Nutting told the *Times*. "I think we are going to have to learn to live with Nicaragua. . . . Frankly, all the talk about invading Nicaragua is counterproductive. . . ."

"If we invade Nicaragua, not only will we jeopardize working relationships within the hemisphere but we will with a bunch of our NATO allies as well," he said.

Nutting emphasized the massive scope a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua would entail. He said it would be "a major operation" requiring "multiple divisions and air support and sea support to go along with it."

### Retreat from Masaya commemoration

#### Continued from previous page

year-old domestic worker. She too is in the militia. After a 22-mile, all-night hike, she says nonchalantly, "We do this because we have to. There are a lot of things we have to do to defend the revolution."

Raúl Urroz didn't participate in the original retreat, although he lived in Managua and was involved in the insurrection. "I chose to stay when the FSLN combatants withdrew. But this time I'm here," he says.

He is a 27-year-old instrumentation technician at the Fanatex fabric plant, and a member of the militia. "They may kill a lot of us," he says. "They may reduce Nicaragua to ashes, but we will drive them out. We're telling Reagan that he can't exploit us."

Juan Lara is a 60-year-old carpenter. He has been in the army for the last six years; before that he worked with the FSLN for 11 years, primarily as a messenger in Managua.

"We have to show the enemy of this revolution that we mean business," he says. "And that enemy is not the people of the United States. Our problem is imperialism."

And what if there is an invasion? "Well, we don't want war," he says calmly. "But we do have to defend ourselves. The oppressed class, the working class and the peasants; we're going to celebrate the sixth anniversary soon. And then we're going to go on and celebrate many more."

"There would be a big fight to dislodge" the Sandinistas, he predicted.

The *Times* added, "A military rule of thumb holds that an offensive force must have three times the power of the defense to succeed. General Nutting said in a recent speech that the military force in Nicaragua totaled 119,000, including reserves and militia."

That would mean sending 357,000 U.S. troops to Nicaragua, if one accepts Nutting's estimate of Sandinista troop strength. (The Nicaraguans say they have a larger number in the army, reserves, and militias combined.)

During the U.S. war against Vietnam, a country whose population at the time was 13 times that of Nicaragua today, U.S. troop strength reached a peak of 550,000 soldiers. And they were defeated.

A glimpse of the political price Washington would pay if it invaded Nicaragua was offered by Humberto Ortega, Nicaragua's minister of defense, who was also interviewed by the *Times* on this question. The interview appeared June 7.

Ortega said "it will not be so easy" to overthrow Nicaragua's revolutionary government by invasion. "A direct American military intervention in Nicaragua would not be fought on the classic terms of one army against another," he explained. "An invading force will meet a very mobile, very irregular form of resistance. We have distributed our men and supplies around the country. This will make it very difficult to deal decisive blows against us."

The Nicaraguan government has made great strides in professionalizing its regular army and has also trained hundreds of thousands of civilians in military defense. Were U.S. troops to invade, they would face what the Sandinistas have called a "people's war," a resistance involving the majority of the population.

Ortega also pointed out that a U.S. invasion could not be limited to Nicaragua.

"A direct intervention by the United States would be very difficult to confine only to our territory," he said. "It would logically have to extend itself to neighboring countries and the region."

"Popular forces throughout Latin America will unleash their violence," Ortega predicted. "There will be tens of thousands of people in different parts of Central America armed with rifles, anti-aircraft guns and other weapons. . . ."

### Central America: unstable situation

Nutting himself acknowledged the unstable situation for imperialism in the rest of Central America in his interview with the *Times*. He pointed to the need to "restore public order and security" throughout Latin America, and said that Washington's big tasks in Central America are to "solidify democratic control in El Salvador, try to help the Hondurans maintain it, help the Guatemalans get their act together, which they are trying to do, and bolster Costa Rica and Panama."

Nutting said that in his opinion open use of U.S. military force in Latin America could have sharp repercussions: "the less visible we are militarily, the better it will be."

Referring to the deep hatred of the Latin American people for Washington's many invasions of their territory, he observed, "We are paying a high price now for what they call military intervention for the last 50 years, and I don't think we want to do that again. I don't."

Nutting's alternative to invasion is to try to isolate Nicaragua, and Cuba, in part by giving the other governments in Central America a political and economic facelift. "Instead of worrying about invading Nicaragua and throwing out the Sandinistas," he said, "we ought to be concentrating on developing the hemispheric idea of coalition, building strength through political reform and economic development in the surrounding countries."

At the same time, he clearly favors maintaining the political, economic, and military pressure on Nicaragua through forcing this small country to allocate a large portion of its limited resources to defense and to be in a constant state of military preparedness. "I wouldn't want to give



Militant/Holbrook Mahn  
Nicaraguan tank on parade at demonstration, May Day 1985. Massive U.S. military effort needed to "dislodge" Sandinistas would be too high a military and political price to pay, General Nutting (inset) told *New York Times*. He was commander of U.S. forces in Latin America from 1979 to 1983.

aid and comfort to the Sandinistas," Nutting said. "I think they ought to be alert to the possibility of an invasion."

Nutting's course has been tried before by the U.S. ruling class. For more than 25 years, Washington has been trying to politically isolate and economically strangle revolutionary Cuba. It has failed at this, just as it is failing today in its attempts to weaken and ultimately get rid of the Sandinista-led government in Nicaragua.

### Importance of antiwar fight

The significance of the Nutting interview is what it reveals about where the majority of the U.S. rulers stand today on invading Nicaragua. While the U.S. rulers as a whole are agreed that the Sandinistas cannot be bought off or intimidated into submission, and that therefore the San-

dinista-led government must be changed, they are not united on direct U.S. military intervention to do so. Nutting's arguments about the enormous military scope of such an undertaking, the difficulties in winning a war against the Sandinistas, and the political price Washington would pay in Latin America and around the world are all factors in the U.S. rulers' thinking.

This underlines the importance of the efforts of all those fighting to prevent U.S. intervention — from the Sandinistas, to the Cubans, to antiwar fighters in the United States and around the world who are protesting the U.S. role in Central America. The actions of these forces have helped stay the hand of the U.S. rulers thus far and they can help make the difference in the coming battles to stop U.S. intervention against Nicaragua.

## Contras attack riverboat

### Continued from front page

portation because they want to isolate us," said Rev. Ray Hodgson, another passenger on the boat.

According to the passengers, the attackers claimed to be from the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN). This is the largest U.S.-armed counterrevolutionary group. It is composed principally of former members of the hated National Guard of the Somoza dictatorship, overthrown six years ago by the popular Sandinista revolution.

From bases in Honduras and Costa Rica, the FDN mercenaries infiltrate deep into Nicaragua's sparsely populated central

zone. Their strategy is to avoid confrontations with the Sandinista Army, concentrating on terrorist attacks against civilian targets instead.

The ambush took place near the small town of El Rama, which links the Atlantic Coast to the rest of Nicaragua. Here the highway from the Pacific Coast cities ends and the river becomes the main avenue of commerce.

The government has announced its determination to maintain this link. Army and militia troops are patrolling the river banks to drive back the mercenaries. Another vessel will be used to replace the destroyed ship, although it is both smaller and slower.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn  
In photo taken last May, passengers with goods line up to get on Bluefields Express at El Rama. Sign says: "In El Rama [U.S.] invaders will bite the dust!"



# 'No task nobler than to be a revolutionary'

## N.Y. meeting celebrates Wayne Hieber's contribution to socialist movement

NEW YORK — More than 150 people attended a July 5 meeting at Socialist Books here to celebrate the life of Socialist Workers Party member Wayne Hieber. Hieber died on June 21 of AIDS — acquired immune deficiency syndrome. He was 34 years old.

Hieber had been an active member of the socialist movement since 1971. He joined the Young Socialist Alliance in Gainesville, Florida, that year and then moved to Atlanta where he joined the SWP.

Rashaad Ali, chairperson of the New York SWP and the socialist candidate for New York City Council President, chaired the meeting. The speakers were Don Mackle, organizer of the Newark YSA; Ernest Mailhot, a member of the Miami SWP who worked closely with Hieber in Cuba solidarity activities and organizations they participated in; and Andrea González, SWP candidate for mayor of New York.

Among those attending the meeting were members and supporters of the SWP and YSA, several Cuban solidarity activists, and members of the Gay Men's Health Crisis group.

Before his illness forced him to quit working last fall, Hieber was an electrical assembler at Edison Products in New Jersey and was a member of the International Union of Electronic Workers.

Previously Hieber had worked union-organized jobs on the railroads in California and New York; in the Brooklyn Navy Yard; and in the New York subway system.

Andrea González gave the main presentation at the rally on Hieber's life. Below are excerpts from her speech.

\* \* \*

"I believe that to be a revolutionary in a revolutionary epoch is a great privilege for any human being — no task is more honorable, noble, or stimulating than the task of being a revolutionary."

These words by Fidel Castro, so simple and accurate, best summarize Wayne's life.

### Joined YSA

Wayne was a revolutionary his entire adult life. He enjoyed it. As a revolutionary he was consciously part of a great international class, the world working class, that is marching forward to end the brutal rule of a small, wealthy minority — the capitalist class.

Wayne joined the revolutionary movement when he was 20 years old. He, like

most of his generation, became politically active around the struggle against the war in Vietnam. Wayne wanted to end that war but he also wanted to know why wars like that happened. When he met the YSA he learned that wars are caused by capitalism. And he became convinced that what he needed to do was to fight for a socialist revolution. Once Wayne made that decision he was totally confident of it.

It would be impossible to detail all of the assignments and responsibilities that Wayne took in the party. But I can detail his approach to his responsibilities, big and small — he worked as hard as was necessary to do them and do them well.

One of Wayne's characteristics was his interest in all new members of our movement — the importance he placed on helping new members learn to develop confidence in themselves, in their class, and in their party.

Wayne always worked to win new people to our movement. He approached winning young people — and not so young people — with a real fervor because he could think of nothing better for anyone to do with their lives than to work for the socialist revolution.

Wayne worked well with other people because he understood that each responsibility, each success, was not primarily an individual success but a collective success. His satisfaction with a task well done came from seeing it as a step forward in strengthening the party and the struggle of the working class.

### Took initiatives

In the years Wayne was in the party, many times he was elected to leading bodies in his branch, and many times he was not elected. But he always acted like a leader of his branch.

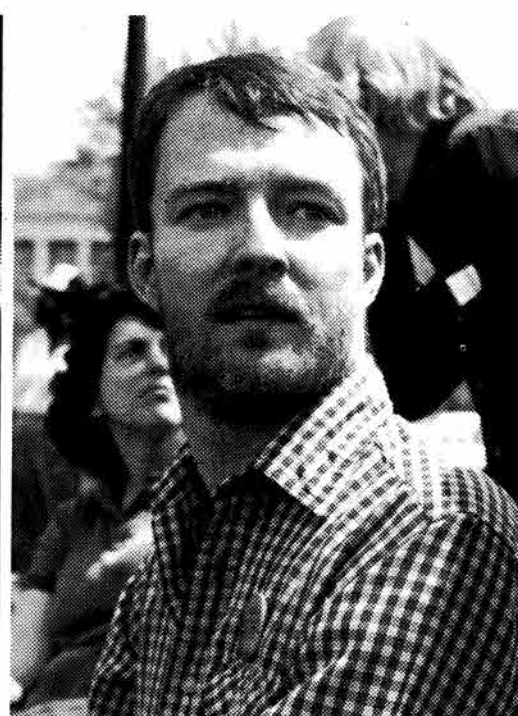
Wayne took initiatives. He went out looking for new opportunities for the party to work with other people and to advance the struggle. One example was Wayne's work in defense of the Cuban revolution. He saw the Cuban revolution as an inspiration. It proved that 90 miles off the coast of the colossal beast, the exploited workers and farmers can take control of their lives.

Wayne understood that Cuba was a shining example for all the Americas including the workers and the oppressed in this country, and he sought out other defenders of Cuba to work with in order to get out the truth.

Wayne studied Spanish so that he could read the speeches of the leaders of that



Militant Judy Stranahan



Militant Bruce Marcus

Andrea González addressing New York City meeting commemorating the life of Wayne Hieber (right)

great revolution, and to be able to have political discussions with Spanish-speaking coworkers.

### Fight against Briggs Initiative

An important political fight that Wayne helped lead when he lived in Los Angeles in 1978 was the successful campaign against the Briggs Initiative in California. This was a ballot referendum that called for preventing gays and lesbians from teaching in the California school system. It was not only a broadside attack on gay rights but also on the unions, since it provided the government with a handle to victimize unionists simply by charging them with being gay.

Wayne became a leader of the fight against Briggs in California. He put forward a perspective of involving the unions and other progressive forces in a public campaign to mobilize the broad opposition that existed to this attack on democratic rights. The Briggs Initiative was defeated.

For the last year or so Wayne was increasingly ill. Last winter he was diagnosed as having a terminal disease — AIDS.

Wayne understood that he was not simply the victim of a natural tragedy but also

of a brutal system — capitalism. The capitalist class allocates only a very small amount of money to cure AIDS or help its victims. And it uses the suffering of the thousands of people who have AIDS to advance its reactionary political goal of pushing back gay rights and all democratic rights.

Wayne was able to face his illness with strength because his life had such purpose. He knew his life had pushed forward the collective struggle for socialism.

Wayne fought against imperialist war in Vietnam, in Central America, in the Caribbean, and elsewhere; for gay rights; against racism; for union rights; and to build a revolutionary party to lead the struggle for a workers' and farmers' government. And that fighting spirit never failed him. It was his fighting spirit that inspired members of the party, YSA, and others who worked with him.

Wayne's life was the life of a revolutionary — honorable, stimulating, full of comradeship and friendship. His life was truly worth celebrating and emulating.

