

Reagan backs apartheid as repression grows

BY FRED FELDMAN

In the face of a South African government ban on demonstrations and massive police repression, thousands of people in Cape Town and surrounding townships sought to stage marches and other protests August 28 demanding freedom for Nelson Mandela. Mandela, leader of the banned African National Congress (ANC), is being held in the Pollsmoor prison near Cape Town because of his opposition to apartheid. He has been in prison for more than two decades.

At least five people were killed as cops and troops met the demonstrators with shotguns, whips, and tear gas.

All sectors of the oppressed Black population — Africans, Coloureds, and Indians — as well as many whites joined in the protests.

The demonstrations were called by Rev. Allan Boesak, a leader of the United Democratic Front and president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. Boesak was arrested the day before the protests.

The apartheid regime announced August 28 that it was banning the Congress of South African Students, an affiliate of the United Democratic Front (UDF). Students and other youth have been in the forefront of the current wave of antiracist protests.

The National Union of Mineworkers, South Africa's strongest Black union, called for its members in the gold and coal mines to go on strike September 1. A previous strike date had been postponed. The miners are demanding a 22 percent wage increase, a holiday on May Day, and an end to wage and job discrimination.

Police attacked gatherings of white students at the University of Cape Town who sought to rally and march for Mandela's release. At least 50 people were wounded as the regime sought to crush protests in the nearby Black township of Guguletu.

At the Hewitt Teacher Training College in Athlone, priests led 1,500 protesters in a sitdown to protest the cops' refusal to let them march. Police charged with riot sticks, seized the priests, and fired tear gas and rubber bullets at the demonstration.

White House media spokesman Larry Speakes made no criticism of the apartheid regime's repression in response to these events. Instead he called for an end to the "confrontational atmosphere" — the White House code for the anti-apartheid protests.

The State Department, more anxious to take its distance from the apartheid regime, asserted that "the South African government's contention that it upholds Western values is belied" by the latest repression.

These developments followed Reagan's open defense of the apartheid regime on August 26.

He claimed that South Africa has "eliminated the segregation that we once had in our own country."

The statement was so out of line with re-



South African police charge demonstrators trying to march to Pollsmoor Prison.

ality that White House media spokesman Larry Speakes conceded that it was not true and that the president knew it. (The apartheid system, including its segregation of public accommodations, is described on page 5.)

Reagan described the regime of President Pieter Botha as a "reformist administration," which is moving toward what he said was the U.S. goal of a "more perfect democracy" in South Africa. The Botha government has killed hundreds of Blacks and jailed thousands of opponents of apartheid in recent months.

Reagan also endorsed the apartheid regime's claim that there is no Black majority. "The black majority there is a combination of minorities," he said. On the basis of this lie, Botha has reiterated the regime's rejection of the democratic principle of one person, one vote.

Reagan attempted to explain away the slur against Bishop Desmond Tutu by Rev. Jerry Falwell, an ultrarightist who has begun a campaign in defense of the apartheid regime. Falwell called Tutu a "phony."

Reagan's implicit support for Falwell adds to the evidence that Falwell is acting not only as head of the right-wing Moral Majority, but as a mouthpiece for the White House when he supports white minority rule in South Africa.

Reagan's statements expose the meaning of the U.S. rulers' policy of "constructive engagement" with the South African regime. It is nothing more than support for racist South Africa.

Zenani Mandela, a daughter of Nelson Mandela, declared in Washington August 28 that the U.S. government's support for the apartheid regime "seeks to violate the

fundamental commitment to justice of the American people."

"How can this government be reformist," she said of the South African regime, "when the truly chosen leaders of the majority of my homeland are arrested for attempting to lead peaceful demonstrations to demand the release of my father after 23 years?"

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Chicago: 'No business in South Africa'

BY SHELLEY DAVIS

CHICAGO — Despite a driving rainstorm, opponents of South Africa's apartheid system marched and rallied here on August 24. Organizers estimated the crowd at more than 2,000.

The protesters took their message directly to the local institutions that support the racist South African regime. Chanting, "No business, no business in South Africa," they marched past the Continental and First Chicago Banks, which loan money to South Africa; state and city buildings, symbols of government investment in South Africa; and the department store that sells Kruggerands, the gold coins made in South Africa.

The demonstration was called by the Free South Africa Movement and supported by more than 30 other organizations including major unions.

Protesters included members of the striking *Chicago Tribune* typographical workers and other unionists. Activists in groups that organize solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggles in Central America also joined the march.

The rally was held in front of the federal building. Herbert Martin, president of the Chicago NAACP, opened the program. Attacking right-wing preacher Jerry Falwell's recent declaration of support to the racist Pretoria regime, Martin said Falwell spoke for the "immoral minority, not the moral majority." The crowd enthusiastically responded "To hell with Falwell," a

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1,500 rally to support Wheeling-Pitt strikers

BY PAT LEHMAN

PITTSBURGH — More than 1,500 members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) rallied here in support of Wheeling-Pittsburgh steelworkers forced out on strike over a month ago.

Steelworkers from Chicago; Gary, Indiana; Ohio; Pennsylvania; and West Virginia came to the August 25 rally and pledged financial and moral support to the 8,200 strikers. The major theme of the rally was the importance of the strike for

the entire Steelworkers union and for all workers.

The workers at nine mills walked out July 21 after Wheeling-Pittsburgh — the country's seventh largest steel producer — tore up its contract with the USWA and imposed major cuts in wages, benefits, and rights. These included a \$5.85 cut in wages and benefits, the gutting of seniority provisions, and the elimination of the grievance procedure. The company used a federal

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Labor Day: solidarity is key

Labor Day is an important holiday. As we march in parades and join in rallies, it's a time for developing the unity that is so necessary in advancing the labor move-

people in other countries.

This Labor Day, for sure, the focus of international solidarity should be South Africa and Central America.

South Africa, where the oppressed Black population is fighting to smash the hated apartheid system.

Central America, where the workers and farmers of El Salvador are fighting to end a U.S.-sponsored dictatorship and Nicaraguans are resisting U.S.-organized military aggression.

And at home, solidarity is urgently

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EDITORIAL

ment's goals. And Labor Day is a proper time for promoting solidarity. Solidarity among working people here at home, and solidarity with the struggles of working



Striking West Virginia steelworkers stop loaded Wheeling-Pittsburgh truck from leaving Beech Bottom plant on August 20.

BY HARRY RING

According to our summer schedule, the *Militant* was not due to publish last week. But with the momentous events in South Africa, we decided this was no time for "business as usual," and hurried out a special issue devoted mainly to South Africa.

Initial reports on sales of the issue at plant gates and in communities confirm this was definitely the thing to do.

When we talked to Sarah Matthews, Los Angeles *Militant* sales director, the Socialist Workers Party branch there had held only the first of their weekly plant-gate sales. They were looking forward to the others.

One salesperson, Pat Nixon, hit one of the plant gates at the United Auto Workers (UAW)-organized McDonnell Douglas plant in Long Beach. Generally, Matthews said, two people sell three or four copies a week there. This time, Nixon easily sold a half dozen.

She found that Black workers particularly were outraged by the killings of Blacks in South Africa, but felt they could use more information about what was really happening there. One of the things they seemed to particularly appreciate, she said, was the *Militant's* reprinting of the Freedom Charter, the political program put forward by the African National Congress.

This combination of anger over the events and a desire for more information was also evident, she added, in initial community sales. The response to the *Militant* was "wonderful," with a dozen people selling more than 150 copies.

The Los Angeles experience was confirmed in Philadelphia.

There the SWP branch had been combining sales of earlier issues of the *Militant* with distribution of leaflets advertising a broadly sponsored anti-apartheid rally held in the city August 24.

SWP organizer Ruth Robinette said these sales had been very good, with 19 copies sold at three area UAW plants. There was also

much interest in the then-slated anti-apartheid demonstration, with workers readily taking leaflets and several taking additional ones to distribute to coworkers.

In the area of the demonstration itself, for which some 400 people turned out, the special issue of the *Militant* was very well received. Demonstrators and passersby bought a total of 200 copies.

At the first plant-gate sale of the special issue, Robinette said, workers "grabbed them up." It was at a General Motors plant in Trenton, N.J. Usually, three or four *Militants* are bought there. This time, Robinette said, she was easily able to sell 15.

"It's just real clear that people are hungry for information about what's happening in South Africa," she said.

She too found the text of the ANC Freedom Charter a strong selling point, along with the speech of ANC spokesperson Neo Mnumzana.

"People stop because they're interested in South Africa. But when you show them what's in the paper, that's really the clincher. People are rightfully suspicious about what they read in the regular papers about South Africa. But they also feel they need to know more about it. That's where we come in."

Meatpackers win support in fight against Hormel

BY HOWARD ELKHART

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The struggle of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota entered a new stage August 17 when 1,500 workers walked off their jobs at the Hormel Corporation's giant pork processing plant. Working people in this area have begun to show active solidarity with these embattled unionists.

Workers at Hormel have been fighting to win back wage rates that the company unilaterally cut last October. Local P-9 is also trying to turn back Hormel's several-year effort to win concessions from the union.