## Maine shipyard workers go out on strike

Continued from front page

management would not be able to process the enormous amount of paperwork associated with shipyard production and would be forced to resume negotiations with Local 7.

Without the direct support of the production local, however, Local 7 has been unable to get the company to negotiate at all. It has held firm for 10 weeks, partially with the help of \$28,000 raised by weekly collections at the gate organized by Local 6 of the Bath Maine Draftsmen Association, an independent union representing technical personnel at the yard whose contract expires in the fall.

Now the two IUMSWA locals are picketing together, staffing a common kitchen, preparing a solidarity rally to be held later this month, and digging in for a long haul.

A large majority are confident they can win.



Pickets at Bath Iron Works

## Castro speech on southern Africa in 'IP'

In late May, as South African troops are once again embarking on a series of attacks against Angola and other neighboring Black-ruled states, Cuban President Fidel Castro stressed that Cuban troops would remain in Angola "as long as necessary." He also reaffirmed Cuba's support for the Namibian independence struggle.

The July 22 *Intercontinental Press* features the text of Castro's speech, given at a rally of Namibian students studying in Cuba.

The Cuban troops in Angola, there at the invitation of the Angolan government, have helped defend that country against repeated South African invasions. In his speech, Castro responded to the demands of the U.S. and South African government that those troops be withdrawn before South African-ruled Namibia can gain its independence.

Angola — like most African governments — and Cuba have re-

jected that demand.

The same issue of *IP* includes an article reviewing the recent South African attacks against Angola, Botswana, and Mozambique, as well as its imposition of a new puppet government in Namibia — all of which have been encouraged by the U.S. rulers' alliance with the racist apartheid regime.

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# Denver paper features Goodman job fight

Following are major excerpts from the lead article in the June 12-18 issue of *Westword*, a weekly newspaper published in Denver, Colorado. It was titled "I am furious yellow. Is socialist Sally Goodman a threat to our national security?" Yellow is the color of Goodman's Secret Security Clearance badge, which was taken away from her when the government suspended her security clearance earlier this year.

Supporters of Goodman's case are taking her defense campaign nationally to labor officials, women's rights activists, civil libertarians, supporters of gay and lesbian rights, and fighters for the rights of Blacks, Latinos, and family farmers.

The Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) is coordinating support efforts. Endorsements and contributions should be sent to PRDF, 25 W 3rd Ave., Denver, Colorado 80223.

BY JOHN ASHTON

When an unnamed source informed the Pentagon's Defense Investigative Service (DIS) that Sally Goodman was an avowed socialist and possibly a lesbian, the agents in Denver and their superiors in Washington, D.C., threw up an official Red flag. To them, such information indicated that Goodman, a 27-year-old electrician at Martin Marietta Aerospace, might pose a "definite threat to the national security."

They began to interview her friends, co-workers, supervisors, neighbors, former neighbors, college roommates, ex-landlords and anybody else they could find. They followed her when she drove home, or when she went out at night; searched for police records in several cities where she used to live; checked her telephone records, postal records, employment records, school records; and have so far interrogated her twice about her politics, her sex life and her national-security responsibilities.

Goodman, who is a socialist and a lesbian (if that's any of our business), and who doesn't pretend not to be, has refused to answer official government questions concerning the first two categories.

She refuses to answer DIS agent Robert

Grisham when he asks her things like: "Are you presently or have you been previously a member of the Socialist Workers Party or the Young Socialist Alliance?" or, "Can you describe the general types of characterizations of individuals with whom you have participated in homosexual acts and whether or not these relationships were of a lasting nature or were they numerous transient liaisons through chance meetings?"

She refuses to answer such silly ones as: "Are you able at this time to provide a definition of the term 'democratic centralism?'" or, "I have a copy of the Declaration of Principles and Constitution of the SWP adopted in Chicago, December 31, 1937, January 1, 2, 3, 1938. Have you read this document?"

Each time Grisham asks her a question like that, Goodman responds by saying she is not a threat to national security, and she will not break the law; she will cooperate with the investigation, but she will not answer questions about her political beliefs and her private life, which is none of the federal government's business.

For a year DIS threatened to take away Goodman's Secret Security Clearance at Martin Marietta because they thought she was a communist and a homosexual who might feel compelled, by ideology or blackmail, to steal secrets and give them to the enemy, or to perform some sabotage upon the cutting-edge-of-high-tech space-and-weapons machinery they work on out there.

Finally this spring, the Defense Industrial Security Clearance Office (DISCO), which coordinates and makes decisions about information gathered by DIS, decided to suspend Goodman's Secret Security Clearance because she would not cooperate with the investigation.

That meant Goodman not only had to turn in her yellow (Secret Security Clearance) badge, but she was also boxed in legally, with no right to appeal. Under Directorate for Industrial Security Clearance Review (DISCR) rules, a "subject" can appeal only a yes-or-no decision — not a suspension.

Goodman has obtained the *pro bono* services of American Civil Liberties Union attorney John C. Tredennick, Jr., who has



Sally Goodman (center) with supporters demonstrating in front of Defense Investigative Service office in Denver last November 2. Picket protested government harassment of Goodman, an electrician employed by war-industry contractor.

advised her not to answer questions that violate her right to privacy and other constitutional rights. Tredennick, a member of the Denver law firm Holland & Hart, was scheduled to file for an injunction in federal court earlier this week in an attempt to force the Defense Department to make a yes-or-no decision, hoping to eventually do battle on the National-Security-vs.-Constitutional-Rights issues.

"What they did was really sneaky," Tredennick says. "They suspended her clearance for not answering questions, and are thereby denying her any appeal . . . They found this sort of fluke rule in the backwaters of the regulations; they found an illicit way to do what may or may not be legal when they finally do it."

"The issue," Tredennick continues, "is whether the Defense Investigative Service has any right to question her [Goodman] about her private life, her alleged lesbianism, and her affiliation with the Socialist Worker Party. They have no right to question her on either since they haven't shown how either has any relation to her ability to handle classified information."

Not that Goodman, as a maintenance electrician, ever really found herself in a position where she actually handled or even got within eyeshot of anything classi-

fied. Her erstwhile Secret clearance is comparatively low on the security totem, a full notch below Top Secret (blue badge), and a virtual outcast when compared to the inner circles wherein labor those scientists granted access to, and no doubt even creating, "Sensitive Compartmentalized Information" (unknown color badge), which is a clearance level so secure its very existence is referred to only vaguely by those who know. And just at the Secret clearance level, Goodman says, she was not allowed to enter classified areas without an official escort.

"Even with the yellow badge," she says, "if I went into a place where they were working on some classified material, I had to have a security guard with me, and they had to put all their work away and sit around and drink coffee until I got done."

"It's really a serious business out here," explains Walt Cooper, a public-information and relations man at Martin Marietta. "It's hard for people on the outside to understand."

It's a bit difficult for Goodman to swallow as well — and she's on the inside. She worked there as a simple electrician, replacing bulbs, tinkering with wiring in machines, and fixing down electrical equipment.

She, along with about 1,000 other employees at Martin Marietta, are members of the United Auto, Aerospace and Agriculture Implement Workers of America, commonly known as the UAW. The local in Denver has supported Goodman most of the way, filing grievances for harassment . . . and protesting DIS tactics in the investigation.

Goodman has been active in union meetings, and although she has avoided running for stewardship or other office, she has seldom been reluctant to file her own grievances in the past, over everything from improper distribution of overtime to a superior's unauthorized operation of a fork-lift. She is even considered a troublemaker by some.

Goodman feels, in fact, that a major part of the motivation behind the DIS investigation is to thwart her busy union activism.

"She has accused us of trying to break the union," says Cooper, "and that's just not so. That has nothing to do with it . . . All of this is not Marietta's prerogative. It's up to the Department of Defense. If we violate their regulations, we could lose our contracts, and could be out of the running for future contracts."

For the past few months, Goodman has been away from work on a medical leave of absence.

According to Cooper, Martin Marietta has an electrician's job waiting for her when she returns. . . .

"We're a huge operation out here," he says. "A person does not necessarily need to have a security clearance to work here . . . we have lots of employees who don't have security clearances. When Sally comes back, she has a job here, and I don't mean just sitting around changing light bulbs."

Martin Marietta, with its aerospace, weapons, communication and data systems divisions, employs more than 11,000 workers in the Denver area. More than 5,000 of them work at the main plant in Waterton, southwest of Denver.

When it enters into a contract with a company like Martin Marietta, one of the

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## Rally hits attack on S.F. garment workers

BY DANIELA DIXON

SAN FRANCISCO — A spirited picket line and rally of about 30 people greeted the workers of Gunne Sax, a garment shop in San Francisco's South of Market warehouse district, on June 12. The picket line was called by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) in response to an appeal for help from the workers of Gunne Sax to organize a union at their shop.

The struggle started last March when the whole cutting department was laid off indefinitely with no advance notice. These workers knew they were permanently out of a job as the company could simply contract out the cutting work to a shop with lower wages. So they went to the ILGWU

asking for help to organize a union.

The latest blow to the workers came in May when eight workers in the shipping department were fired on various pretexts. The workers feel they were fired because of their pro-union stance.

The majority of workers at the Gunne Sax shop are Filipino and Chinese. The actual sewing of the garments is contracted out to sweat shops in Chinatown, Oakland, and Sacramento.

About 15 workers from Gunne Sax took part in the picket line, among whom were the eight fired shipping clerks. These workers explained to the *Militant* that they were given various phony reasons by the company for their firings: being late for work, sleeping on the job, refusing

changes in work assignments, etc.

They told how workers in their shop have been threatened by the company with loss of medical and other benefits and the closing down of the plant if they dare to vote for the union.

One Filipino worker the *Militant* spoke with told how he had left the Philippines four years ago to come to the United States to escape the poverty that workers suffer in his country. He explained that he worked at a U.S. military base there as a mason-carpenter. He earned the equivalent of US\$25 dollars a week. "I've been trying to get a job here as a construction worker but haven't had any luck. So I have to work at Gunne Sax for \$4 an hour."

On the picket line in solidarity with the Gunne Sax workers were members of Service Employees International Union Local 87. This is a janitors' union which recently defeated a takeback contract the bosses were trying to shove down their throats. Many members of this union are Latino and Asian.

During the picket line and rally several workers could be seen at the windows of the plant listening intently to the speakers. Mattie Jackson, Northwest regional director of the ILGWU and Mark Wodyka, organizing director for ILGWU, both spoke.

Wodyka said that "the union has come to Gunne Sax today to give the workers encouragement and to show them that they have a right to be represented by a union." He said the union would press forward to organize the shop.

Also speaking were: Walter Johnson, head of the San Francisco Labor Council; George Wong, president of the Asian American Federation of Union Members; and Reverend Jake, a Lutheran minister from the nearby, mostly Latino, Mission District.

Daniela Dixon is a laid-off member of ILGWU Local 101.



Members of Asian American Federation of Union Members at Gunne Sax garment shop in San Francisco. The federation, along with other unionists, responded to call for help from garment workers being victimized by company.



# Women miners challenge sex discrimination

BY CHARLENE ADAMSON  
AND CECELIA MORIARTY

PRICE, Utah — At the Seventh National Conference of Women Miners, held here June 21-23, participants renewed their determination to defend the right of women to be miners and to help advance the struggle of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) against union-busting and unsafe working conditions.

The conference was sponsored by the Coal Employment Project (CEP) and the Coal Mining Women's Support Teams. The CEP is an organization that helps women get and keep jobs in the mining industry. As part of its efforts to combat sexual harassment and discrimination, the CEP began sponsoring yearly national conferences of women miners in 1979.

The CEP also helps women miners form local support teams. These teams offer aid and solidarity to women miners and work with the UMWA to help bring the power of the union behind the fight against discrimination. They also help involve women in the UMWA's fight for safety and union rights.

Through the efforts of the CEP, the support teams, and the strong endorsement of the UMWA international office, this year's conference drew 250 people in all. The majority of miners attending were coal miners and members of the UMWA. There were some women from unorganized coal

mines. In addition there were copper, uranium, and molybdenum miners. A sizable number of male UMWA members participated, including retirees.

## Not fighting to become bosses

At a news conference on the first day of the conference, CEP Director Betty Jean Hall explained the goals of the CEP. Contrary to some distorted news reports about the conference, she said, the fight of women miners for their rights has nothing to do with becoming bosses in industry. "We're not trying to show women miners how to move into management. Women miners don't want to be foremen or supervisors," she said.

The gains that have been won for equal rights in the mines, she stressed, are in good part because of the support the CEP has received from the UMWA.

UMWA Secretary-Treasurer John Banovic, in his keynote address the next day, pledged that support would continue. The UMWA's decision several years ago to begin endorsing the women miners conferences, he said, "was one of the best moves our union ever made. The United Mine Workers of America endorsed this event, and continues to actively participate in it, because it offers an important forum for the discussion of issues that confront not only you as women and as miners, but all working people."

Banovic said the women miners had made important contributions to the UMWA since they first forced coal companies to hire them in the 1970s. "You won the battle to get hired in one of the most discriminatory industries in the country," he said. "You have stood up against sexual harassment in the mines, and by doing so have helped fight all forms of discrimination against all miners."

"You can be proud of the place you have earned in this union, which was no easy accomplishment," he added. "Many times your union brothers may have been slow to recognize and accept what you had to offer."

## Broader view of national union

This was the first time that the annual women miners conference was held in the West. Women decided at their conference last year to demonstrate their solidarity with western women miners by scheduling this year's gathering in Utah.

Banovic noted that holding the conference in the West made the gathering "a truly national event." Miners came from 15 states — spanning Appalachia, the Southeast, the Midwest, and the West — as well as Canada. For UMWA members in particular, it was an opportunity to gain a broader view of the many important components of the UMWA. While the majority of participants were underground miners, there were more strip miners than at previous conferences. The important role that Spanish-speaking and Native American miners play in the union was more visible, through the contributions made at the conference by unionists from Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. Black miners from several eastern states also participated.