The UFCW contract expired August 9. Contract talks held during July indicated that Hormel's drive against the union was escalating.

Hormel demands big concessions

The company refused to consider restoring the old wage rates, and offered the lowered scale that is in effect today at all Hormel plants — \$9.75 per hour. The bosses demanded a two-tier wage system. They proposed a series of work-rule changes that would seriously undermine the union's power on the shop floor, and would strip workers of basic rights they have won over the years. Job bidding and seniority rights would be gutted, allowing Hormel to assign jobs without regard to workers' preferences, age, or health conditions.

In an effort to weaken the union's ability to communicate with and organize its membership, the company demanded that the contract include a prohibition on workers' rights to distribute any type of literature in the vicinity of the plant.

Workers' health insurance, already hit hard by Hormel's takebacks, was another target. Hormel demanded that employees work six months straight, missing less than 10 days, to be eligible for health insurance. Even layoffs or on-the-job injuries resulting in more than 10 days' absence would cause a worker to lose his or her coverage. Maternity leave would also be eliminated.

Local P-9 had no choice but to reject

Hormel's union-busting demands. With the local leadership's recommendation, workers overwhelmingly voted down the contract by 1261 to 96. Strike sanction was obtained from the UFCW International, though the top officials continue to press the local to accept concessions.

Since October 1984, Local P-9 has waged a public campaign against Hormel aimed at rolling back the wage and benefit cuts.

As part of its efforts, the union sought to bring public pressure on First Bank Systems of Minneapolis, one of Hormel's principal stockholders and creditors.

When the strike began, Local P-9's solidarity efforts were stepped up considerably. On August 22, a demonstration of 1,100 P-9 workers and their supporters was held in front of First Bank's headquarters in downtown Minneapolis. Chanting, "They say give back, we say fight back!" and "P-9, proud!" workers picketed the bank and distributed thousands of leaflets to office workers and passers-by. Many people stopped to discuss the strike with P-9 members. Drivers honked their horns and raised clenched fists to show their support.

Participants included leaders of the farm protest group, Groundswell, and activists from the Coalition for University Divestment from South Africa. Coalition activists passed out a leaflet for a rally at First Bank on August 26, the date set by South Africa's Black gold miners' union for a national strike. Both the coalition and Local P-9 have pointed to First Bank's ties to companies operating in South Africa. The union has worked with the coalition in anti-apartheid actions. After the demonstration, unionists fanned out to First Bank branches across the Twin Cities to continue the campaign against Hormel and the bank.

Unionists have begun distributing leaflets at plant gates and homes in the Twin Cities and elsewhere in the state. Car caravans are being organized to go to Hormel plants in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Nebraska to set up informational picket lines and get out the truth about P-9's struggle to Hormel workers.



Picture on leaflet put out by United Food and Commercial Workers union Local P-9.

Meanwhile, Hormel has stepped up its drive against the union. The company continues to claim that it needs concessions to "remain competitive" with other packers. Yet on August 20, Hormel announced that its profits increased 83 percent, soaring to \$9.6 million for the three-month period ending July 27.

Bosses' response

Hormel and First Bank state that the union's efforts will have no effect on them. They claim that all work done at the Austin plant, Hormel's most productive, can easily be made up by increasing production at the other plants and by marketing agreements with other meatpackers. This is disputed by the union, which points out that the other plants have been running at near capacity for some time.

FDL Foods, a Dubuque, Iowa packer with close ties to Hormel, has threatened to go to court to prevent any picketing by Local P-9 at its plant. FDL said that UFCW members at its facility could be fired for honoring P-9 picket lines. However, P-9 is not attempting to organize solidarity strikes at other plants, but simply trying to get out the truth about their aims and win union support.

Hormel is also trying to smear the union

as violent. The corporate headquarters in Austin has been ringed with barbed wire, and guards have been posted around Hormel properties. Alleged death threats against company president Richard Knowlton have received lots of publicity in the big-business media, despite the fact that the union has continually and publicly stated its opposition to any sort of threats or violence. Similar threats made against union officials have not received the same media coverage.

Though the Austin plant is currently closed, Hormel has threatened to try to run it with scabs a few weeks from now. The company has announced it will try to recruit scabs among bankrupt farmers in the area.

The stakes are high in Local P-9's fight with Hormel. UFCW contract negotiations with the John Morrell and Armour packing companies are beginning, and a victory against Hormel would put all packinghouse workers in a better position to resist company demands.

Active solidarity from the entire labor movement is needed to win this battle, including financial contributions. Money and support messages can be sent to: P-9 Emergency and Hardship Fund, United Support Group, 316 N.E. 4th Ave., Austin, Minnesota 55912.

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Send to Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014

The Militant

Closing news date: August 28, 1985

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Published weekly except one week in August and the last week of December by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Business Office, (212) 929-3486.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S. \$24.00 a year, outside U.S. \$30.00. By first-class mail: U.S., Canada, and Mexico: \$60.00. Write for air-mail rates to all other countries.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

New openings to get out socialist ideas

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

OBERLIN, Ohio — The deepening struggle of the Black majority in South Africa to overturn the apartheid system and the growing movement here to end official U.S. support for apartheid make increased sales of socialist literature more important and more possible.

This was the conclusion of a workshop on circulation of the socialist press led by Socialist Workers Party National Committee member Andrea Morell. The workshop was part of the SWP's 33rd Constitutional Convention and Educational and Activists Conference held here August 10-15.

The SWP and Young Socialist Alliance mapped out plans to step up the circulation of the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, as well as books and pamphlets produced and distributed by Pathfinder Press.

The workshop projected continuing to organize all SWP members to sell regularly at work places as well as to their coworkers on the job. Sales of the press at actions protesting the U.S.-backed war in Central America as well as at the many anti-apartheid protests that will take place this fall were given special emphasis.

More opportunities for sales

Morell explained that the stepped-up political protests that are planned will mean more opportunities to meet political activists as well as coworkers who want to read the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

The campaign to get out the truth about the struggle in South Africa was given a boost at the conference closing rally. *Militant* editor Malik Miah announced that a special issue of the paper would be published immediately, with a big focus on the apartheid system and the struggle against it.

The *Militant* plans to publish statements by the African National Congress (ANC), the organization leading the struggle in South Africa. The *Militant* will also feature articles on the role of U.S. companies in supporting apartheid and how economic sanctions against South Africa can help defeat the apartheid regime.

The *Militant* will continue to feature on-the-spot coverage from its reporting team in Nicaragua on the deepening revolution in that country. It will carry news on strikes like the one of Steelworkers against Wheeling-Pittsburgh, the Bath Shipyard strike in Maine, the United Mine Workers strike against A.T. Massey, and the Hormel strike in Minnesota.

The *Militant* will be covering the fight for Black rights, actions to defend abortion rights, protests against cop violence, and deportations and developments in the Chicano and Puerto Rican communities.

Perspectiva Mundial plans to publish

Sales campaign aims at 40,000 copies of 'Militant,' 'PM'

At the recent convention of the Socialist Workers Party, participants agreed to conduct a special drive to expand the circulation of the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*.

The goal is to sell 40,000 individual copies of the two publications, plus 2,000 subscriptions, in the 10-week period from September 15 through November 16.

The dramatic growth of the anti-apartheid movement and the national plans for stepped-up fall activity in opposition to Washington's war drive in Central America ensure that the circulation drive has every prospect for success.

This is more than demonstrated by the response to the special anti-apartheid issue of the *Militant* we published last week.

The following are some of the initial results.

In two hours, **St. Louis** socialists sold more than 200 copies of the special issue. With that kind of response, they quickly decided that their bundle of 500 was going to be too small and ordered another 200.

In **Kansas City**, in an opening sale, 86 copies of the special issue were sold in the Chicano community. The SWP branch ordered an extra 100 to be sure they had enough for the rest of the week.



Andrea Morell gave report at recent convention of Socialist Workers Party to workshop on stepping up circulation of socialist press. Participants discussed increased opportunities to circulate 'Militant,' 'Perspectiva Mundial,' and socialist books and pamphlets. (Left) Pathfinder Press literature table at conference.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

extensive material on the struggle in South Africa. It will be the only source of such information in Spanish in this country.

The SWP launched a fall campaign to sell 40,000 single copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* and 2,000 subscriptions (see story elsewhere on this page). This campaign will help get out the truth about what is happening in South Africa, as well as the U.S.-backed war in Central America and struggles by workers and farmers in the United States.

YSA campaign

The YSA decided to step up its efforts to reach young people with socialist ideas. At the workshop on circulation of the socialist press, YSA National Chairperson Ellen Haywood announced plans to immediately begin publishing the YSA's newspaper, the *Young Socialist*, on a monthly basis. The first monthly issue of the *YS* just came off the press.

The *YS* will feature news on the international movement against apartheid, with reports on activities in New Zealand, Western Europe, and Cuba. It will also include articles on building the October 11 National Anti-apartheid Protest Day called by the American Committee on Africa and others.

In light of this spring's struggles by college students for divestment of university funds from companies doing business in South Africa, the YSA is putting special emphasis on selling this issue of the *YS* at college registration.

In addition to the monthly *YS*, the YSA is planning to put out other material to help build the anti-apartheid movement.