Race discrimination was an important topic in several of the workshops. At one, it was reported that UMWA Local 2295 in southern Illinois has just filed an important class-action suit against the Monterey Coal Co., owned by Exxon Corp., for racially-motivated firings of Black miners. As the union explains in its suit, these discriminatory firings have hurt not only the dismissed Black union members but all members of the local.

## 'We all have something in common'

The conference attracted UMWA members who had not attended these gatherings before, as well as women from other unions, such as the United Steelworkers

(USWA); Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; and International Ladies' Garment Workers'. Copper miners organized by the USWA in Arizona participated, most of them strikers against the Phelps Dodge Corp.

A representative of the Salt Lake City Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) gave greetings to the conference. Conference organizers urged women UMWA members to join CLUW and participate in it.

A number of those in attendance were also farmers or ranchers, raising livestock or growing grain and feed in addition to working in the mines.

The first night's program, which featured a Mexican mariachi band, drew a good number of Spanish-speaking families from the surrounding coal communities.

As Joy Huitt, the chairwoman of this year's conference, told the opening session: "We all have something in common here. This is a conference of working people." Huitt is president of the Lady Miners of Utah and a member of UMWA Local 8303.

## Exchange of experiences

There were a host of workshops on such topics as sex and race discrimination in the workplace, how to organize a women's support team, how women miners can increase their self-confidence, and how to fight for safety in the mines. Informal discussions also took place throughout the weekend, where women exchanged their experiences and discussed their common problems on the job.

According to the CEP, 3,825 women have been hired in underground coal mines

# UMWA men

BY CINDY JAQUITH

PRICE, Utah — One of the strengths of this year's national conference of women miners was the participation of more miners from the Western states. This was the first conference ever held in the West. It attracted a larger number from the strip mines, and involved more Native American miners from Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, and Spanish-speaking miners from Colorado, Arizona, and Utah.

Evelyn Luna, a young Navajo, came from Kayenta, Arizona. She has been working at the Kayenta Mine for four years and is a member of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1924.

Luna also attended last year's women miners' conference, held in Charleston, West Virginia. She first learned about these conferences from reading the *United Mine Workers Journal*, the UMWA paper.

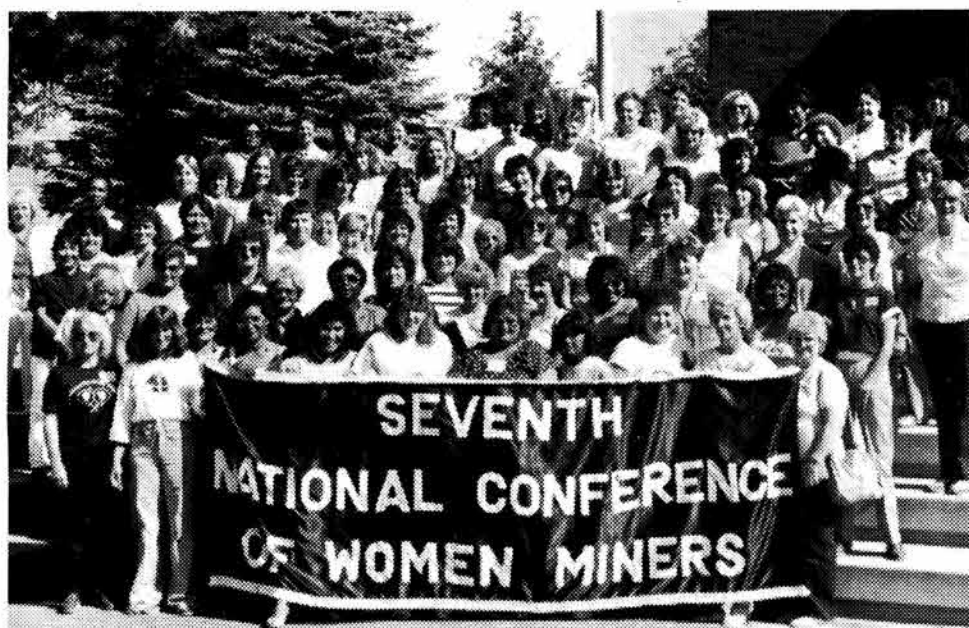
Out of the work force of 441 at the strip mine where she works there are only four or five women. What do the male miners think about her working at the mine? They have "different opinions," she says. Some don't believe women belong in the mines; that they're taking jobs away from men. "They just don't look at us like we have families to support too."

Luna's local, however, voted to get her time off so she could attend the conference. As for whether she'll stick with her job, she says, "Nobody's going to get me out of the mine."

Another conference participant from Kayenta was John Muir, chairman of the union safety committee of UMWA Local 1620 at the Black Mesa Mine. Muir said he came because he is a member of the Coal Miners Political Action Committee and felt he should keep informed of gatherings like this.

Muir is a Cherokee, originally from Oklahoma. He now lives on the Navajo reservation, called the Navajo Nation, with his family. Although the Navajo language is not taught in the public schools, he has made sure his children learn the language and their heritage at home.

Muir described the various Southwest Native American tribes whose members work in the coal mines. In Arizona, there are Navajos and Hopis. In Utah, Utes and



Women miners from 15 states and Canada attended national conference

## Lady Miners of Utah builds solidarity among women

PRICE, Utah — Hosting this year's national conference was the Lady Miners of Utah, one of the women miners support teams that exist across the country.

The Lady Miners of Utah meets regularly to discuss sexual harassment cases in the mines. Women miners seek out the group for help with specific problems on the job. The Lady Miners works with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) to defend women miners victimized by discrimination.

Although a number of members of the Lady Miners are currently laid off, they see the need to support their sisters still working and to help combat the isolation felt by women in this industry. The Lady Miners maintains regular contact with its members

and uses the newspapers and radio to publicize its events.

The group has held a number of educational meetings, including a showing of the documentary *Harlan County U.S.A.*, a talk on the Scofield, Utah, mine disaster early in this century, and a reception for a striking British coal miner.

In December 1984, when a fire at the Wilberg Mine near here took the lives of 27 people, the Lady Miners pitched in to help organize food and supplies for the rescue teams and solidarity for the relatives of the union victims.

In order to build this year's national conference as widely as possible, the Lady Miners sent teams to the Navajo Nation in Arizona, to Wyoming, and to Colorado to encourage women miners to attend. They held meetings with the miners and showed a video of the 1984 national women miners conference.

The Lady Miners has attracted the attention of the press in these coal-mining communities. The *Daily Rocket-Miner*, published in Rock Springs, Wyoming, for example, carried the following two interviews with activists in the Lady Miners:

\* \* \*

Rose Hurtado, a Chicana, went to work in the Price River Coal Mine in 1980.

After working on various jobs, including restaurants at low wages, she considered coal mining as an occupation because of the high pay. "As a single parent of five

children, going underground was a matter of survival for myself and my family," Mrs. Hurtado said.

"Initially, it was difficult to adjust to work in an underground coal mine, but the other miners were very supportive and helpful," she added. She says she was able to do the work alongside her male coworkers and enjoyed financial security for the first time from her employment.

Mrs. Hurtado encourages other women to become coal miners and looks forward to being called back from layoff.

Aggie Peirce of Price, Utah, has worked all her life, but the job that has provided the highest income and the best benefits has been her job as an underground miner.

Mrs. Peirce, who works for U.S. Fuel at Hiawatha, Utah, about 20 miles from Price, Utah, has shoveled belt and done masonry work for U.S. Fuel for the last eight years. U.S. Fuel is owned by Sheron Steel, she says. Her son was killed nearly three years ago at this same mine.

While most of the predominantly male work force accepts her as a woman miner, she says she has experienced some difficulty from a few individuals including management.

"I feel that I have a right to work in a mine because I can perform as well as the male miners. I would like to see more women exercise this right and take mining jobs," Mrs. Peirce said.



Lady Miners Rose Hurtado and Aggie Peirce



# tion, defend union

ince 1973. Although exact figures are not available, a significant number of these women have been forced out through layoffs. Discrimination in hiring also persists — in 1984, only 7.9 percent of the miners hired were women.

The UMWA's stand against sex discrimination and its active participation in the annual women miners conferences has strengthened the position of women in the mines. At this year's conference, a number of UMWA locals that had not previously participated voted to send delegates. There were also some instances reported at the conference of discrimination cases where the union has not backed up the women involved. The final session of the conference voted to consider having a workshop next year on how to most effectively use the power of the union to defend victimized women miners.

## Massey strike

In the workshop on "UMWA Issues in the '80s," discussion focused on how women could support members of the union on strike against the A.T. Massey Corp. in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky. The strikers have been out since October 1984, when Massey refused to sign the national contract negotiated by the UMWA and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association.

Many miners view this battle as an attempt to bust the UMWA that will spread if it turned back. Said a woman miner from Kentucky, "If they wipe out the miners at A.T. Massey, they're going to be in bloody Harlan next."

A male miner from Appalachia reported that his local would be sending two or three

busloads to the scene of the strike after the conference. He described the spread of nonunion mines in northern West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

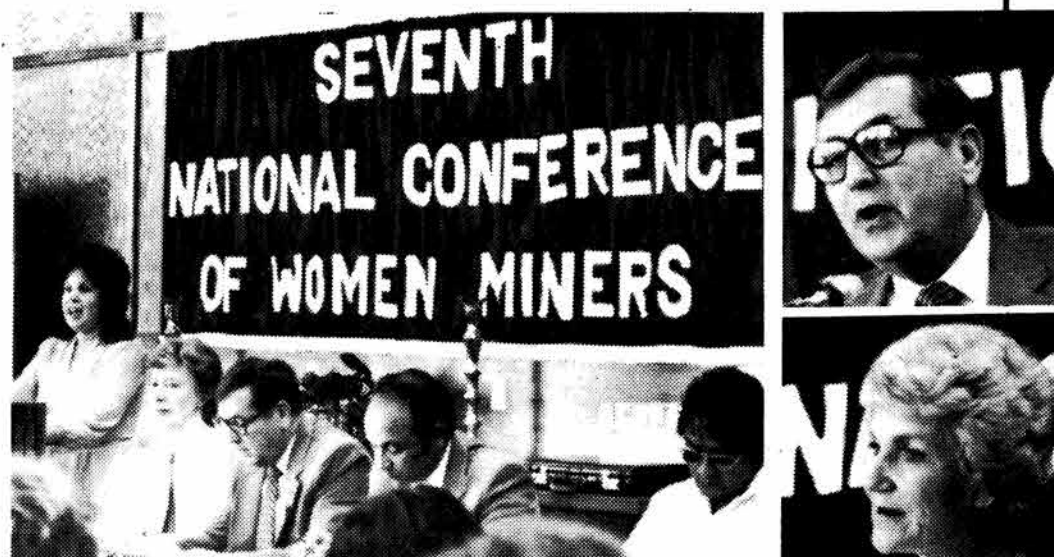
Mike Dalpiaz, president of UMWA District 22 in the West, urged miners to get the word out in their locals about the A.T. Massey strike.

The workshop drew up a resolution in support of the Massey strikers that was adopted at the final session of the conference. The resolution pledged that conference participants would "seek to involve our local unions in all possible support activities, including the international's 'Adopt-A-Local' program, attempt to get fair media coverage, and get other organizations involved in support activities for our brothers and sisters on the front lines of this fight for our union."

## Parental leave

Another important issue discussed by the conference was the fight to win a clause in the national UMWA contract guaranteeing paid leave for male and female miners who need time off to take care of their children. Through the efforts of women UMWA members, the 1983 UMWA convention voted to make parental leave a demand in the union's 1984 contract negotiations. The 1984 national contract contains a "letter of intent" that the union and companies will negotiate such a clause, but the coal operators have been stalling.

At a workshop on the parental leave fight, one woman miner described company harassment against her for missing work in order to take care of a very ill daughter. The company told her that if she had to take any more time off, her daughter



Coal Employment Project Director Betty Jean Hall addresses opening session of conference. Photos at right: UMWA Secretary-Treasurer John Banovic and Lady Miners President Joy Huitt.

was "better off dead or in a foster home."

Another miner reported that a young male UMWA member from Alabama was killed in a mine accident after he had stayed up two nights in a row tending a sick child. He was forced to keep going in to work because he had no more days off.

At the final session, the women resolved to return to their locals to continue working with the UMWA on all levels to educate other union members about the importance of the parental leave fight and to work to see that it becomes a part of the next national contract.

## International visits

As is traditional at the annual conferences, this year a workshop was held where women could report on international trips they have taken.

Joy Huitt from the Lady Miners of Utah described her visits to the Soviet Union and

India. She reported that while there are no women working underground in the Soviet Union, the safety conditions for miners are very advanced. In India, by contrast, she found that coal miners face very dangerous conditions and lack proper safety equipment. She described miners — men, women, and children — who have been maimed by mining accidents and said that women's rights groups in India are working with women miners to improve the situation.

Kipp Dawson, a member of UMWA Local 1197 in Pennsylvania, gave an eyewitness report on the yearlong strike by British coal miners to stop a government plan to close down many mines. The strikers were forced back to work, she said, because the official leadership of the trade union movement and the Labor Party failed to organize the solidarity they needed.

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# bers in the West: 'proud to represent the union'

Navajos. In New Mexico, Pueblos. In Colorado, Zunis and Utes.

Muir spent a good deal of his time at the conference proudly staffing a display of Navajo artwork and jewelry set up by the Navajo miners. The display attracted the most attention of all the booths conference participants set up.

From Colstrip, Montana, came Joyce Muhlbeier, the financial secretary and treasurer of UMWA Local 1575. One of three women at the strip mine, she works as a pipe attendant. The tippie is where the mined coal is loaded into vehicles for transport.

Muhlbeier has a six-year-old son and is a single parent. She went into mining because it was hard to find a better-paying job.

This was her first time at a women miners' conference. She found out about it through her local union president, who had been given a letter from the UMWA urging members to attend the gathering. Her local paid all her expenses.

Muhlbeier has been working at the mine since 1981. Before that, she did road construction. Working while caring for her son as always been difficult. She hopes the union is successful in winning a clause in the next national contract for paid parental leave, so working parents can take care of all children.

She was elected by the Western women miners to represent them on the Advisory Board of the Coal Employment Project, which organizes the yearly conferences. She plans to bring some of her male coworkers to next year's gathering: "They should be involved in this."

Two of the many male miners who attended this year's conference were especially inspired by it. Frank Karneley and Tony Ungaro, retired members of UMWA Local 6417 in Colorado, scraped together the money to attend and were glad they did.

"The women here have done a wonderful job. It's time they're being recognized in the coal industry," said Karneley, who lives in Somerset, Colorado.

"I'm proud to be here," said Ungaro, from Paonia, Colorado.

Both UMWA veterans listened attentively in the workshops and took the opportunity to meet as many of the other participants as possible. Said Karneley, "We're just a couple of broken-down old coal miners, but you're never too old to learn something new."

Another miner who learned a lot over the weekend was Loretta Helfenstein, from Washburn, North Dakota. This was her first conference and the union paid her way. A member of UMWA Local 9702, she works at a strip mine owned by the Basin Cooperative Services. She also serves on the union safety committee.

Helfenstein is currently a tippie laborer. Before becoming a miner, she worked in construction and as a welder. Her father was an ironworker and her mother is a seamstress.

Like many other women at the conference, Helfenstein is a single parent, raising two daughters.

She is the only woman working at the mine, out of 60 to 80 workers. "Being a woman, you're always being tested," she says. "There are days I ask myself, 'What am I doing here?'"

"But I'm proud to be a miner," she concludes, "and I'm proud to be representing my union at this conference."



Conference display set up by Navajo miners from Arizona

Militant/Cindy Jaquith

# 'Deaths of these miners will not be in vain'

PRICE, Utah — The women miners conference was held here just 40 miles from the Wilberg mine, where a fire on Dec. 19, 1984, claimed the lives of 27 people, 19 of them members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2176.

In the course of the union's investigation of the fire, major safety violations by the company have been exposed. As UMWA Secretary-Treasurer John Banovic said in his keynote address to the conference, "That disaster should never have happened, but it did happen, for two reasons: because the coal industry continues to put profit before mine safety, and because the federal agency in charge of regulation en-

forcement lets them get away with it."

At the opening session of the conference, Joy Huitt, president of the Lady Miners of Utah, read a message to the women miners from Renae Conover, widow of Gordon Conover, one of the members of UMWA Local 2176 killed in the Wilberg mine fire.

"Special thanks to all. Please don't let this terrible waste go in vain. Continue to right the wrong done, by fighting hard for safety and by enforcing and using all you have available to make the mines safe."

"Let the children of the ones who died find a safe, secure place to work when it is their time to go underground."

"Women miners called from all over the nation to share our sorrow. Thank you, sisters."

The conference adopted the following resolution: "The Seventh National Conference of Women Miners extends its heartfelt sympathy to the families of the brothers and sister killed in the Wilberg disaster. The death of these miners will not be in vain. The participants at this conference pledge that each and every one of us will work with renewed determination to defend our right to a safe workplace, a right won through years of struggle by our union. Another Wilberg, caused by the greed of the coal barons, must not happen."



# GE contract voted down by Lynn IUE

Continued from back page

hospital review board where GE would have to preapprove all hospitalization surgery. If workers fail to follow the screening procedures, they will be socked with 50 percent of the bill, which in some cases will wipe out a worker's life savings. Together these concessions will cost GE workers millions of dollars and open the door to further takebacks in the future.

GE attempted to sweeten its offer by making minor improvements in other areas, such as eye care and dental coverage, and modest increases in pensions for those now working. In addition, there are certain improvements in so-called job security language that will cushion the effect

of plant closings. This is a serious concern in some locals given the fact that GE has closed more than 20 plants.

One of the bigger gains pointed to by union officials is the inclusion of an agency shop in the contract. This means workers will have to join the union or pay a service fee equal to union dues. The union has estimated that this will bring in the equivalent of 2-3,000 new dues-paying members to the union.

The reaction on the floor of GE's Lynn plant when the terms of the contract became known was one of shock. Its 8,300 members make Local 201 the second largest IUE-GE local in the country. The initial shock was followed by anger that

GE would go for takebacks given its fabulous profits. Workers were angry despite the fact that if the contract favors anyone, it is the higher-paid workers that make up the bulk of the local's membership.

Many workers were expecting substantial improvements given GE's wealth and the union's public stance of "no concessions" going into contract negotiations. The discussion forced workers to confront many questions as they weighed their decision whether to accept or reject the contract and possibly go on strike. Many workers understood the dangers of the bonus system and the two-tier wage system. One older worker commented, "My family has worked for GE for 100 years, and it has

been the 2 percent and 3 percent raises that have added up to give us what we have today."

Another machinist in my building pointed out that having a new worker on the next machine working for several dollars less an hour will give the company the incentive to get rid of higher seniority workers, something that is increasingly possible as our jobs are further simplified through automation.

While many liked the minor improvements that were added, workers pointed out that they will be offset by loss of health care. As one person said, "They're giving with one hand and taking away with the other, and we wind up with nothing."

Though many saw the gain that the agency shop represented, several expressed the opinion that it was just a way for the union officials to collect more dues.

Finally, workers were faced with the decision of whether or not to strike. There was a lot of confusion in the beginning when it was announced that the union leadership supported the contract. One co-worker said to me, "How can we go on strike after the union has said the contract was great?"

This changed when the local union leadership came out against the proposal. Both the Local 201 executive board and the shop stewards' council voted unanimously to recommend rejection on July 3. The local meeting on the contract held July 7 was attended by more than 1,000 members.

GE organized a massive campaign to sell the contract through newspaper ads. A flood of company propaganda appeared on television. Management people in the shop pushed it as well. These included threatening to cut off all insurance benefits immediately if we went on strike. Despite that, our local rejected the contract.

Russell Davis is a member of IUE Local 201 and works at the Lynn GE plant.

## Cleveland discusses 'agency shop'

CLEVELAND — On July 9, IUE Local 715 held two separate, well-attended meetings — one for second-shift workers, and the other for the first shift — to discuss and vote on the tentative agreement with General Electric.

Workers were generally in a positive mood about the contract. When Local 715 President Fred Chapman explained the agency provision of the contract, workers greeted it with an enthusiastic round of applause. Most workers here see this as a gain that will end the open-shop character of GE.

Nearly half the workers at the Euclid Lamp plant, which Local 715 represents, are not in the union. One worker said, "At last we will be able to make everyone pay for the load we've been carrying."

At the meeting for the first-shift workers, many expressed resentment about the wage blow up for the highest-paid workers, which would give them an extra \$.35 an hour pay increase. Some 15 to 20 workers asked questions about this clause and wondered why production workers weren't included. One woman worker said, "You give us 3 percent; you give skilled workers 3 percent plus a wage increase. I feel like I'm getting nothing."

This meeting was the first time that

Local 715 members found out that new hires would start at a lower pay rate and take up to two years to reach full rate.

One worker asked if this was a two-tier system and expressed his belief that it weakened the union. The local leadership responded that it wasn't really a two-tier wage — that two-tiers are more severe in cuts and that workers never catch up. A woman worker responded that this was, in fact, a mild form of the two-tier wage sys-

tem. Workers applauded her when she said, "We need to take our responsibility for workers who are following us at GE seriously. This clause weakens the union and divides young workers from old workers and only helps the company."

By a big majority, the mood of the membership was to accept the contract.

The other IUE-GE local in Cleveland, Local 707, voted 527-81 for the contract.

## S. Africa massacres Blacks

Continued from front page

a house-to-house search in Duduza, a Black township east of Johannesburg.

The South African government tried to keep quiet about the Duduza killings, which were made public by Black-oriented newspapers.

In addition, there is growing evidence that the government is organizing covert death squads to "disappear" and murder opponents of apartheid.

The latest such incident to be publicized was the discovery of the bodies of four Black leaders near Port Elizabeth. They included Matthew Goniwe and Fort Calata, schoolteachers and organizers of an anti-

apartheid boycott of classes by students in Lingelihle township. Goniwe and Calata were last seen alive by their friends on the evening of June 27 when they left a meeting of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a predominantly Black coalition opposed to apartheid.

Their bodies were stabbed, mutilated, and incinerated.

At a July 4 news conference, a UDF representative said that the circumstances "only allow us to believe that they have been victims of political assassinations or abductions created either by the regime or its agents."

The UDF charged that 27 people had disappeared in the Eastern Cape, Transvaal, and Orange Free State provinces of South Africa. UDF representatives charged that 20 more are on "hit lists."

The government responded by blaming the four assassinations on "the internecine power struggle between opposing radical organizations." The move to pin the killings on the anti-apartheid movement lends strong support to charges that the government is involved in the murders and disappearances.

On July 5 a panel including a Supreme Court judge found two white doctors guilty of "disgraceful conduct" in the death of Steve Biko, the leader of Black student protests who was murdered by cops in 1977.

In fact, the evidence proved that the doctors were accomplices of the cops in the assassination of Biko. The doctors allowed Biko to be transported 800 miles from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg, naked and manacled in the back of a Land-Rover, despite the fact that they knew he appeared to be suffering brain damage after being brutally beaten by cops.

According to the July 6 *New York Times*, one of the doctors allowed Biko to be transported — guaranteeing his death — "even though he had seen that the detainee was frothing at the mouth, hyperventilating, and had collapsed."

The other doctor "failed to insure that Mr. Biko was taken to Pretoria by ambulance, knowing that there would be no medical personnel to attend him on the way."

Before being brought to the doctors, Biko's captors left the badly beaten youth "lying on a urine-soaked mattress and restrained by handcuffs and leg irons."

One doctor received a reprimand. The other was handed a three-month suspension of practice, but this sentence "was itself suspended for two years," reported the *New York Times*.

The cop responsible for Biko while he was in the Port Elizabeth jail has been promoted to brigadier.

## Black rights win in Alabama

Continued from front page

Young testified that he had worked with Turner in the early days of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Young described him as an organizer of the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery, which was a key battle in the civil rights struggle and helped lead to the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

The Black Belt Defense Committee, which led the political defense of the Marion Three, held several meetings and rallies in the past several months that emphasized the racist nature of the government's attack. These meetings stressed the issues that Judge Cox had forbidden in the courtroom: that the FBI and Justice Department had selected for prosecution figures who had been prominent in a number of struggles, from the early civil rights battles to the fight for the rights of Black farmers and the defense of workers near an Alabama toxic-waste dump.

The Justice Department carried out the investigation of the Turners and Hogue by getting a list of 23 absentee voters from Perry County Commissioner Reese Billingslea. Billingslea, who was not endorsed by the Perry County Civic League (of which the Turners and Hogue are leaders), expected these 23 to vote for him in the primary election last September. The probe began on the assumption that any votes against Billingslea in this group must be fraudulent.

In the days preceding the primary, FBI agents hid at the post office, waiting for absentee ballots to be mailed, and marked each one with a "T" or an "H" — indicating whether Albert Turner or Hogue had delivered it. The ballots were then opened, and agents made notes indicating which signed envelopes had enclosed which ballot.

In rural Perry County many people who live in out-of-the-way places and do not have access to transportation depend on the absentee ballot. In a September 1984 primary election, 700 out of 10,000 voters cast absentee ballots. Of these, 18 absentee ballots were finally used as testimony against the Marion Three.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

### 'PM': abortion rights under attack

In 1969, a year before the state of New York adopted laws that eliminated many of the restrictions on the right to abortion, nearly 210,000 women were admitted to New York City hospitals due to complications after having unsafe and unsanitary illegal abortions. Poor, Black, and Latina women were the hardest hit.

After a long struggle by women's rights fighters, an important victory was achieved in 1973, when the Supreme Court ruled that laws that restricted abortion before the 24th week of pregnancy were unconstitutional.

Now the right of women to control their own bodies is being increasingly targeted by the government, the church hierarchy, and other right-wing forces. The right to abortion is being restricted in many states.

A major article by Pat Grogan in the new issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* traces the history of the struggle for women's right to safe, legal abortion in the United States, and points to the new fight that is needed to defend and strengthen those gains.

*Perspectiva Mundial* is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every two weeks brings you the truth about the struggles of working people and the oppressed in the U.S. and around the world.

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# Anti-apartheid rallies demand divestment

## Milw. rally links anti-apartheid fight to antiwar struggle

BY BILL BREIHAN

MILWAUKEE — Nearly 100 people participated in an anti-apartheid rally here June 23. The rally was organized by the recently formed Free South Africa Coalition and featured Solly Simelane, a representative of the African National Congress (ANC).

Simelane began by saluting the martyrs of the liberation struggle in Central America, who, he said, had lost their lives fighting the same imperialist enemy the people of South Africa were up against.

Simelane hit the recent reforms carried out by the apartheid regime. "Reform," he said, "is not the issue. The apartheid regime must be totally dismantled." The ANC, he said, will continue its 30-year struggle to bring down the U.S.-backed apartheid regime. "What we are talking about," he said, "is the struggle for the seizure of political power."

Simelane called for total divestment of funds in companies doing business in South Africa. He emphasized the powerful impact that the worldwide anti-apartheid movement was having in South Africa and called on "the international community to make South Africa ungovernable."

Other speakers at the rally included state representatives Marcia and Spencer Coggs; Vel Phillips, former Wisconsin Secretary of State Warren Braun; Milwaukee Catho-

lic Archdiocese; and John Parr, executive director of District Council 48 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. A message of solidarity from Judy Goldsmith, president of the National Organization for Women, was also read to the rally.