Haywood told the *Militant* that "the YSA sold out of its red-black-and-green 'Black Majority Rule' T-shirts during the six-day socialist education conference. The

YSA," she said, "plans to re-issue that T-shirt as well as to produce two new shirts. One will have the slogan 'Free Nelson Mandela' and the other will say 'Break all U.S. ties with apartheid.' We will also be publishing a *Young Socialist* pamphlet on South Africa," Haywood said.

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\$125,000 fund drive for socialist publications

BY JERRY FREIWIRTH AND ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The goal of the Socialist Publications Fund is to raise \$125,000 by November 15.

Meeting this goal takes on special importance in light of the massive upsurge in South Africa and the already sizeable movement in the United States against apartheid.

There will be an increased desire among U.S. working people for publications that tell the truth about apartheid and the U.S. government this fall. There will be a bigger audience for periodicals and books that forthrightly take the side of the Black fighters in South Africa, the revolutionary people in Cuba and Nicaragua, and those fighting against the U.S.-backed dictatorships in El Salvador, the Philippines, and elsewhere.

And there will be more U.S. workers, farmers, Blacks, Latinos, women, and youth who will look to socialist publications in their search for answers, as the bosses and the government continue their assault on working people in this country.

That's why the launching of the Socialist Publications Fund at the Socialist Workers Party convention and educational conference was so timely. The fund will help meet this increased thirst for socialist periodicals and books.

The Socialist Publications Fund will help finance the publication of the *Militant*, the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the biweekly international news magazine *Intercontinental Press*. It will support the production and distribution of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory. And it will help pay for the many books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder Press.

The Socialist Publications Fund will enable the *Militant* to respond rapidly to big political developments like the recent upsurge in the anti-apartheid struggle. It will allow us to send reporters to events like the Meeting on the Foreign Debt in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Havana, Cuba, this summer.

The money raised through the fund will also help finance the Managua bureau, a team of *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* reporters stationed in Nicaragua providing on-the-spot coverage of the deepening revolution in that country.

The important expansion plans of Pathfinder Press will also be made possible by the Socialist Publications Fund.

Formally launched at the concluding rally of the convention and educational conference, the Socialist Publications Fund was greeted with enthusiasm by conference participants.

Almost \$70,000 was pledged to the fund at that one rally.

Participants who are members of industrial unions led the way.

Fifty-four members of the United Auto Workers, for example, pledged a total of more than \$14,000. Thirty members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, some of the lowest-paid unionized workers in the country, made pledges averaging \$85 apiece, nearly a week's take-home pay. Members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union pledged an average of more than \$330 each.

This marked an excellent beginning for the fall publications fund. But there are many more partisans of the socialist publications around the country and around the world who were not able to attend the gathering in Oberlin, Ohio. Reaching out to them and gaining their support for the Socialist Publications Fund will be a crucial ingredient in successfully meeting the \$125,000 goal.

A special effort is planned to talk to subscribers and readers of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* in the factories, mines, and fields across the country about contributing to the fund.

The Socialist Publications Fund goes hand in hand with the fall campaign to increase the circulation of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, which will run concurrently with the fund drive through November 15. The fund will seek financial support from new readers, many of whom will be activists in the fight against apartheid and the war in Central America.

A key component of all these outreach activities will be public rallies for the fund. They will be held in 40 cities this fall. Speakers at these rallies will include activists from the Free South Africa Movement and the fight against the U.S.-backed war in Central America, as well as Black rights and women's rights fighters, trade unionists, and farm activists. These rallies will focus on the contributions of the socialist publications in helping to build these struggles.

Contributions to the fund or pledges payable by November 15 can be sent to: Socialist Publications Fund, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

OCAW convention condemns apartheid, hits U.S. support

Union will 'strengthen solidarity'

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

DENVER — The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) went on record condemning South Africa's racist apartheid system and U.S. government support for it in its five-day convention which ended here August 23.

Support was also voiced for slated anti-apartheid demonstrations by OCAW Vice President Calvin Moore, in an interview with the *Militant*.

"We would encourage all locals to participate in demonstrations planned for October," Moore said.

Moore addressed the convention on behalf of a resolution introduced by OCAW President Joseph Misbrenner and other officers.

"The continuing denial of basic human rights in South Africa under the racist apartheid system is an affront to all humanity which must be actively condemned — not passively condoned — by the U.S. government," the resolution declared.

"The sham constitutional reforms that deny any political participation to the overwhelming majority of South Africa citizens, to Blacks, represent an attempt to perpetuate minority rule rather than a step toward majority rule," the resolution continued.

It added: "The Black trade union movement in South Africa . . . is being held on a short leash by the white authorities and remains threatened by the prospect of government prosecution, preventive detention, and death in custody . . ."

"The U.S. government must speak out clearly against the oppressive racist policies and actions of the white South African government."

A second resolution, which combined separate resolutions submitted by a local in California and one in Texas, was also adopted by the convention. That resolution pledged the OCAW to "redouble its efforts to expose the indignities, injustices and human repression suffered by the majority Black population."

It also demanded "an immediate end to U.S. government and corporate backing to the South African regime."

The measure pledged the OCAW to "develop closer bonds with Black South African trade unions, especially our brothers and sisters in the Chemical Workers Industrial Union, to strengthen our solidarity with their struggle, in part at least, by encouraging OCAW local unions to organize education programs on South Africa."

Moore told the *Militant* that he had met with 20 South African labor leaders in Washington, D.C. "They realize they will be hurt by disinvestment" by U.S. companies, Moore said. "But they believe it's needed to fight the system."

OCAW Local 1-547 hosted two showings at the convention of the ABC-TV documentary, "Adapt Or Die," which shows the central role played by the new, Black trade unions in South Africa.

(A future issue of the *Militant* will carry a full report on the OCAW convention.)



Militant/Larry Lukehart

Berkeley students at April 20 antiwar actions last spring. On August 26, opening day of school term, 1,000 students protested UC Berkeley's ties to apartheid. Steve Biko, leader of student protests in South Africa, was murdered by regime in 1977.

1,000 protest in Berkeley

BY GEORGES SAYAD

BERKELEY, Calif. — August 26 was the opening day of the new academic year at the University of California at Berkeley. All eyes were on the campus.

Last spring, the university was shaken by student mobilizations protesting the administration's policy of investing in companies that do business in racist South Africa. Day after day there were rallies and other protests involving thousands of students, often with support from the community and area unionists.

Opening day confirmed that the fight will continue. With less than a day's notice, close to 1,000 students rallied on the steps of Steve Biko Plaza to denounce U.S. and university ties with South Africa. Biko was a Black leader who was murdered in 1977 while in the custody of the brutal South African police.

Andrea Prithett, one of the key figures in last spring's protests, opened the rally by denouncing the administration's stand and

reporting the students' demands: "Full and immediate divestment. We accept nothing less. For an immediate boycott of South African goods and companies that do business in South Africa."

Students want all criminal and disciplinary charges lodged against protesters last spring to be dropped. Students are also demanding expansion of the university's Ethnic Studies programs and campus affirmative action programs.

Prithett aimed her fire at the U.S. government policy of "constructive engagement" with the racist Pretoria regime. This policy, she explained, was nothing more than direct support to apartheid.

Prithett was joined by Howard Pinderhughes, a leader of the United People of Color, one of the groups that organized the spring protests.

Pedro Norguera, also a member of the United People of Color and this year's president of the UC Berkeley student body, was also present.

Pinderhughes said it was necessary for organizations to put aside their differences and join together to build a massive anti-apartheid movement.

He explained that U.S. support to apartheid is part of a global policy known as imperialism.

He stressed that the other victims of imperialism, like the people of El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Palestine, should not be forgotten. He pointed to the need to build a movement against U.S. intervention in all these countries.

Speakers and members from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 321, Hospital Workers Local 250, and the Molders Union joined the students at the rally.

Leo Robinson of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 10 announced that his union had just voted to donate \$2,000 a year to the African National Congress and urged other unions to do likewise.

He also announced that dock workers in Vancouver, Washington, were refusing to handle South African cargo.

Union Carbide Corp.'s 'accidents' protested

Continued from back page

poisoned in their beds or having their children born with birth defects.

Many working people, especially those living near the plants, say that Union Carbide can take away their jobs, but not their lives. A woman autoworker from the local Volkswagen plant had a press conference on her front lawn here to condemn Carbide. Many working people are demanding the "right to know." This is important in order to expose the lies and cover-ups of Union Carbide management, as well as to find out the facts about how these employers do threaten our lives.

The Bhopal disaster and the leaks in Institute show how the capitalists put profits before human lives.

Workers and farmers must have the right to know and the right to shut UC and other plants down when they threaten our lives. And we shouldn't have to pay for this with the loss of our jobs. UC's billions in profit should be put to use to provide jobs, safe jobs, to put the Kanawha Valley back to work.

Tex. customs cops seize Nicaraguan literature

BY NANCY COLE

HOUSTON — U.S. Customs officials here have seized literature brought back from Nicaragua by U.S. citizens.

According to the local American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) this is the first report of such Customs action in Houston, although it has happened in other parts of the country.