Rigoberta Menchú, Guatemalan peasant leader and delegate to the United Nations Commission on Refugees, also spoke. The main way that the people of Central America are aiding the South African freedom struggle, explained Menchú, is by fighting a common enemy — U.S. imperialism.

## 200 in Dallas participate in Free S. Africa Day

BY LEE OLESON

DALLAS — The movement against apartheid here took some big steps forward in June.

The Dallas City Council passed an anti-apartheid resolution, a representative of the African National Congress (ANC) toured the Dallas area, and some 200 people participated in the first annual Free South Africa Day on June 22.

The high point of Free South Africa Day was a speech by ANC representative Ben Mokoena. The ANC is fighting for Black majority rule in South Africa. Mokoena denounced the U.S. government for its support to the apartheid regime. He commended those who helped get the anti-apartheid resolution passed by the city council, which was approved June 12. Since the resolution is nonbinding the city does not have to divest funds it has invested in companies doing business in South Africa.

At the protest Mokoena called for economic sanctions against South Africa. Mokoena had also appeared before the city council June 19 to ask for support for further economic sanctions.



Militant/Lee Oleson  
Ben Mokoena of African National Congress at Dallas rally.

Other speakers at Free South Africa Day included Dallas City Council member Diane Ragsdale, Dallas Jackson of the Citizens' Police/Paramedic Complaint Committee, Rev. Leroy Haynes, and representatives from the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, the Young Socialist Alliance, and the All-African Peoples' Revolutionary Party.

Mokoena also met with hundreds of officials of the United Auto Workers Union who were in Dallas for the NAACP national convention. On June 25, Mokoena addressed an international affairs workshop there. He also spoke to students at Bishop College and at Southern Methodist University.

## Seattle unionists, activists mark Soweto uprising

BY DAN FEIN

SEATTLE — On June 16, 400 people here marched to commemorate the ninth anniversary of the Soweto uprising in South Africa. The march and rally was sponsored by the Seattle Committee Against Apartheid (SCAA) and endorsed by dozens of churches, unions, and political organizations. It demanded an end to U.S. government and corporate support for apartheid, equal education from Seattle to South Africa, and an end to U.S. military and nuclear collaboration with apartheid.

The march included a contingent of unionists from the United Food and Commercial Workers, International Association of Machinists, Communication Workers of America, Service Employees' International Union, the International Union of Electronic Workers, as well as hospital workers, and postal and other government workers.

Speakers at the rally included Liz Jackson, a leader of Seattle's Black Educators Association; Gerald Lenoir, chairperson of SCAA; and Dorinda Henry, leader of Students Against Apartheid at the University of Washington.

After the rally, a car caravan went to the South African consulate, where weekly pickets of some 100 people have been organized for the last six months. On June 16, a wooden coffin was placed there as a memorial to Black youths killed by the South African police in 1976. Twelve protesters were arrested on charges of criminal trespassing for refusing to leave consulate property.

Supporters of Chris Horner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Seattle, circulated a petition to get Horner's name on the ballot. They met with a warm response from demonstrators. Seventy-five people signed the petition.

## Women miners hit discrimination

Continued from Page 9

However, she said, the fight to defend mine jobs continues, as do efforts to win amnesty for fired miners and freedom for those jailed during the strike.

There was a report on the conditions of Black miners in South Africa. The death rate for Black gold miners there, it was reported, is 12 times higher than that of U.S. miners. Black miners are forced to live in segregated barracks far away from their families. They work in 140-degree heat for one-sixth the wages of white miners.

Cecelia Moriarity, of the Lady Miners of Utah and UMWA Local 2176, presented a slide show on her trip to Nicaragua. She described the advances that have been made there since the 1979 overthrow of the dictator Anastasio Somoza — in health care, safety on the job, unionization, and bringing women into the work force. She noted in particular the gains that Nicaraguan gold miners have made.

Her slide show also depicted the effects of the military attacks on Nicaragua by supporters of Somoza who are armed and trained by the U.S. government. More than 8,000 Nicaraguans have been killed or wounded in this war.

At the close of the conference, the women miners adopted resolutions of solidarity with the British coal miners and with copper miners striking Phelps Dodge in Arizona.

The women miners voted to hold next year's conference in Kentucky. The dates are June 27-29, 1986. For more information, contact the Coal Employment Project, 16221 Sunny Knoll Lane, Dumfries, Virginia 22026.

The authors of this article are both active in the Lady Miners of Utah. Charlene Adamson is a sewing machine operator and member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 294. Cecelia Moriarity is a member of UMWA Local 2176.

### Revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean

Don't go looking in the big-business press for the truth about Cuba and Nicaragua. It isn't there. It is, however, in the Militant. See the ad on page 2 for subscription details.

## NBIPP newsletter features Phila. bombing

BY PAT GROGAN

The June-August issue of the *NBIPP Newsletter*, published by the Manhattan chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) carries two front-page articles on the Philadelphia police attack against the Black organization MOVE. Eleven members of MOVE were murdered in that attack, which destroyed 60 homes of Black families, leaving more than 200 people homeless.

An article by Janice Payne Dorlaie begins with this quote from a Philadelphia resident: "Let us not be surprised by the bombing. This country was built upon racist, capitalist violence."

NBIPP members went to Philadelphia to talk to people from the community that was attacked.

Dorlaie states that "all true progressive forces should be mobilizing against this invasion, just as we should be mobilizing" against the U.S. aggression in Central America and its continued support of racist South Africa. She also calls for the criminals responsible to be brought to trial.

In an accompanying article on Malcolm X, Maurice Williams, cochair of the Atlanta chapter of NBIPP, writes that Malcolm X "condemned the U.S. political system as the root of Black people's problems." He quotes Malcolm, "There is no system on this earth that has proven itself more corrupt, more criminal...."

Williams points out that in Malcolm's Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU), he struggled to build the kind of organization that could organize the masses of Blacks against this system.

"In the OAAU," Williams writes, "Malcolm tried to build a different kind of Black organization, based on collective leadership and the attitude that 'We intend to lead a mass involvement, mass participation, and we believe we can do it by carrying out an educational program, where politics is the concern among the masses, to make them see what those who control the political picture are doing to them.'"

"Malcolm gave his life trying to build a political movement to stop oppression and exploitation worldwide," Williams concludes. "We in the National Black Independent Political Party are building an organization that aims to put Malcolm's ideas into practice. We think the best way to celebrate his life is to study his ideas and become part of the struggle to finish his uncompleted goals."

This issue of the *NBIPP Newsletter* also reports on an April 21 Washington, D.C., meeting of NBIPP members and supporters. Participants agreed to continue to build the broad national coalition that organized the antiwar demonstration the previous day.

The newsletter also has articles on the revolution in the African country of Burkina Faso, and the connection between the struggle in South Africa and Nicaragua.

Copies of the *NBIPP Newsletter* are available for \$.25 each from: Manhattan NBIPP, c/o Yvette Montero, 106 W. 143rd St., Apt. 6E, New York, N.Y. 10030.

## NBUF holds convention in Houston

BY WILLIE M. REID

HOUSTON — The National Black United Front (NBUF) held its sixth annual convention here June 20-23.

Some 150 NBUF members from 15 cities registered. A total of 400 participated in the Friday night rally, the African market, Juneteenth activities, and an interdenominational religious service held Sunday morning.

Eight workshops were organized on economic development/jobs, education, electoral politics, the criminal justice system, international affairs, NBUF organizing, women's issues, and housing.

Solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggles in Central America and opposition to apartheid in South Africa were the major international affairs campaigns proposed and adopted.

"We're putting together a plan that will deepen NBUF involvement in both movements," Omawali Luthuli told the international affairs workshop. NBUF will continue, he said, to work with the Free South Africa Movement to expand the boycott activities against Krugerrands (South African gold coins) and U.S. artists who perform in racist South Africa, as well as to intensify education in the Black community on these issues.

"NBUF will begin to link up with organizations doing solidarity work with Central America and refugees, joining the demonstrations and picket lines, and developing coordinated action for NBUF in the event of an invasion. We will work specifically with CISPES [Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador] and other peace groups."

A position paper on South Africa proposed sponsoring tours of representatives from the African National Congress, the Pan-Africanist Congress, and the South-West Africa People's Organization of Namibia.

The symposium on African women organizing discussed apartheid and the activities of the 10 NBUF delegates going to the international women's conference in Nairobi, Kenya, this month. They plan to work closely with the delegates from Cuba, Nicaragua, and Africa.

Rev. Jesse Jackson was the keynote speaker at the rally.

Convention participants found the Socialist Bookstore table in the African market very attractive. Books and pamphlets on the civil rights movement, other aspects of the Black struggle and South Africa, as well as on the revolutions in Grenada, sold well.



# —THE GREAT SOCIETY—

**\$100 will replace a cluster bomb** — A United Jewish Appeal fund letter urges a gift for worthy Israeli causes, including "the costs



**Harry Ring**

of the Lebanon mission." At first we thought the "Lebanon mission" was a building, then we realized it was the invasion.

**They do it all for us** — "It's a

sop to the workingman who doesn't like to see us bigshots getting a free lunch when he can't. But these lunches are work. We go back to the office with deals that mean growth and jobs. You think we like to do this? Do you think I wouldn't rather pack a lunch and go to the park? Damned right I would." — Drummond Bell, chairman of National Distillers, bleating about the proposed modest cap on the tax-deductible two-martini lunch.

**Pure as money can buy** — Critics may carp about quality toilet seats and ashtrays, but Pentagon procurement regulator Mary Ann Gilleece assures that while the purchasing system there may not

be perfect, it is "99 44/100ths % pure."

**Land of opportunity** — What with the public flack, it's reported Gilleece will soon walk the Pentagon plank. But the situation isn't bleak. She may be tapped for the presidency of the Aerospace Industries Association. The change of address would raise her pay from \$70,000 to \$200,000.

**Pets and profits before people** — Apparently there's stiffer inspection of pet food than of the stuff we eat. The owner of a Philadelphia pet food company pleaded guilty to supplying a wholesaler with about 15,000 pounds of beef a week from dis-

eased, dying, or dead cattle. The dealer resold it to hospitals, schools, and military bases.

**Air pollution?** — LONDON — A Pan American World Airways jetliner flying here from Los Angeles with more than 300 people aboard was diverted to a landing in Scotland today after an engine "disintegrated," a spokesman for the airline said. The Boeing 747 landed safely, said the spokesman, who gave no other details. — News item.

**Gangbusters** — The Post Office may not be able to deliver the mail very well, but its sleuths have tracked down a number of people who launder used stamps in diluted bleach to remove the cancel-

lation mark. Top brains at the P.O. are now working on a non-fade cancellation mark.

**They buy scrap people?** — The Institute of Scrap Iron and Steel is opposed to automobile air safety bags.

**Illegal and insulting** — The manager of Dial Poultry, a major distributor of Perdue chickens, was indicted in New York for allegedly trying to piece off a federal inspector to look the other way regarding sanitary conditions and 10-pound bags of chicken including nine pounds of chicken and a pound of ice. The total asserted payoff was \$435, which is maybe why the feds blew the whistle.

## —CALENDAR—

### ALABAMA

#### Birmingham

**Workers Under Attack! Defend Fired Unionists.** Speaker: Bob Bruce, member Socialist Workers Party and United Auto Workers union; one of two workers fired by Hayes International. Sat., July 13, 7:30 p.m. 205 18 St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

**Cuba and the Revolutionary Crisis in Latin America.** Speaker: Katy Larkins, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., July 20, 7:30 p.m. 205 18 St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Oakland

**Women's Rights and the Fight for Jobs.** Report on the recent conference of women coal miners. Speaker: Martha Zimmer, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Fri., July 19, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14 St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

#### San Francisco

**Dance/Concert with Grupo León and Grupo 19 de Julio.** Benefit for material aid to Nicaragua and Casa de Cultura Nicaragüense. Fri., July 19, 8:30 p.m. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. Tickets: \$8 in advance; \$10 at door. Ausp: Casa de Cultura Nicaragüense. For more information call (415) 824-6292.

**Women's Rights and the Fight for Jobs.** Report on recent conference of women coal miners. Speaker: Martha Zimmer, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 20, 7:30 p.m. 2284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

**U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua — End the Embargo!** Speakers: Roberto Chávez, director of urban planning in Nicaragua and member of Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements; Rodger McAfee, U.S. farmer and member Our Land Movement, American Agriculture Movement, and North American Farm Alliance; recently returned from farmers tour of Nicaragua. Fri., July 26, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

### COLORADO

#### Denver

**July 19, 1979–July 19, 1985: Six Years of Nicaragua's Revolution.** Speaker to be announced. Fri., July 19, 7:30 p.m. 25 W 3rd Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor

Forum. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

### MICHIGAN

#### Detroit

**Violence On the Black Community.** Speakers: Congressman John Conyers; City Councilperson Maryann Mahaffey; Horace Sheffield, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Detroit mayoral candidates. Sun., July 14, 3 p.m. St. Rita's Church, 1000 E State Fair. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Detroit National Black Independent Political Party. For more information call (313) 883-0595.

### MINNESOTA

#### St. Paul

**Women of Steel.** Film produced by Mon Valley Media, sponsored by Mon Valley Unemployed Committee, and funded in part by the United Steelworkers union. Discussion to follow film. Sun., July 14, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

**Cuba: A Force for Peace in World Politics.** Speaker: Mel Reeves, Minnesotans Against Apartheid; Herman Mulligan, Midwest representative of Center for Cuban Studies, recently visited Cuba; Jim Altenberg, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., July 21, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Celebrate the Nicaraguan Revolution.** Showing of film, *Target Nicaragua*, produced and directed by Sol Landau and Haskell Wexler, followed by panel discussion with area residents recently returned from Nicaragua. Fri., July 19, Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Film, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey, 2nd floor (corner of Halsey and Raymond). Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Viva Sandino! Demonstration and Rally.** Protest against U.S.-sponsored contra war. Fri., July 19, 4:30 p.m. Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza opposite UN. Ausp: Casa Nicaragua. For more information call (212) 475-7159.