On July 29 Houston resident Mark Rogers, returning from two weeks in Nicaragua, was forced to turn over newspapers, posters, books of poetry, and political literature as he went through Customs at Houston's Intercontinental Airport.

Since the Customs agent did not speak Spanish, he told Rogers that the FBI would determine if the material was "treasonous or seditious."

Rogers also had his wallet searched and was frisked before the agents released him.

Then on August 1 George and Heidi Rose passed through Houston Customs on their way to their home in Birmingham, Alabama. Their literature, accumulated during a two-week tour of Nicaragua, was

also confiscated. One of the Customs agents said, "Some of this is by the FSLN [Sandinista Front for National Liberation]. We know about them. They advocate the overthrow of the U.S. government."

One agent spent some time reading an article in the English-language magazine *Envio*, published in Nicaragua by the Central American Historical Institute. The article was titled, "Reagan Gives Green Light to Terrorism Against Nicaragua." The agent concluded, "This is definitely subversive!"

All three travelers were part of tours to Nicaragua sponsored by the Militant and Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc.

Antiwar activists and supporters of civil liberties here reacted angrily to this bullying effort to stifle the circulation of information from Nicaragua.

The August 7 *Houston Chronicle* carried an article titled, "Seizure of literature spurs protest."

"When we talk about the First Amendment around the ACLU, people always ac-

cuse us of crying wolf," the *Chronicle* quoted ACLU attorney Bruce Griffiths. "But there is a debate going on in this country now about what our policy toward Nicaragua should be. It seems to me it's real dangerous when the government says people can't bring back materials that might shed some light on that debate, whether good, bad, or indifferent."

Questioned by the *Chronicle*, Charles Conroy, regional spokesman for the U.S. Customs Service, responded, "Our job is to stop this material when someone attempts to bring it into the United States. Then we ask the FBI to look at it and determine if it's subversive."

Mark Rogers told reporters at an August 7 news conference, "These Big Brother tactics will not intimidate us from continuing to inform our fellow citizens of the truth about U.S. government policies in Central America."

Rogers' statement to the media outlined some of what the Reagan administration is trying to keep from North Americans. He described an ambush by armed counterrevolutionaries on July 27 against unarmed mothers and sisters en route to visit draftees. At least nine people were murdered. The *contras* raped and cut off the legs of several women before they killed them.

One of the newspapers seized from Rogers carried an initial report on this cowardly act of terrorism.

Also speaking at the news conference was Mark Ginsburg, a professor at the University of Houston, who was representing the Texas Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice. A statement protesting the seizures was distributed from the Coalition for Peace and Justice in Central America.

The ABC-TV affiliate that evening showed film of Rogers' literature on display in the Customs office. (It was released to Rogers later that day.) The newscaster held up two examples and translated them to English. One was a book entitled, "The Workers Movement in Nicaragua." The other was a poster that said, "In this house we are on a fast for peace and for life and to repudiate the terrorism of the North American government against the people of Nicaragua."

Pacific island of New Caledonia. Ounei pointed to the hypocrisy of the French government's declaration of opposition to apartheid at the same time that it is fighting to maintain its colonial rule over New Caledonia.

Endorsers of the demonstration included United Steelworkers District 31, United Auto Workers District 65, Operation PUSH, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Coalition of Labor Union Women, NAACP, Chicago Urban League, National Black United Front, National Black Independent Political Party, and the United Food and Commercial Workers. Other endorsers included: the Committee in Support of Divestment in South Africa; Jobs, Peace and Justice Coalition; Clergy and Laity Concerned; Chicago Peace Council; Jewish Council of Urban Affairs; Communist Party; Socialist Workers Party; and Workers World Party.

Chicago: 'No business in S. Africa'

Continued from front page

chant heard often throughout the day.

The keynote speaker was Neo Mnumzana, chief representative to the United Nations of the African National Congress of South Africa. "There is no longer any doubt that the apartheid regime is going to fall; the only question is when," said Mnumzana. He attacked the U.S. government as "the most enthusiastic supporter of the apartheid regime."

Mnumzana urged all anti-apartheid fighters to extend their solidarity to the people of Nicaragua who are fighting the U.S.-sponsored counterrevolutionaries. A victory for Nicaragua, he said, will aid the struggle in South Africa because a victory for one oppressed people is a victory for all.

The rally also heard greetings from Susanna Ounei, a leader of the Kanak liberation struggle in the French-dominated

Apartheid: what it means for Blacks

BY GEORGE KAPLAN

An infant mortality rate for Africans of 20 to 25 percent.

Massive malnutrition.

An education system that teaches white supremacy and Black inferiority.

Scores of hangings each year.

This is some of what apartheid means for the 85 percent of South Africans who are Black.

In the last decade, the use of the term Black to describe the entire oppressed population — 24 million Africans, 3 million Coloureds, and almost 1 million Indians — has grown in popularity. It reflects advances, in the course of the struggle against apartheid, toward the forging of a single nation of the oppressed.

The regime has used apartheid to reinforce tribal and other group divisions among the oppressed, combining brutal suppression of the Africans with the granting of some petty concessions to oppressed Coloureds and Asians.

Apartheid means segregation in Afrikaans, the language of the Boers (those whites who are descended from Dutch settlers). The institutionalization of apartheid began in 1948.

The Black majority has been oppressed and exploited in South Africa since the 17th century, when European settlers began systematically stealing Africans' lands and forcing them to work under slave-labor conditions.

But apartheid represented an extreme intensification of this oppression, repression, and exploitation of the Black majority.

A racist society

At birth, under apartheid, everyone is officially classified according to race. This determines whether they are citizens and have any political rights; where they will be allowed to live; what kind of work they will do; and what they will be taught in school.

Even the token voting rights and political representation for Blacks that had existed earlier was eliminated in the years after 1948. In an effort to divide Indians and Coloureds from the rest of the Black population, the regime recently instituted a powerless consultative body for the Indian and Coloured populations. The overwhelming majority of Indians and Coloureds boycotted the elections, however.

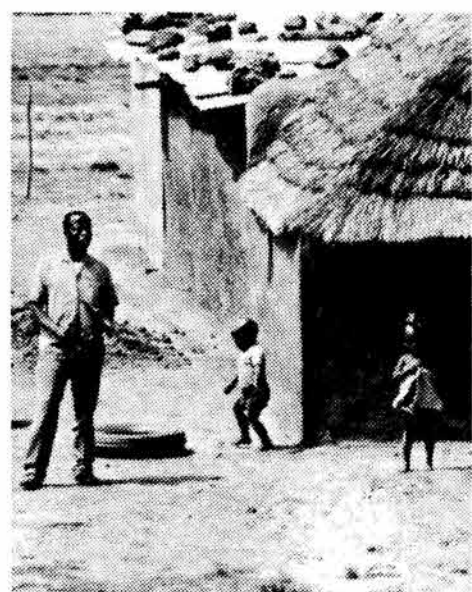
Apartheid seeks to strip Africans of citizenship and assign them to white-controlled tribal "homelands" — 13.7 percent of the territory of the country. The vast majority of the territory is formally reserved for the white minority, with Africans permitted to stay in restricted areas only if they are working for whites.

More than 6 million Blacks were forced to move to these "homelands" or Bantustans.

Segregation

Within the urban areas, rigid segregation was imposed. Hundreds of thousands of Blacks were forcibly moved into crowded townships and neighborhoods provided for each group.

The overcrowding of the Black townships forced thousands to establish communities on unoccupied land. Under the



Blacks are forced to live in poverty in rural reserves called Bantustans.

Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, the government has bulldozed many such communities, deporting residents to the "homelands" or leaving them homeless.

The 1953 Reservation of Separate Amenities Act segregated post offices, railway stations, trains, bridges, buses, public parks, benches, beaches, and swimming pools. The law specifically allows for the provision of inferior facilities for Blacks. Yet Blacks are taxed at a higher rate than whites to pay the costs of white supremacy.

President Reagan claims that this kind of segregation has ended. This is not true.

The August 27 *Washington Post* reported, "Hotels and restaurants must have special government permits to service Blacks. Perhaps two dozen hotels and three dozen restaurants in Johannesburg have such permits, while many hotels and restaurants remain off limits to Blacks. . . . 'Jim Crow' restrictions imposing strict segregation on buses and trains still apply, although airplanes have been integrated for several years."

Although people of different racial groups may marry, it is illegal for them to live together.

Soweto, with nearly 1.5 million Blacks, is a typical segregated township. Ernest Harsch describes it in *South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolt*:

"Like all Black townships in South Africa, Soweto has few of the social amenities usually associated with urban life. It has only three movie theaters, one hotel, three banks, three post offices, one hospital, and few stores that sell anything more than groceries or the commonest household items. There are no supermarkets or shopping centers and only one produce market. . . . Telephones are rare, and street lighting is nonexistent in large parts of the township."

Pass system

The pass system plays a key part in enforcing white supremacy.

The current pass system was instituted in 1952, when the Natives' Act consolidated and extended previous pass laws. It changed the name of the pass to reference book. The reference book includes an African's photograph, identity card, registration number, ethnic background description, labor bureau authorization, tax receipts, work record, current address of employment, and employer's signature, which has to be updated monthly.

All Africans over the age of 16 must have a pass and carry it with them at all times. Every policeman, and many government officials, can demand to see it day or night. Failure to produce an up-to-date pass on the spot is punishable by fine and imprisonment. More than half a million Africans have been arrested during the past two years for pass law violations.

The pass laws are used to divide families. Since often only the working members of the family can live in the townships, hundreds of thousands of workers (mostly men) must leave their families behind in the "homelands."

A 1967 government circular explained its policy:

"It is accepted Government policy that the Bantus [an insulting term for Africans] are only temporarily resident in the European areas of the Republic, for as long as they offer their labour there. As soon as they become, for some reason or another, no longer fit for work or superfluous in the labour market, they are expected to return to their country of origin or the territory where they fit in ethnically. . . ."

The circular listed those Africans whom Pretoria regarded as barred including the "aged, the unfit, widows, women with dependent children." It referred to Black communities within the white central cities as "black spots which are being cleared up."

The pass law marks the Africans as foreigners in their own country, migrant laborers with no human rights.

Prison for Blacks

In South Africa, more than a million Blacks are arrested for violating racial laws each year. During the 1970s, half the African adult male population was estimated to



All facets of life are segregated under apartheid system.

have spent time in jail. Hundreds of Blacks are routinely gunned down by cops and security forces each year. This is on top of those killed during the repression of political protests.

Blacks are punished by whipping for a variety of offenses, including traffic violations or illegal fishing. During a one year period — June 1972–June 1973 — 45,000 people were punished by whipping.

South Africa has one of the highest rates of legally-sanctioned executions in the world. During the decade of the 1960s an average of 95 people were hanged each year. The overwhelming majority of the 948 victims were Black.

Legal lynching reached a peak in 1978 when 132 persons — all but one of them Black — were hanged. To facilitate multiple executions, the gallows at Pretoria Central Prison hold several nooses.

Anti-Black education

Hundreds of students are being jailed in South Africa for boycotting the African school system. The education they are protesting is education for semi-slave labor.

A 1948 pamphlet supporting apartheid explained, "Native education should be based on the principal of trusteeship, non-equality, and segregation; its aim should be to inculcate the white man's view of life."

As of 1977, more than 654 rands [1 rand = U.S. 46¢] was budgeted for every white student in South Africa. An average of 49 rands was budgeted for each African student. White education was free through secondary school, but African parents paid special taxes and African students were obliged to make "voluntary" contributions.

The pupil-teacher ratio was 20:1 in white schools, 50:1 in African ones.

In order to train a large number of African workers for industrial jobs, primary education has been expanded. But a high push-out rate makes certain that only a tiny percentage attend secondary schools — much less college. A minuscule .34 percent reached the top grade of secondary school.

It is estimated that about 48 percent of Africans are functionally illiterate.

The regime fosters this by attempting to impose education in tribal African languages on schools in the "homelands." Most Africans favor education in English, which allows them to communicate across tribal and group lines and with the outside world. The regime opposes education in English for the same reasons.

At the same time, the Africans are taught enough English and Afrikaans so that, as one government report put it, "the Bantu (African) child will be able to find his way in European communities; to follow oral or written instructions; and to carry on a sim-

ple conversation with Europeans about his work and other subjects of common interest."

Besides teaching manual labor, the schools teach African children a fictional version of South African history: that white settlers found and developed an unpopulated land, to which Africans came later. White supremacy is sometimes defended as ordained by God.

Death and apartheid

The impact of apartheid on the life of the oppressed is suggested by some statistics. Ernest Harsch points out in *South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolt*:

"Although the rest of Africa is much poorer than South Africa in terms of productive output, there are a number of African countries that have higher per capita incomes than Africans have in South Africa. In the desolate Bantustans, the income per person is less than 40 percent of the average on the continent as a whole."

While white workers are virtually guaranteed a job, some 2.3 million Black workers were unemployed as of 1977 — about 22 percent of the total.

The health statistics paint a still more devastating picture.

The infant mortality rate in imperialist South Africa's Bantustans is the highest in Africa.

In 1971 it was 19.4 per thousand for whites; 38.3 for Asians; 121 for Coloureds. A United Nations report in 1970 estimated it as 200 to 250 per thousand for Africans.

About 1 million African children suffer from malnutrition. In some urban areas, up to 80 percent of schoolchildren are victims of malnutrition or undernourishment.

The incidence of tuberculosis is 20 times higher than for whites; the incidence of typhoid is 17 times higher. The incidence of kwashiorkor, a protein deficiency disease, is 332 times higher.

In 1972, there was one doctor for every 400 whites; 900 Asians; 6,200 Coloureds; and 144,000 Africans.

Government sources estimated that life expectancy was 68 years for whites; 62 for Indians; 53 for Coloureds; and 55 for Blacks.

Majority of Blacks in S. Africa support economic sanctions

Rev. Jerry Falwell, the ultrarightist who recently returned from a visit to South Africa and is campaigning in defense of white minority rule, claims that he never met a single Black there who favored economic sanctions against the apartheid regime.

He must not have gotten around much.

Seventy-seven percent of South Africa's urban Blacks support international trade sanctions against the apartheid regime, according to a poll taken by Markinor, a Gallup-affiliated polling organization.

According to the August 26 *New York Times*, "Sanctions were backed even though 46 percent of those responding said they would suffer from them personally."

The Reagan administration, which has refused to condemn the South African regime for murdering hundreds of Black protesters, claims it opposes sanctions because it can't bear to see Blacks suffer. Blacks, however, want apartheid brought down by whatever means are necessary.

Sixty-nine percent of those Blacks polled thought that apartheid could only be ended through civil war. Twenty-nine percent thought a peaceful solution was possible.

SOUTH AFRICA

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'My campaign is fighting to defend working people'

Socialist candidate runs for mayor of Phoenix

BY DAVE CAHALANE

PHOENIX — "My campaign is about fighting to defend the rights of working people. The Democrats and Republicans don't want working-class fighters on the ballot, so the first battle of my campaign will be to defend my right to be on the ballot."

That is how Elen Lauper, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Phoenix, sized up the situation.

In the last two weeks of July, Lauper's supporters gathered 1,000 signatures on nominating petitions to place her name on the November ballot. This effort will continue through early September. The 1,500 signatures required by law must be submitted by September 26. Her supporters plan to exceed this number.

At her July 27 news conference, Lauper reminded reporters that in 1983, the SWP candidate for mayor was undemocratically excluded from the ballot. His supporters submitted more than twice the required number of signatures on nominating petitions, "but election officials threw out enough of them to keep him off the ballot."

"A public campaign is necessary this year to defend democratic rights in the election," she said.

Lauper's news conference was held at one of two indoor shopping malls, where the socialist campaign obtained permission to set up all-day information booths.

As shoppers stopped to watch, Lauper discussed her campaign with the media. "The response of working people to my

campaign has been very encouraging. They like the fact that I am a union steelworker, a candidate who defends unions and is opposed to the government's war in Central America. It is clear that the people of Phoenix want this kind of alternative on the ballot."

Hundreds of people stopped at the socialist campaign booth that day to sign petitions, get campaign literature, or spend a few minutes talking with Lauper and other campaign activists.

Lauper's campaign has already reached thousands of people in Phoenix. The majority of the 5,000 English and Spanish campaign brochures printed in mid-July were distributed in only two weeks. Lauper has been interviewed on television and radio several times. A Spanish-language radio station, KVVA, has offered Lauper six 30-second spots per week, and monthly 15-minute interviews, through the election.

Lauper's call to have Phoenix declared a "sanctuary city" for refugees fleeing Central American dictatorships backed by the U.S. government, drew a sharp public response from the Regional Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Harold Ezell. Lauper's and Ezell's positions appeared in letters in the *Arizona Republic*.

Ezell accused Lauper of advocating secession from the United States, lawbreaking, and anarchy.

Lauper responded that dictatorships backed by the U.S. government "have tor-

tured and murdered thousands of people for the 'crimes' of union or peasant cooperative activity, and teaching peasants or farmworkers to read. The lives of undocumented workers from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala would be in immediate danger if they were deported."

Lauper has received an especially warm response to her opposition to the racist regime in South Africa.

Her campaign supports an October 11 statewide protest against U.S. government and corporate backing of South Africa. This protest will be held at the state capitol here. It is being organized by the Arizona Coalition Against Apartheid.

At the end of July, Lauper was laid off from her job as a production worker at Marathon Steel (Tempe), which is organized by United Steelworkers Local 5904. The company plans to shut down the plant, citing foreign steel imports and high labor costs as reasons.

In a statement distributed to her co-workers and the media before her lay-off, Lauper responded, "The decision to close the plant was made simply because the owners couldn't squeeze more profits out of us. This country needs steel. Nicaragua



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Socialist Workers Party candidate in Phoenix, Elen Lauper.

needs steel also, rather than a trade embargo or aid to the contras."

"Management blames foreign steel imports," said Lauper. "This implies that fellow steelworkers in Mexico and elsewhere are our enemies. I think steelworkers in other countries are our allies. We must not be tricked by the company's 'divide-and-conquer' strategy."