**International Festival of Music and Dance.** Performers, video, and slides. Sat., July 20, 1–10 p.m. 116 W 11 St. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Casa Nicaragua. For more information call (212) 696-4792.

### OREGON

#### Portland

**War in the Middle East: Who Are the Real Terrorists?** Speakers: Mohammed Idriss, Palestine Arab Fund; Joe Kear, Socialist Workers Party and member International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 1005. Sat., July 13, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

**Answers to 10 Lies About Vietnam.** Speaker: Diane Wang, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member, traveled to Vietnam and Kampuchea last year as correspondent for the *Militant* and *Intercontinental Press*. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 20, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

**Issues Facing Oil Workers.** Open-mike discussion of proposed merger between Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union and United Paperworkers International; attacks on civil rights; and erosion of on-the-job safety. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 13, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

**Celebration of the Nicaraguan Revolution.** Music, food, video, speakers. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 20, 7:30 p.m. Casa de Amigos, 1235 Lorraine. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Texas Mobilization for Peace, Jobs, and Justice; Casa El Salvador. For more information call (713) 529-0446.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Lebanon: Who Are the Real Terrorists?** Speakers: Stephanie Reich, member Middle East Research and Information Project Collective; Ike Nahem, Socialist Workers Party and member United Transportation Union Local 1522. Translation to Spanish. Tues., July 16, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

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

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

**FLORIDA:** Miami: SWP, YSA, 137 NE 54th St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 370486. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. Tallahassee: YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 222-4434.

**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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 2219 E. Market. Greensboro. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

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# Visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in D.C.

BY BRENDA BRDAR

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial has become the most popular memorial in Washington, D.C. Over 4 million men, women, and children have filed past the polished

## AS I SEE IT

black granite wall that bears the names of the 58,022 U.S. soldiers who died in Vietnam.

The longest war in U.S. history.

The only war which the U.S. government has ever lost.

The war won by the Vietnamese people against the world's mightiest military power.

The U.S. rulers want to use the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to inspire chauvinism, hatred of the Vietnamese people, and support for the U.S. war in Vietnam then and in Central America now.

Working people, Vietnam veterans, GIs, and the forces protesting U.S. intervention in Central America shouldn't let them get away with it.

The memorial symbolizes one part of the suffering brought by the U.S. war against Indochina — the names of U.S. soldiers who died. These are the names of young workers and farmers, a disproportionate number of whom were Black and Latino.

They represent lives lost in a war that was against our interests — a war waged to keep Vietnam safe for big capitalist investors and to prevent the Vietnamese people from running their own country.

Those names are only a fraction of the death toll. Millions of Vietnamese, Laotians, and Kampuchians were killed by U.S. imperialism.

The memorial reminds me of the fight against the war, and of the ultimate victory won by the peoples of Indochina. If it weren't for the heroic Vietnamese people and those who made up the U.S. antiwar movement — including the GIs themselves — the list on the wall would be much longer.

The families, friends, and combat buddies of the 58,022 dead U.S. soldiers come to look for a name etched onto the wall. They search the panels of granite until that name appears.

The memorial has become a meeting place for thousands of Vietnam veterans also. When they get a chance, many of these veterans set the record straight about Vietnam.

A reading of the deluge of articles that appeared in the capitalist news media on the 10th anniversary of the victory in Vietnam leaves you with the false impression that the GIs and the antiwar movement were mortal enemies.

In fact, they were the most natural of allies.

The antiwar movement made special efforts to reach out to GIs and vets. Activists leafleted army bases and coffeehouses frequented by GIs. There were often contingents of GIs and veterans in the big antiwar demonstrations.

The antiwar movement helped to publicize the cases of GIs who were victimized by the army for speaking out against the war.

The GIs and vets organized antiwar activities as well. More than 200 antiwar newspapers written and circulated by active-duty GIs — in the United States, and on bases around the world including in Vietnam — existed during the war.

In 1971, thousands of Vietnam veterans organized their own protest in Washington. During the protest, 1,200 of them threw over the White House fence those

medals they had been awarded in Vietnam.

These events have been consciously ignored and covered up by the big-business media. Instead, they have played up the isolated incidents of animosity against veterans. Often they invent them.

The truth is that the antiwar movement, the GIs, and Vietnam veterans had a common interest — to get the U.S. government out of Vietnam. The government was their common enemy.

A government that sent young men to fight and die in a war against a people fighting for their land and national independence. A government that used these soldiers, scorned them, and ignored them. A government that cut back on veterans' benefits.

Since the end of the war, tens of thousands of Vietnam vets have killed themselves. They were given no help by the government responsible for their problems.

The truth about the antiwar movement and the Vietnam veterans is embodied in the Santa Cruz, California, chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Because this chapter took a public stance in opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America, it was expelled for a time from the VFW. But the Santa Cruz chapter became the fastest-growing chapter of the VFW in the country. Vietnam vets from all around the United States are requesting membership in it.

For me, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a reminder of the massive slaughter the U.S. government carried out in Vietnam — a slaughter of millions of Vietnamese and tens of thousands of U.S. working-class youth.

Those long rows of the names of the dead should inspire working people to keep alive the real lessons of Vietnam, so that we will be better able to defeat the U.S. government as it tries to repeat this crime in Central America.

# Denver paper's feature on Sally Goodman job fight

Continued from Page 7

stipulations demanded by the Department of Defense is that the contractor submit its employees to various security clearances.

The fact that most spying is done for profit rather than for ideology gives the DIS no pause in going after an avowed socialist who changes lightbulbs in the vicinity of locked-up files containing blueprints of a launching system.

And one fall day in 1982, that's just what the DIS did to Sally Goodman.

Goodman had been working for Martin Marietta for almost two years, first at the old employment office on East Hampden, then, at her request, in the factory at the main plant. She had received her Secret Security Clearance without a hitch, and was growing more active in the union. "I was starting to be known maybe not as a feminist," she says, "but as a women's liber, and a union activist."

She had also been active in the campaign of SWP candidate Eileen Thournier for Pat Schroeder's First Congressional seat. Both Thournier, who is also an employee at Martin Marietta, and Goodman feel that Goodman's involvement was part of what alerted DIS to her socialist leanings.

In September 1982 Goodman was called into the company's security office, where she met a man and woman who identified themselves as agents of the DIS, and informed her that she had been under investigation as a possible national security risk. Goodman asked for a union representative to be present, and the agents said that was impossible. She was about to leave when Grisham told her the purpose of the meeting was to inform her of the allegations against her.

She stayed long enough to hear that DIS was investigating reports that she was a member of the "Young Socialist League," had "affiliations" with the Socialist Worker Party, and was a lesbian.

"I was kind of freaked out," she says. "But on the other hand, I wasn't totally surprised."

Goodman was aware that other socialists had been experiencing the same sorts of DIS and security problems at other defense-contractor plants around the country. And then she began to regard a few recent odd events in a different light. There was the time a few months before, she says, when she came home to her mobile trailer park to see a man in a car with U.S. Government license plates. She was about to ask the guy if he needed directions or help finding something when she saw him notice her, jot something down on a notepad, then drive away. Another time, she and a friend were in the Three Sisters gay bar near downtown Denver. Goodman says two uniformed Denver police officers

and a man she thought was a vice-and-narcotics detective entered the nightclub, scanned all the patrons, then shone their flashlights in Goodman's face and asked for identification. She was the only person who got that kind of treatment before the cops left. These incidents could be cases of DIS surveillance, she thought.

Goodman says the agents asked her to sign a document indicating they had properly identified themselves and told her of the charges against her. "They were very formal, very polite," Goodman says. "They told me I had been under investigation and under surveillance for some time."

That was on a Friday. At the next day's monthly union meeting, Goodman was permitted to place the issue on the agenda, and the union decided to file two grievances against Martin Marietta, one for the refusal to have a steward present with the two agents, and one alleging harassment for union activism.

By the first part of 1983, Goodman's case had come to the attention of leftist political groups and grass-roots union members. The local SWP helped her produce a brochure on her case, and letters of support started coming in.

Goodman has a list of supporters at least fifty names long from representatives and officials of organizations like the National Organization for Women, the Colorado American Indian Movement, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Sisters of Loretto, and many more.

Among her many letters of support is a copy of a missive sent to the DIS by Denver attorney Walter Gerash, which says:

"As an individual and a lawyer, I decry personal and political harassment of Sally Goodman's politics, sexual preference, or union affiliation. This is not Nazi Germany. We love our country, without 'big brother' taking over the movement of our citizens. All I can say is 'Lay Off.' If you continue, it would be a pleasure to see you in court."

"My opinion as a socialist is that the best way to win fights is to make them a big issue," Goodman says. "You organize a political campaign around it."

Goodman had refused to talk with DIS agents the first time they tried and eventually, in the summer of 1984, they tried again. By this time though, she had brought Tredennick in on the case. Letters were fired back and forth between the ACLU attorney and the DIS agents, dickering over conditions of the interview, with Tredennick insisting that DIS violated Goodman's constitutional rights by asking her questions on her politics and sexuality.

"As before," Tredennick wrote, "she continues to be willing to cooperate with

you in any way possible provided your requests are legitimate and do not violate any of her Constitutional rights."

Agent Grisham responded with a letter to Goodman, saying:

"Your responses in the past, citing your right to privacy and political beliefs, while very much respected, do not allow this agency to fulfill its responsibilities in conducting thorough background investigations. While you have every right to maintain those feelings, the Defense Department may deny a clearance for lack of sufficient information regarding potentially national-security threatening issues. . . . In this matter, the inquiry into your 'private life' to resolve possible blackmail or coercion situations and inquiry into your personal involvement or support of the use of violence or unconstitutional means to alter the present form of government or to support the national security program is well within the authority and responsibility of DIS."

DIS agents had been interviewing and investigating for several months by now, and what they had come up with was inconclusive at best. According to heavily edited DIS documents obtained by Goodman through a Freedom of Information Act request, DIS agents were gathering all sorts of opinions about Goodman, but were unable to come to any conclusion.

Most of her co-workers interviewed said she was no threat to national security, that her alleged lesbianism couldn't be a naughty subject for blackmail because Goodman was considered vocal on the subject, almost to the point of annoying some people with her views and feelings. A supervisor, Richard Bird, Jr., complained that Goodman was "disruptive on the job because she frequently discusses union problems with other MMC (Martin Marietta Corp.) employees who should be working."

Then, on April 17, shortly after she began her medical leave of absence, and shortly before Martin Marietta began a push to require nearly all its maintenance staff to apply for Secret Security Clearance, Goodman's clearance was suspended. In a letter to Tredennick, James P. Brown, the director of the Directorate for Industrial Security Clearance Review, said that since Goodman "refused to answer relevant and material questions when previously interviewed by the DIS, the Screening Board of this determined that they were unable to make a security clearance determination, and recommended that processing of your client case be discontinued and her clearance be suspended."

In the DIS interview reports, there are enough references to Goodman's union-oriented activism to convince her that her

"trouble-making" on the job is a major motivation behind the DIS investigation.

"We believed right from the start in Martin Marietta's complicity" in the investigation, Goodman says. "When I see something wrong, I file a grievance. And they don't like that."

"It feels pretty creepy. It doesn't feel good to know that you've been under investigation. I haven't been accused of doing illegal things, but the implication is I've been doing subversive things and perverse things. The other thing, though, is I think the intention of the investigation is to get me to shut up about the union and about politics."

Goodman, who is due to end her medical leave and go back to work sometime in the next few months, now waits for the results of Tredennick's petition for an injunction against the DIS.

"I intend to keep on fighting for my job and to keep on fighting to get my security clearance back," she says. "And keep on talking about socialism."

But why would a socialist, opposed to the U.S. "war machine," elect to work in a plant that makes bomb parts? Doesn't that indicate a serious bending of principle?

Goodman says good electrician jobs are hard to come by, and more important, she has a message for her co-workers.

"I don't advocate sabotage as a way of stopping the U.S. war drive," she says. "It's important that workers, people who make the bombs, have a right to decide if they should be used."

And that's the message she'll try to spread if and when she goes back to work, whether it's in unsecured areas or in classified zones.

"That's what I do," she says. "I spread anti-war views in a war plant. And the government doesn't like that."

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# Reagan's terrorism frame-up

Washington is escalating a prowar publicity campaign which uses accusations of terrorism to justify aggression against peoples who stand up to U.S. imperialism.

In a July 8 speech, President Reagan branded Iran, Libya, North Korea, Cuba, and Nicaragua as "outlaw states." He charged them with being part of a terrorist conspiracy that had committed "outright acts of war" against the United States.

It was hard to miss the appeal to racist prejudices against the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America as Reagan denounced these states as "misfits, Looney Tunes, and squalid criminals."

Reagan extended the terrorism frame-up to include the Soviet Union because, he asserted, it has a "close relationship" with the countries he attacked.

Like the rest of the U.S. government's war propaganda around terrorism, the Reagan speech was a lie from start to finish.

In fact, the countries Reagan charges with acts of war against the United States have all been the victims of acts of war by the U.S. government.

A prime example is Nicaragua. Its embassy in Washington responded to Reagan's speech by declaring, "The Nicaraguan government condemns any and all forms of terrorism, among other reasons because our people are suffering the scourge of U.S. state terrorism, openly promoted by the Administration, and executed through the CIA and contra groups."

As Fidel Castro noted in response to Reagan's speech, "It is Reagan who supports the genocidal army of El Salvador, the rapists of American nuns. Reagan ordered the mining of harbors in Nicaragua. It was Reagan who sent troops to invade little Grenada."