Lauper's response to the announced shutdown was covered by some of the local media. This and the distribution of her campaign brochure at work sparked greater interest in her campaign program among workers there.

Before her lay-off, several co-workers signed petitions in support of her right to be on the ballot.

SWP campaign in 'People'

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The August 12 issue of the weekly magazine *People* ran an article on Elen Lauper, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Phoenix. The reason for running the story is that Elen Lauper is the sister of famous rock star Cyndi Lauper. The feature, written by James S. Kunen, gave readers a glimpse of Elen's political views and background.

"When Elen Lauper announced last April that she was running as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Phoenix, none of the handful of reporters present thought to ask if she was related to the wacky rock star Cyndi Lauper," the article began.

"A family tie seemed too farfetched. After all, a great deal more than geography separates the Arizona capital's Socialist Bookstore, where Elen, 33, threw her hat into the ring, from the artists' lofts of lower Manhattan, where the flame-haired she-bopper pursues her antic art."

As for Elen, Kunen reported, "As befits the standard-bearer of a party so-named, Elen is a worker — a helper-and-bundler

who cuts hot steel with a blowtorch at the Marathon Steel Company's Phoenix plant for \$8 an hour. 'It's hard,' says 5'4" Elen, 'but you get a certain amount of respect once you've matched all the things that your co-workers can do.'

"Since dropping out in her freshman year at the City University of New York's Queens College in 1970 to find out 'why the world was the way it was,' Elen has held a series of 'non-traditional' jobs. She has repaired railroad boxcars, worked in a garment factory and sweated as a pipe fitter in shipyards. She was introduced to politics through her involvement in the movement for the right to abortion and gravitated to the Socialist Workers Party primarily because of its positions on women's issues," he said.

Kunen explained that Lauper's call for the city of Phoenix to provide sanctuary to refugees from El Salvador has gotten the SWP campaign new support and recognition.

As regards her sister, Elen said, "We live in two different worlds."

"I don't write her music, and she doesn't write my speeches."

Boston socialist hits break-in

BY HELEN LOWENTHAL

BOSTON — Kip Hedges, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council here, is demanding that the police apprehend the criminals who burglarized his campaign headquarters. "This is an obvious attempt at political intimidation and harassment, and a threat to the democratic right of working class candidates to run for political office," stated Hedges.

A Boston police investigation is under way.

The break-in occurred sometime between August 15 and 17, the week of the SWP's national convention. This is one of the few times that campaign supporters are not in the offices. The robbers took \$30 cash but left valuable office equipment and machine tools behind. Feces were found on the floor of the campaign office. File drawers were left open and padlocks within the office were broken. There were no signs of forcible entry.

Similar break-ins have occurred recently in Boston at the offices of antiwar and Central American solidarity organizations, and the methods of operation resemble those used in the past by the CIA, the FBI, and other political police.

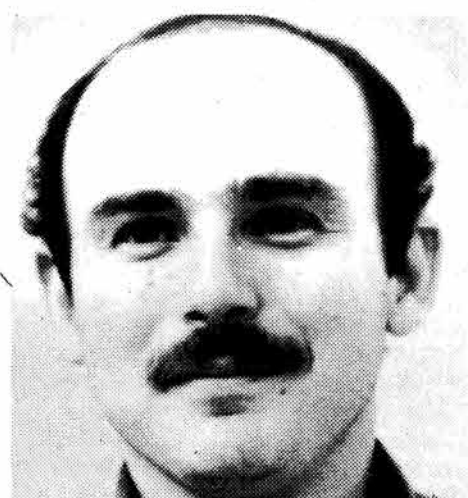
The Hedges campaign has openly supported the Vietnamese revolution, which in other cities across the country has drawn attacks by right-wing Vietnamese thugs.

The campaign also participated recently in events celebrating the anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution. Several

months ago a public meeting in nearby Lawrence of Central America solidarity supporters was threatened by a telephone call from a person identifying himself as a member of the rightist Cuban terrorist group, Omega 7.

In response to the break-in, the Hedges campaign immediately issued a press release to the Boston media. The campaign also sent a mailing to activists in Black, antiwar, Central America solidarity, and anti-apartheid organizations in the city calling for a movement-wide defense of democratic rights and a public campaign against harassment, break-ins, surveillance, and related attacks.

"I call on Mayor Flynn," said Hedges, "to denounce such attacks on my campaign, our offices, and our right to function legally, free of intimidation and victimization."



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

SWP candidate Kip Hedges

'IP' prints ANC president's speech

Forty-eight hours after South Africa's President Pieter Botha imposed a state of emergency July 20, Oliver Tambo, the exiled president of the African National Congress (ANC), spoke to the Black people of South Africa by radio.

"By declaring a state of emergency," Tambo explained, "Botha has admitted that his organs of government have collapsed. . . . The perspective ahead of us is to intensify the struggle exactly in these areas that are under martial law."

Tambo's address is reprinted in the current, September 9, issue of *Intercontinental Press*, along with news articles on developments in South Africa and worldwide protests against apartheid. The issue also includes the full text of the final communiqué of the ANC's Second National Consultative Conference, held in Zambia in June.

The new situation in the country, Tambo said, "demands that each one of us should choose sides: one is either on the side of genuine change or one is on the side of con-

tinued repression. There is no middle road."

Tambo also spoke to the problem of Black collaborators with the apartheid regime, calling on them to "leave the ranks of the enemy which is using them to terrorize their own mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and children."

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Virginia: 1,900 strike Norshipco shipyard

NORFOLK, Va. — "They don't want me to spend no time with my family," Bob Knight told the Newport News *Times-Herald*. He was explaining why he and nearly 1,900 other workers walked off the job at the Norfolk Drydock and Shipbuilding Company (Norshipco) on August 15. Norshipco is the third largest shipyard in this shipbuilding area.

Knight has worked for Norshipco for nine years. Starting last December, he and other shipyard workers here have been forced to work weekends, many at straight-time pay.

Organized by Local 684 of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, workers at Norshipco have been working without a contract since then. Although authorized by the local's membership to call a strike in December, union officials hesitated, having been unsuccessful in numerous attempts to get the company to discuss the issue. Norshipco then simply went ahead and imposed new work rules unilaterally.

On August 14 union representatives attempted once more to meet with the company, but to no avail. The strike was called for 6 a.m. the following day.

A central issue in the strike is the company's new "flexible workweek" scam. Under this set-up workers' days off rotate, with many getting no weekend time off.

Company spokespeople contend that the "flexible workweek" is needed to meet repair and construction deadlines profitably and competitively.

For months, workers have also been forced to work 12- to 15-and-one-half-hour days to meet deadlines.

One young welder said he and his wife, who also works at the yard, previously worked for another shipyard in Maryland. When they got laid off they hired on at Norshipco. The couple has an eight-month-old child. The company refused to put them on the same crew. Because of the long days he never sees his wife or child. With tears in his eyes he said he's thankful they both have jobs, but, "It just isn't right to work people like this!"

In addition to demanding an end to the

"flexible workweek," the union is demanding a 3 percent per year wage increase. It's also demanding that the company continue paying the full amount of medical insurance premiums. Norshipco wants workers to foot the bill for any rate increases.

The company is threatening to close the yard if it doesn't get concessions, pointing to the number of shipyards that have shut down in recent years.

Most workers seem confident, however, they can force the company to back down.

Union officials estimate that 98 percent of the work force, both union members and non-union members, are on strike. Virginia is an open-shop state, so workers are not required to join the union at work places where a union contract is in force.

One pipefitter told this reporter that in their department many people have left the union in recent months out of frustration with the lack of progress in putting a halt to the "flexible workweek." Nevertheless, the department is out almost to a person.

Some Norshipco workers believe that if left unchallenged, the "flexible workweek" will spread throughout the industry. Others say they are fighting to save the 40-hour workweek.

In the first days of the strike, workers reported that the police were generally not harassing picketers. But as the strike moved into its second week, police have begun a vicious campaign of intimidation.

Two Norshipco workers, Calvin and Judy Lassiter, were arrested and fingerprinted on the picket line on phony charges of child neglect.

The Lassiters had brought their four sons along with them to the plant gate. When their 10-year-old son David began to picket along with his parents, cops told them there was a state law saying that it was illegal for anyone but strikers to picket. David then stopped picketing.

The State Attorney General later admitted that there is no such law.

"I think it was just harassment," Calvin Lassiter told the *Virginian-Pilot*. "My son was just walking beside me carrying a radio and they charged us." Judy Lassiter told Channel 10 News, "At first I was

shocked and dismayed, but the cops were out to get someone and we were just the billy goats."

There has been some solidarity with Norshipco workers by others in the labor movement.

Several workers employed by an outside contractor at Norshipco walked off the job in support of the Boilermakers and went back home to Maine. They explained that they were on strike there against Bath Iron Works. If they'd wanted to scab on a shipyard strike, they told pickets here, they would have stayed in Maine and crossed that picket line.

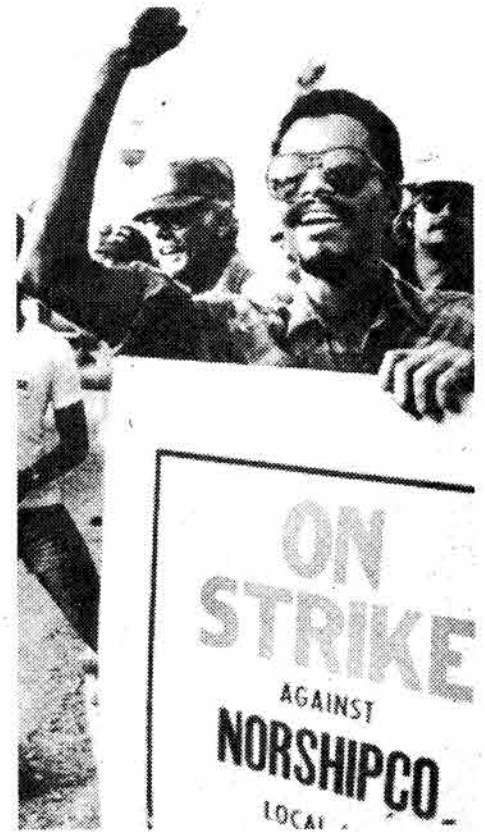
A dozen workers from Norfolk Navy Yard, who are members of the Metal Trades Council, AFL-CIO, also joined the picket line.

Some community support has been visible. Pickets ask drivers to honk their horns to indicate their backing for the strike. A majority respond, and many wave clenched fists in solidarity.

Some people shout: "Hang tight!" "Keep it up!" and "Don't let them wear you down!" as they drive by.

Many workers say they hope the strike will be a short one, but they also express determination to fight as long as it takes to win.

The author of this article is a member of International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 684 and is on strike against Norshipco.



Members of International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 684 have been working without a contract since last December. Norshipco has imposed new work rules including rotating days off and extra-long work days.

Mo. farmers food sale exposes corporations' price-gouging

BY MARTY PETTIT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — More than 60 people were waiting in line at 9 a.m. when Missouri farmers arrived in a rented, refrigerated truck at St. Marks Church here to sell food in a "Food For People Project."

St. Marks Church is located in the Wayne Miner Housing Project in this city's Black community.

In a leaflet publicizing the project, farmers explained, "The Farm Crisis is really a pretty simple one. Farmers haven't been paid a fair price for their labor. If they were there wouldn't be a Farm Crisis!!"

"Today we need to make it clear to the consuming public that a fair price for farmers' products doesn't translate into much higher food prices. These products we are distributing today are priced at the relative Parity farmers should receive." The sale took place on August 17.

The farmers could hardly have chosen more graphic examples of how pricing hurts them. A two-pound bag of rice, for example, sold for 50 cents at parity prices. The farmer would normally receive only 25 cents for the same bag of rice, while it would sell for \$1.00 at the store.

The same was true of the corn meal and whole hog sausage that was sold. Corn meal sold for \$1.00 for a five-pound bag, and sausage for \$1.00 a pound. The same pound of sausage would sell for \$2.50 in the store, but the farmer would only receive 50 cents.

The *Militant* asked residents of Wayne Miner who were waiting in line if they had

realized that the farmer receives so little of the money that they pay at the grocery store. One woman answered, "As high as it is in the grocery store, I would have thought that they got more. It's not fair to farmers. They work too hard, and get too little."

Darryl Ringer, a Kansas farmer who is losing his farm through foreclosure, explained to the media that was present that farmers had a stake in building broad alliances with workers and the Black community. "We have come to Kansas City to work with the poor and disadvantaged and labor to build a better nation. This nation does real well for those at the top. Those on the bottom include people in Wayne Miner, but also include the farmer."

A television newsman then challenged Black women in the line to tell why they have something in common with farmers. One woman replied, "I'm not a farmer. I'm a worker. But they work just as hard as I do, and they're scraping just as hard as I am. This is just poor people helping poor people. Farmers produce our meat and vegetables, and they ought to be able to make a living at it."

Also in line were United Auto Workers who are union members striking Hess Corp. and Libby Corp. They went out August 8, and both face a hard battle. They found out about the food distribution at their union meeting. Most of them were already aware of the plight of working farmers, because they had taken part in protests against farm foreclosures this spring.

Problems plague N.J. farm workers

BY DOUG COOPER

PHILADELPHIA — Backbreaking labor. Twelve to 20 hours of work a day. Subminimum wages. Sickness caused by pesticides. Abominable living conditions. Racist and anti-immigrant discrimination.

These are among the problems facing some 20,000 farm workers within an hour's drive from this city. The majority are concentrated in a four-county area in southern New Jersey that includes Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, and Atlantic counties.

Farm workers in this area pick millions of dollars worth of fruits and vegetables each season. As a result of their labor, New Jersey ranks among the top five states in the production of tomatoes, sweet corn, green peppers, peaches, and blueberries.

The majority of farm workers come each summer from Puerto Rico. They leave behind an unemployment rate of over 40 percent — one result of the 87-year domination of Puerto Rico by U.S. imperialism. When they return to Puerto Rico in the winter, most have just barely made enough to collect meager unemployment benefits.

A growing number of the workers are from Mexico. The growers use their illegal status to create divisions among the work force. The bosses threaten Puerto Rican workers with the idea that they are losing their jobs to undocumented workers and then they threaten the undocumented workers with deportation.

While Mexicans make up the largest percentage of the undocumented, Haitian, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan refugees also labor in the fields. Immigrant workers from Laos and Cambodia are also brutally exploited.

While a majority of farm workers still live in camps, often with no hot water, toilets, or adequate protection from the weather, growing numbers of farm workers are coming to work in the fields on a daily basis from Philadelphia and Camden,

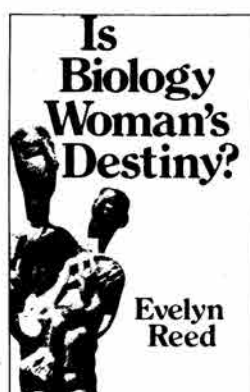
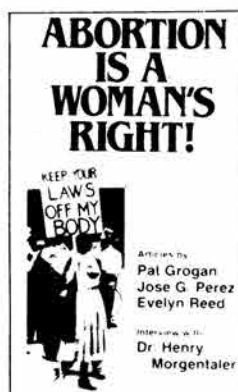
New Jersey. They are called day haul laborers.

Perhaps as many as 25 percent of all farm workers in the area are now day haul laborers. Many growers are switching to day haul labor as a way to create more divisions among the workers and to lower their costs. Day haul laborers are bused to the fields by crew leaders who subject them to exploitation and abuse.

Farm workers, in particular those from Puerto Rico, have begun to organize. In 1979, farm workers in Puerto Rico and New Jersey formed the Farm Workers Support Committee (CATA). Its purpose is to educate and organize farm workers to defend their rights.

Recently CATA members organized the Farm Workers Organizing Committee which has begun organizing drives in southern New Jersey and among Puerto Rican and Mexican mushroom workers in southeastern Pennsylvania.

3 new women's liberation pamphlets



Abortion Is a Woman's Right!	95 cents
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Sexism and Science	\$5.95

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

Farmers discuss cop attacks on actions against foreclosures

BY HOWARD ELKHART

FERGUS FALLS, Minn. — A police attack on a farm protest here in July has sparked a lot of discussion on the role of cops and sheriffs in relation to the farmers' movement.

The attack occurred on July 18, when some 75 farmers and their supporters gathered in front of the Otter Tail County courthouse here to stop the sale of Ross and Cathy Smith's dairy farm. The protest was organized by Groundswell, a movement of farmers fighting foreclosures. Activists from the American Agriculture Movement; Minnesota COACT, a community group involved in farm protests; some unions; and other farm organizations were present.

Bank takes all

"How would you feel," Paul Sobocinski, a Groundswell leader, asked the crowd, "if you got up one morning and your barn was naked?" This is what happened to the Smiths. In May 1984, the Smiths were unable to make a loan payment to the Pelican Valley State Bank. The bank gave them 90 days to get a new loan from the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), which in theory is supposed to loan money to farmers unable to borrow at a bank. The loan was denied.

Three months later, the bank took possession of the Smiths' trucks and dairy equipment, including the barn sink and hot water heater. Their own horse trailer was used to haul away their cattle. The equipment was sold back to the original dealers, and the cattle auctioned off here at Fergus Falls.

The bank even took the Smith children's ponies to auction while the family was out of town. Today the Smiths cannot get a loan. They have no cattle, no equipment, no tillable land.

As people arrived at the courthouse, uniformed county sheriffs began to film the protest from a second-floor balcony. A group of men in dark suits, thought by many to be undercover agents, stood nearby and observed the crowd. While waiting for the rally to begin, farmers discussed the cops' presence, which was greater than at most recent farm protests here. The farmers were not intimidated, but resented being spied upon for exercising their democratic rights. Many hoped that the sheriff, himself a farmer, would refuse to sell the farm.

Cops attack farmers

Sobocinski announced that the sheriff had agreed to hold the sale outside on the courthouse steps rather than in a small lobby as had been planned. He asked for

some of the demonstrators to enter the building to ensure that the agreement would be kept. Around 25 people, including Sobocinski, went inside the courthouse.