The other countries cited by Reagan have also been victims of U.S. invasions, violations of territory, attempted assassinations of leaders, CIA-engineered coup attempts, and other acts of U.S. aggression.

Reagan accused the five countries of plotting to "expel America from the world." Another lie. The cause of the

conflict between Washington and the semicolonial nations is Washington's drive to dominate the world in the interests of U.S. big business.

This forces millions of people "from the world" each year — through needless deaths due to starvation, disease, and the brutal repression carried out by regimes that defend imperialist interests.

These conditions have spurred a growing revolt, as workers and farmers fight for governments that will assert their independence and advance their living standards against the imperialist powers.

Washington's propaganda about terrorism is an attempt to rally support for efforts to crush this revolt.

The cynicism of the U.S. government's antiterrorism campaign is shown by its support to the government of South Africa. The rulers of that country proclaim racism as their ideology and deprive 23 million Black people — the overwhelming 85 percent majority — of all human rights.

But the U.S. rulers would never think of using terms like "squalid criminals" to describe the white imperialist rulers of South Africa. On the contrary, the blood-soaked apartheid regime is one of the "democratic nations" Reagan is counting on to help Washington put down the black, yellow, and brown "outlaws" of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Reagan's speech is part of a ruling class effort to wear down resistance to war among U.S. working people, and among working people in the other imperialist countries. Washington wants us to serve as cannon fodder as U.S. big business tries to stem and roll back anti-imperialist struggles.

U.S. workers and farmers have a life and death stake in not letting the U.S. rulers get away with this.

One way we can fight back is to participate in the coalitions that are organizing for the fall antiwar and anti-apartheid actions called by the April Actions Coalition for Peace, Jobs and Justice.

# Patrice Lumumba: martyr of African liberation fight

BY FRED FELDMAN

Zaire, formerly the Congo (Kinshasa), won its independence from Belgium on June 30, 1960. Its first prime minister was Patrice Lumumba, a former postal worker and union leader who founded and led the Congolese National Movement (MNC).

Lumumba's efforts to defend and consolidate his country's independence in the face of a massive attack by the U.S. and Belgian imperialists made him one of the heroes and martyrs of the African liberation struggle.

Lumumba and the MNC led the independence struggle of the Congolese masses. Demonstrations, in which doz-

## OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

ens of Blacks were gunned down by Belgian troops, forced the Belgian rulers to yield.

They allowed elections that Lumumba and the MNC won handily, and acceded to the June 30 independence date.

The Congo was a prime source of uranium, copper, cobalt, and other minerals. U.S. big business held investments of more than \$500 million in the country, while Belgian capitalists had more than \$3 billion.

The labor of Congolese working people provided huge superprofits for these capitalists, but the overwhelming majority of the Congo's 15 million people were forced to live in extreme poverty.

To preserve this situation, the Belgian and U.S. imperialists worked together to impose a proimperialist government on the Congo.

Lumumba's government was an obstacle to their plans. His inaugural address was an indictment of what imperialism had done to his country.

"Backbreaking work has been exacted from us, in return for wages that did not allow us to satisfy our hunger, or to decently clothe or house ourselves, or to raise our children as creatures very dear to us.

"We have had our lands despoiled under the terms of what was supposedly the law of the land but was only a recognition of the right of the strongest.

"We have known that the law was quite different for whites and blacks; it was most accommodating for the former, and cruel and inhuman for the latter. . . .

"We have known that there were magnificent mansions for the whites in the cities, and ramshackle straw hovels for blacks. . . .

"We whose bodies and souls have suffered from colonialist oppression, loudly proclaim: all this is over and done with now. . . ."

Despite the MNC's victory, political independence was far from complete. For instance, a Belgian commander still headed the weak national army, which had been created under Belgian rule. A week after independence day, rank-and-file Congolese soldiers were fired on when they demanded better conditions. Lumumba removed the Belgian officers and appointed a Congolese commander.

The Belgian government seized on this step as a pretext to invade. It engineered the secession of Katanga province, where the main imperialist properties were located.

Lumumba and the masses who supported him had no popular armed force to defend the country's independence. In desperation, Lumumba called for United Nations intervention to stop the secession and force the Belgian imperialists to withdraw.

Washington and its allies organized the UN military intervention. Instead of working with Lumumba's government, the U.S. forces collaborated with the Belgians, disarmed supporters of Lumumba, barred him from using radio stations to appeal for support, and helped prepare his ouster by a CIA-backed coup in September 1960.

In December, Lumumba was jailed.

On January 17, 1961, Lumumba and several of his supporters were taken from prison and flown on a Belgian plane, with a Belgian pilot and crew, to Katanga province. There they were placed on a Katanga government jeep, surrounded by Belgian troops, and taken into the countryside, where they were executed. At each stage on this grisly journey, they were savagely beaten.

In 1964, guerrilla forces loyal to Lumumba's movement won control of much of the country. U.S. transport planes carried an invasion force of Belgian paratroopers to recapture cities held by the young fighters — whose average age was 20.

In 1977 and 1978, joint intervention by Belgian and French forces backed by U.S. transport planes crushed a new nationalist upsurge.

Today the Congolese people suffer under the dictatorship headed by Mobutu Sese Seko, who is kept in power by U.S., Belgian, and French imperialism.

But the struggle that began under the leadership of Patrice Lumumba is irrepressible. The workers and farmers who will one day liberate Zaire will honor the memory of Patrice Lumumba.

# 'Cold-blooded murderers'

Henry Martínez Porter, a Chicano who used to be a painter's helper, was executed in Huntsville, Texas, on July 9. He was the 47th victim of the death penalty since it was reintroduced by a 1976 Supreme Court decision.

Like virtually every other victim of this legally sanctioned murder, Martínez Porter was a worker. He was also one of the many Blacks and Latinos who make up a disproportionately high percentage of the people that the U.S. ruling class confines to death row.

Right up until the minute he was murdered by lethal injection, Martínez Porter protested his innocence and defied his executioners. "I want people to know that they called me a cold-blooded murderer, and I shot a man who shot me first," he said. "I didn't tie anyone down on a stretcher and put poison into his veins from behind a locked door. I call this and I call your society a bunch of cold-blooded murderers."

Martínez also denounced the racism involved: "They call it equal justice, but it is your equal justice. A Mexican life is worth nothing."

His words ring true. Capital punishment is a weapon of class and race oppression, not justice.

The real criminals in this society are the government and its police agencies that use the barbaric death penalty

to defend the interests of a small minority of super-rich capitalists who own and run the country.

These executions are designed to instill terror in the working class, especially among members of the oppressed nationalities because of their vanguard role in opposing the crimes of the capitalist class against all the exploited and oppressed.

Capitalist politicians are now pushing to further expand the use of the death penalty.

Seeking to intimidate opponents of Washington's military aggression abroad, they are advocating the death penalty for those the government convicts of spying during so-called peacetime.

As Washington deepens its military intervention in Central America and elsewhere, and steps up its attacks on U.S. workers and farmers, it is also strengthening its repressive apparatus of cops and courts, stripping away more democratic rights, and brandishing the death penalty more boldly as a weapon against working-class militants.

All working people and supporters of democratic rights should rally to stop the executions and take this weapon out of the hands of the ruling class.

# No aid to Kampuchean 'contras'!

The House of Representatives voted July 9 to give \$5 million in direct military aid to counterrevolutionary terrorist forces based in Thailand. These armed bands are trying to overthrow the Heng Samrin government of Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia). An identical bill was passed by the Senate earlier this year.

This is an escalation of the U.S.-led military and economic pressure against Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos.

The Heng Samrin government came to power in 1979, after Vietnamese troops and Kampuchean rebels liberated the Kampuchean people from the murderous regime of Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge army. The Pol Pot gang was responsible for the killing of millions of Kampuchean people during its nearly four-year reign.

The U.S. government has never stopped funneling covert aid to counterrevolutionary forces in Southeast Asia as part of its effort to prevent the peoples of Indochina from recovering from the devastation of the U.S. war against them. The CIA, it was recently revealed, has already given some \$5 million in covert aid to the Kampuchean counterrevolutionaries.

Secretary of State George Shultz visited Thailand July 8 to voice U.S. government backing for the Thai dictatorship's military threats against Kampuchea and to affirm U.S. government support for the counterrevolutionary forces that operate out of Thailand.

The \$5 million direct funding proposal was

spearheaded by Rep. Stephen Solarz, a liberal Democrat from New York. The liberals of both the Democratic and Republican parties and the Reagan administration united in support to the attack on Indochina.

The Solarz proposal supposedly excludes aid going to Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, which it falsely labels "communist."

Three Kampuchean counterrevolutionary groups make up the rightist coalition based in Thailand. All are remnants of ousted regimes that have earned the hatred of the Kampuchean workers and farmers.

Of the three, the Khmer Rouge is the *only* component with any military capacity.

To be effective, therefore, the lion's share of any military aid must continue to go to Pol Pot.

The Solarz amendment will channel the funds through the Thai government, which can dispose of the money as it sees fit. The Thai government will continue supporting the Khmer Rouge in their efforts to murder more Kampucheans and Vietnamese and to prevent the reconstruction of those countries.

As the first *open* move to directly arm the counterrevolutionary gangs, this bill is a significant escalation of Washington's intervention in Indochina. U.S. antiwar fighters should demand: Hands off Indochina! No aid to the Kampuchean *contras*!



# Oil workers' tour of Nicaragua sparks discussions

BY AMY BELVIN  
AND JANICE LYNN

RICHMOND, Calif. — Workers at the Chevron Oil refinery here have been learning a lot more about the situation in Nicaragua as a result of our trip to that country in early May.

Before we went we put a notice on the union bulletin board announcing that we were participating in a tour to Nicaragua along with other union members from around

## UNION TALK

the country. The tour was sponsored by Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc. We encouraged coworkers to tell us what questions they wanted us to ask Nicaraguans.

The discussions that unfolded reflected the confusion created largely by the U.S. capitalist media about who the Sandinistas are, who the *contras* are, and about what is really happening in Nicaragua.

We explained why we were going, what we would accomplish, and the facts about the Nicaraguan revolution. To many workers it was inconceivable that anyone would spend their vacation in Nicaragua. Others admired our concern about the U.S. war drive. Some were concerned that the FBI would be harassing us.

One crew really got immersed in discussions about Nicaragua. When the Head Operator asked what was going on, one worker responded that the crew was trying

to resolve the problems of the world and had even elected its own ambassador to Nicaragua.

We also appealed to our coworkers to contribute items that are badly needed by Nicaraguan workers.

One worker, whose mother belongs to a church that supports sanctuary for Central American refugees, donated a large box of medical supplies. His family helped to gather aspirin, bandages, and antiseptics. Another worker donated money that was used to buy pencils and still another made a contribution for school supplies. Some workers brought in clothing for us to take.

We took a box of union hats, buttons, patches, and pens from our union, Local 1-5 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW), to give to Nicaraguan workers.

In Nicaragua, we presented the OCAW gifts to the railroad workers and metallurgical workers we met, and also to a member of the Union of Farmers and Ranchers, and to a representative of Nicaragua's largest trade union federation, the Sandinista Workers Federation.

These were welcomed as a gesture of solidarity on the part of U.S. workers with their Nicaraguan counterparts.

Upon our return, our coworkers were very interested in our tour and in our impressions. While we were in Nicaragua, President Reagan announced the trade embargo. After hearing about the gains of the revolution many of our coworkers expressed their opposition to the embargo.

For others this was the first time they had heard a version of the Nicaraguan revolution different from that of the Reagan administration's. They had many questions. Some concluded the U.S. government was supporting the wrong side. Others were more skeptical.

One electrician told us he supported the *contras* and sent them money. Anonymous copies of articles from mercenary magazines and appeals for support to the *contras* started appearing in the control room. However, no one would admit leaving them there.

We put together a photo album of our trip — photos interspersed with index cards explaining aspects of the Nicaraguan revolution. The album was passed around for days as our coworkers took time to go through it, ask questions, and discuss some more.

One Black pipefitter who looked at the photos recalled his own experience with U.S. military intervention. In the early '60s he was stationed at the U.S. military base in Guantánamo, Cuba. He, along with thousands of other U.S. troops, spent over four months on alert, waiting for orders to invade the island. He was glad to hear about the gains of the Nicaraguan revolution, despite the U.S. government's attacks.

We talked to the executive board of the union about showing slides of our trip at the next union meeting. They agreed and advertised it on the notice for the next meeting.

We gave a 15-minute slide presentation as part of the agenda of the June 4 meeting and got a round of applause at the end. One older worker expressed his opposition to the U.S. government's war after finding out about the gains of Nicaraguan workers, especially the progress being made in union organizing.

We are bringing the slide show to the other OCAW local in this area and to a special meeting of Chevron unionists.

## Anti-immigrant bill — an attack on all workers

Several years ago I was riding the bus from San Diego to Los Angeles when it stopped and two armed agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (*la migra*) boarded to check papers.

I, of course, didn't have any papers since I'm a U.S. citizen. *La migra*, however, did not want to hear all about how the U.S. Congress made all Puerto Ricans —



¡BASTA  
YA!

Andrea González

whether we wanted to be or not — U.S. citizens in 1917. So they attempted to remove me from the bus for a quick trip to Tijuana, Mexico. Only a lot of talking in my New York accent kept me in this country.

Two years later I was trying to get a job in a Texas steel mill. I had passed the examination and the physical but the personnel officer wouldn't hire me until I brought him an official copy of my birth certificate to prove that I was a citizen.

Last year while I was in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas — carrying my passport this time — I read that two union organizing drives there were busted when *la migra* raided both plants the day before the union certification elections.

These stories illustrate why all working people — par-

ticularly working people of Latin American descent — should oppose the latest immigration bill before Congress. The bill has been introduced into the Senate by Sen. Alan Simpson. To date it has no sponsors in the House of Representatives.

The bill is a reworked version of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill that was debated last year in the Congress.

The centerpiece of the bill is still sanctions against employers who hire undocumented workers. This latest version has a new twist — it allows any individual to file a complaint against employers they suspect of hiring undocumented workers. Such complaints, of course, can and will lead to factory raids.

The bill contains an antidiscrimination provision that is supposed to protect people like myself from being discriminated against by employers. This provision will supposedly be enforced by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, a body that today opposes school desegregation, busing, affirmative action, and other civil rights. The bill, in effect, assigns the fox to guard the chicken coop.

The bill virtually eliminates any way for undocumented workers to become documented. It allows for no legalization program until the government proves that employment of undocumented workers has been "substantially reduced." But the government has little interest in proving such a thing because it uses immigrants as scapegoats in the failure of capitalism to provide jobs and a decent standard of living for all.

According to the new bill, after a "substantial reduction" of the number of undocumented workers has been attained, those who are still here can apply for papers. To get papers, they must prove "continuous residence."

What will constitute such proof is left up to the U.S. attorney general's office, which has a history of attacking democratic rights.

Finally, to get papers, the bill requires that undocumented workers have a basic knowledge of English and U.S. history and government.

At the same time that the bill attacks workers who live here without papers, it gives the capitalist growers more ways to get temporary workers into the country to harvest fruits and vegetables at starvation wages, without any rights whatsoever.

The new bill has added tough provisions aimed at activists who provide sanctuary for refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala. The bill calls for one year prison terms for transporting and harboring undocumented workers, and five year prison terms for anyone who transports people into the United States and does not "upon arrival immediately" present them to "an appropriate immigration officer at a designated port of entry." In simple language, you get five years if after helping a refugee get into the country you refuse to hand him or her over to *la migra* to be deported.

The big-business media hails the Simpson bill as new and improved. But for working people it represents a further escalation of the attacks against us. It is *more* racist, anti-immigrant, and antiunion.

The fact is that as long as we allow the bosses and their government to make some workers "illegal" without rights, the more the bosses will be able to divide working people, lower our wages, bust our unions, and terrorize our communities. Working people must demand that the borders be opened and all workers be given full rights.

## LETTERS

### Nonfiction

I just read the reports from the SWP National Committee plenum in the *Militant*. They made me so happy I had to send for the articles and resolutions the party will consider at its next convention.

I read the reports after watching a "Nonfiction TV" presentation (Channel 8, Los Angeles) on the impact of agribusiness in the Third World. Del Monte, Bud Antole, and Gulf and Western were featured. Limited footage of the fightback by the people who are now starving the American Way was also presented.

I'd rather read the party's proposals than the text of the program, which I almost sent for.  
Sara Srial  
Los Angeles, California

### Unfair to Jackson

Your criticism of Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow Coalition in your May 24 issue strikes me as grossly unfair.

You state that Jackson is a liberal proimperialist partly because he supported an Allied victory in

World War II. Should we then think that "revolutionaries" were neutral on the struggle against fascism and did not regard the defeat of fascism as some sort of victory for humanity? That is so off the wall that it needs no comment.

You criticize Jackson for his approval of the war on poverty in the 1960s. Are "revolutionaries" against a war on poverty? That is also so off the wall that it needs no comment.

You criticize Jackson for reaching out to farmers and encouraging the renegotiation of farmers' debts. But does that mean that Cuba or Nicaragua become proimperialist when they renegotiate their debts?

You twist his perfectly accurate statement that "Today we mature from a history of racial battleground to an economic common ground" as a writing off of the Black struggle. A less silly and more obvious interpretation is that Jackson realizes that the American people see their problem as a class one much more than they did 20 years ago.

Jackson is for the overthrow of apartheid and is for recognition of Cuba, Vietnam, and the Palestine Liberation Organization. He is against U.S. support to Marcos, El Salvador, and *contras*. He helps organize and speaks at rallies to support these things. Yet you say he is a liberal just like Carter, Johnson, Humphrey, and McGovern. I am rather unclear as to when these other liberals wanted to be friends with Vietnam, Cuba, the PLO, Nicaragua, etc. Please enlighten me.

Stansfield Smith  
Chicago, Illinois

### Slandering Nicaragua

One of the goals of opponents of the Nicaraguan revolution is to convince people in this country that the Sandinistas are really a pack of liars. That we shouldn't trust a word that comes out of their mouths.

The main way the capitalists do this is through control of the news media, including their "cultural" commentary.

The *New York Times Book Review* just reviewed *Fire From the Mountain* by Omar Cabezas. Cabezas joined the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in the late 1960s and is currently deputy minister of the interior. His book describes what life was like as a fighter against the Somoza dictatorship.

Stephen Kinzer, the *Times* reporter in Nicaragua, reviewed the book. He leaves the impression that the Sandinistas had, and still have, plans that are hidden even from the Nicaraguan people. Kinzer quotes from Cabezas regarding FSLN participation in university student government elections. Cabezas says the candidates "never stated publicly that they were in the FER [Student Revolutionary Front], never mind that they were Marxists!"

But let me quote the next three sentences from Cabezas, ones Kinzer omits:

"From 1963 to 1970 the Social Christians ran the student government. El Gato [a Sandinista stu-

dent] was the first CUUN [University of Nicaragua Student Council] president to be elected by going from class to class repeating over and over again that he was a communist, a Sandinista, and a member of the FER. That was 1970."

Obviously Kinzer couldn't make his point with a full quote, so he chopped it down. His quotes refer to the period 1960 to 1963, immediately after the founding of the FSLN. But never let it be said that the *New York* ("all the news that's fit to print") *Times* ever let mere facts stand in the way of slandering the Nicaraguan revolution.

Michael Pennock  
Jersey City, New Jersey

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.



## IUE members vote up GE contract

### Union locals' views varied on takebacks, gains

Members of the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) and the United Electrical Workers (UE) voted by better than a two-to-one majority to accept a new three-year contract with General Electric.

With nearly all the ballots counted, the vote was 22,574 for the contract and 9,150 against. The local union vote was 66 locals for and 3 against.

A breakdown of votes in some of the larger IUE locals includes: Local 201, Lynn, Massachusetts, 4,351 against and 1,174 for; Local 301, Schenectady, New York, 3,368 for and 1,174 against; Local 61, Louisville, Kentucky, 5,730 for and 1,731 against; and Local 255, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, 1,598 for and 466 against.

Workers at the large GE plant in Erie, Pennsylvania, organized by the UE, voted 2,250 for and 754 against the contract.

The following initial reports from Lynn, Seattle, and Cleveland (see page 10) show how some IUE members viewed the contract. A future issue of the *Militant* will include a further assessment of the contract by IUE members.

BY RUSSELL DAVIS

LYNN, Mass. — The contract agreed to by top negotiators of the General Electric Company and the AFL-CIO Coordinated Bargaining Committee (CBC) met stiff opposition from members of Local 201 of the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) here. The CBC includes the 11 AFL-CIO unions plus the United Electrical Workers and the Teamsters. It represents 47,000 IUE members and 20,000 other GE employees.

The most serious concession in the contract is the introduction of a two-tier wage system. In addition, there are several other provisions that weaken the union. These takebacks are demanded despite GE's \$9 billion profit in the last three years.

The two-tier wage system deepens the divisions between the higher-paid and lower-paid workers, and lower-seniority and higher-seniority workers. Under this set up, it will take new hires up to two years to reach the full wage rate on their job. The contract also includes a bonus of 3

percent of annual wages the first year — instead of a wage increase — and a 3 percent wage increase in the second and third years of the contract.

The union has calculated that the 3 percent bonus payment the first year will cost the average worker about \$1,200 over the three years of the contract, because it will not be added to the base pay.

The contract also contains serious cutbacks in medical benefits for GE workers and their families. This is part of a nationwide campaign to shift "medical cost containment" onto the backs of workers instead of hospitals and companies like GE Medical Systems, which sells expensive medical equipment.

The contract doubles the deductible on non-emergency medical treatment that workers have to pay, doubles the cost of coverage for dependents, and introduces a

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Members of IUE Local 721 at Schenectady GE plant voted in favor of new contract.

## Seattle discusses 2-tier wages

BY CHRIS HORNER

SEATTLE — Like other GE workers across the country, members of IUE Local 1002 have been discussing and trying to assess GE's contract offer. This small local of about 150 members is the only IUE local in the region. Workers here make parts for GE jet engines, both military and commercial, and are mostly machinists, welders, and other skilled workers who make between \$10 and \$15 an hour.

Local members' first news of the contract came when management called all of us into a large meeting. We then watched a 20-minute video made by GE describing the new contract in glowing terms. Everyone then got a slick-looking brochure supposedly giving the details. As we returned to work, management congratulated us on what a fine contract we were getting.

The initial response of many local members was relief that there did not seem to be the deep, union-busting takebacks many unions in this area have suffered recently, such as large pay cuts and permanent, deep, two-tier wage divisions.

No one was happy about the increased medical coverage costs, but most were philosophical, pointing out that friends of theirs in other unions have had to pay even more. "It's a contract I can live with," said one. "It's pretty good for this day and age," said another. A newly hired machinist expressed the view that the IUE "would be committing suicide to reject this contract."

Other local members pointed out that this was the company's version, and that it probably was not the whole story.

Everyone was glad to hear about the agency shop provision in the contract and saw that as a big victory.

Over the next three days leading up to the local union meeting where we would vote on the contract, other details about it began filtering into the plant. Workers learned that there was a two-tier wage for new hires on the lower end of the pay scale that would not affect anyone in this plant. Some of the most skilled workers thought there was nothing wrong with this. "What do they expect for unskilled labor?" said one machinist.

The local steward said that anyone getting hired would know what they were getting, and it would be their choice about whether to take it. Other workers disagreed. "I don't like the sound of that at all," said one machinist.

A group of women grinders and assemblers who are at the bottom of the pay scale here were already angry at the "skill-ladder" in the new contract that gives them almost nothing on top of their rate while giving up to 35 cents an hour to the best-paid workers. They were among those most angered by the two-tier division, especially when they learned that a large number of IUE members in other cities make as little as \$5 an hour. "This contract helps the ones who need it most the least, and the ones who need it least the most," said one.

A number of the best-paid workers also disliked the two-tier wage, as well as the bonus that was substituted for a raise in the first year of the contract. Most of these workers said they had not made up their minds how they were going to vote. They mentioned unions that had been busted in this area. "If we went out on strike," asked one, "how many people in this local would cross the line?"

The day of the local meeting there were non-stop discussions in the plant. Sentiment had changed significantly. Although only a very small number of workers said they were going to vote against the contract, there was now a larger number who leaned toward voting for it but thought it was a bad contract. Many had thought carefully about the bonus and two-tier provisions, and any information on how other IUE locals were leaning was eagerly sought.

A deeper discussion also took place in the shop about why the unions were taking such a beating today, and whether anything could be done to turn the situation around. When the plant manager asked one machinist in front of a group of other workers how he was going to vote, he got the response, "I'm voting it down."

Many more discussions took place about the IUE in general. Some local members began to think seriously about the impact of the contract on the entire union and not just this shop. One machinist asked the question, referring to the bonus payment, "Are we selling the future of the union for a few extra bucks up front?"

Members of Local 1002 voted 80 to 15 to approve the new contract.

Chris Horner is a machinist and a member of IUE Local 1002.

## Farmers, unions, Blacks back KC rally

BY KATHIE FITZGERALD AND DICK GEYER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Farmer, labor, and civil rights groups are coming together here for a rally to be held August 17. Titled "Defend the Family Farmer — Come Break Bread with the People Who Put It On The Table," the rally will feature a wide range of speakers and will include entertainment and a fund-raising barbecue.

Money raised at the rally will go to the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA), an

umbrella group of farm organizations, to help start a fund for farmers fighting foreclosures, which are expected to increase next fall.

Two of the speakers are farmers who have become well-known in the Midwest. One is Darrell Ringer, a leader of American Agriculture Movement Grassroots and NAFA. Ringer, along with his wife Margaret and another farm couple, the Jensens, is facing a trial July 29 on charges flowing out of a foreclosure protest in Gove, Kansas.

The other speaker is Perry Wilson, Sr. Wilson is a 73-year-old farmer from Holt, Mo. The foreclosure of his farm this spring drew thousands of farmers, unionists, and Black rights activists together in protest.

The Wilson family, while continuing to fight the foreclosure through court action challenging the legality of the sale, is now facing a new fight. The bank that foreclosed on them and supposedly "bought" the farm at this spring's sale has initiated legal proceedings to kick them off their land. The trial will begin July 25 at the Plattsburg, Missouri, courthouse.

Participants in the coalition effort to build the rally include the K.C. Greater Central Labor Council, United Auto Workers (UAW) Community Action Program

Council, UAW Locals 31 and 93, International Association of Machinists (IAM) sub-regional office and four locals of the IAM, Service Employees International Union Local 906, the K.C. chapters of Operation PUSH and Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and others.

In addition to community leafleting teams and media work, support for the rally has also come from numerous speaking engagements of farmers Perry Wilson, Sr. and Marvin Porter of Missouri Groundswell, and Roger Allison, rally coordinator and American Agriculture Grassroots state spokesperson for Missouri.

On June 15 farmers addressed UAW Local 31, which voted to support the rally. They also spoke to 1,000 people attending the SCLC's Juneteenth Celebration, where they received an enthusiastic ovation.

On June 19 Wilson and Porter spoke before the membership of UAW Local 93, which decided to donate \$500 to NAFA and the rally. An educational union bulletin on the plight of family farmers has already been distributed to the local's membership.

Wilson has also spoken before United Transportation Union Local 1646 and SEIU Local 96. To contact the coalition call the SCLC at (816) 842-5454.



Perry Wilson, Sr.

Militant/John Staggs