As loud chants of "No sale!" went up inside and out, uniformed sheriffs and plainclothes cops ran for the door and attacked the protesters. The farmers fought back. They demanded that their right to enter a public building be respected. One person suffered a shoulder injury when he was thrown against a wall.

After about five minutes, the sheriffs suddenly stopped. They stood in the doorway, laughing and pointing upward. On a second-story balcony, another sheriff was reading the sale proceedings from a public address system that had been set up while the cops' attack was taking place.

The angry farmers' chants grew louder, and nothing could be heard despite the microphone. Farmers were later to learn that the banker who bid on the farm had been locked in a room behind the balcony.

In the meantime the cops arrested and jailed Paul Sobocinski. Though the farm had been sold, many people stayed at the courthouse to demonstrate their solidarity with Sobocinski. Most offered to stand as witnesses, explaining that Sobocinski had done nothing illegal and describing the cops' attack.

Others called farm activists around the state, some of whom began long trips from their homes to come to Fergus Falls. Farmers stayed at the courthouse all day. They demanded to know what charges would be leveled at Sobocinski, and what was needed to get him out of jail. They also called on the sheriff to allow a doctor to examine Sobocinski, who had been quite ill when the protest began. No doctor was ever let in.

Hours later, Sobocinski was charged with "obstructing a legal process," which carries penalties of up to one year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

Can cops, sheriffs be won over?

An important political discussion began about what the sheriffs had done. At every protest, Groundswell leaders explain that they aim to win their demands through peaceful, legal means. People were outraged at the cops' unprovoked violence and the open attack on their rights. Farmers also pointed out the particular role of one plainclothes cop, who had led the attack and had been especially arrogant and provocative when farmers demanded to know who he was.

Leaders of Minnesota COACT and a few others promoted the idea that the police and

warning. The police department, however, cleared Scott of wrongdoing, and put him back on the streets.

In response to this stepped up cop harassment and violence, the Inner City Youth League (ICYL) sponsored a community meeting at Marketplace Forum July 4. Fifty people attended the meeting.

A petition is being circulated by ICYL activists demanding a full investigation of the Brown shooting, and calling for the removal of Scott from patrol duties in the area.

Over 1,000 signatures were presented on July 31 to St. Paul Mayor George Latimer. Latimer once again refused to reverse the police department's exoneration of Scott and reopen the investigation.

Every Wednesday night at the Marketplace Forum people can get an update on the legal efforts to get justice for Antonio Brown.

Maggie McCraw and August Nimtz, Socialist Workers Party candidates for mayor of St. Paul and Minneapolis respectively, visited the Brown family to pledge their support. They also sent a message to the mayor backing the demands of the petition.



Militant/Scott Breen

Ohio farm foreclosure protest. Movement to defend working farmers is discussing role of cops and sheriffs in wake of attacks on demonstrations.

sheriffs could be won to the farmers' side. One person pointed to the 1930s, when the sheriffs, confronted by militant demonstrations led by the Farmers' Holiday Association, did refuse to sell farms. The sheriffs were with the people then, he said.

Others said that farmers in the 1930s fought giant battles which prevented sheriffs from simply carrying out foreclosures. The cops' job then, like today, was to sell the farms at whatever the cost. The police could never be won over. Their job is to break the farmers' movement, and they are prepared to use arrests, frame-ups, and violence to do it.

Farmers pointed out that their rights as citizens and their rights regarding public sales were simply ignored by the sheriffs. They pointed to a sale a few weeks earlier

in Madison, Minnesota. There, the sheriff stuck a tape recorder out of the courthouse window which played the sale proceedings. A machine, unlike a sheriff, cannot be shouted down by a crowd of angry men and women. What the cops called enforcing the law was in effect enforcing what the banks wanted.

Demonstrators said that police harassment of farm activists was becoming quite common. It was clear to everyone that Sobocinski was targeted for arrest because he is an outspoken leader of Groundswell.

Farm activists have also been singled out for foreclosures. Ross and Cathy Smith have attended a number of farm protests. And foreclosure proceedings were recently begun against Bobbi Polzine, another central leader of Groundswell.

Rally protests Tenneco's closing of small dealer

BY JOHN ENESTVEDT

MARSHALL, Minn. — Nearly 100 farmers, their wives, children, and neighbors converged on this college town in southwest Minnesota to protest the foreclosure and repossession of the farm machinery of Ed Rust, a local farm implement dealer.

The protest was organized by Groundswell, a rural-based activist organization. The August 1 action was a united protest. It was supported by the American Agriculture Movement, North American Farm Alliance, and National Farmers Organization. Some students from the nearby campus also played an important part in the preparation for the rally.

Tenneco, the corporation that recently purchased International Harvester Company and also owns the J.I. Case Implement Company, initiated the foreclosure and the repossession court order. Tenneco never made an effort to negotiate with Rust, who was a Case dealer. Tenneco simply decided that when both Case and International dealerships are located in the same rural town, one must be liquidated. So here in Marshall, Tenneco cut Rust's lifelong business out from under his feet.

Toward the end of the day, Rust thanked us all in a heavy voice for "having the guts to stand up to the corporations."

Rust was liquidated in exactly the same manner farmers are. The value of the real estate, the grain, other personal property — and in Rust's case the farm machinery inventory — was simply devalued by Tenneco to the point where the value of Rust's property was no longer equal to the arbitrarily adjusted figure set by this giant farm machinery conglomerate.

Many deputies were called in from throughout the area to try to intimidate the peaceful demonstrators. The crowd kept up a lively chant condemning them. "We elect you guys and you work for Tenneco," someone shouted and a big cheer went up.

Both Republican and Democratic politicians, conspicuous by their absence, were roundly denounced. Many speakers reported on the depressed farm price picture, and the ruinous effect this has on the rural economy. The demand for better farm prices was supported by all.

Several demonstrators chose to lie down in the path of the trucks used to haul away Rust's property. They were arrested and carted off to jail.

Minn. Blacks hit cop violence

BY NATASHA TERLEXIS

MINNEAPOLIS — Fifty residents of the Northside of Minneapolis attended a public hearing July 30 sponsored by the city's Commission on Civil Rights-Task Force on the Police Decoy Unit. They came to protest the brutal cop beating of a Black youth.

The day before the police claimed that Nathan Hoagland — a 17-year-old Black youth — stole a car and led them on a high speed chase. But eye-witnesses reported at the hearing that the cops hit Hoagland in the face repeatedly with a pistol, and kicked and punched him.

One woman testified that when she saw the youth's head broken open she sought to administer first aid, but the cops told her, "Get back, he's still breathing."

This attack is the latest in a pattern of cop violence in the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Antonio Brown, a 21-year-old Black man, was shot nearly to death in St. Paul June 30. The cop, Patrick Scott, alleges seeing Brown pull "something shiny" out of his pocket.

Witnesses said the cop shot without

Two N.Y. events on Puerto Rico

NEW YORK — September 23 is the anniversary of the 1868 uprising in Puerto Rico against Spanish colonialism known as *El Grito de Lares* — the Cry of Lares.

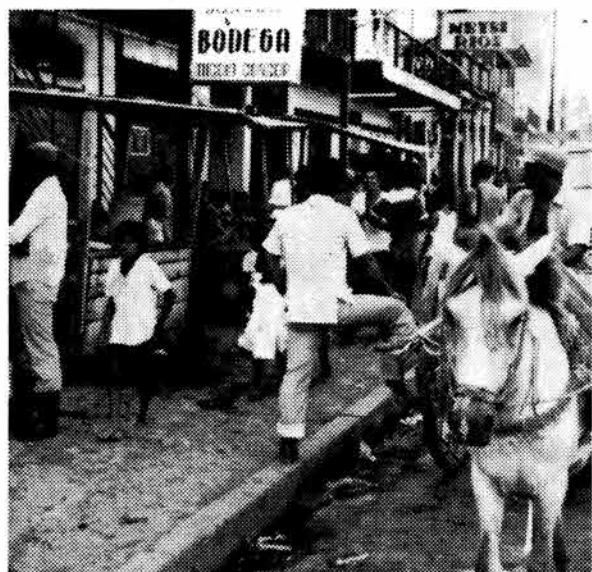
This year, the International Information Office for Puerto Rican Independence has called two activities to commemorate *El Grito de Lares* in New York City.

José Berríos, coordinator of the Lares Actions Committee, told the *Militant* that the Lares commemorations will be "the expression of the Puerto Rican people's solidarity with the struggles of the peoples of Central America, particularly the heroic people of El Salvador and Nicaragua."

The commemoration will include an

evening of cultural events on September 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Casa de Las Americas, which is located at 104 W. 14 St. The event will feature the Pregone Theater Ensemble; music by singer Sandra Roldán, the Asonate Duo, and poetry by Juan Ribera. A \$2 donation is requested.

The other activity is called "Let's Celebrate Lares in Concert." It will feature poetry by Puerto Rican nationalist Rafael Cancel Miranda and music by Grupo Taoné. It will take place September 20, at 8 p.m. at Hunter College Assembly Hall, East 69th St. between Park and Lexington avenues. Tickets cost \$15 for orchestra and \$13 for balcony seats. For more information call (718) 941-4188.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn



Barricada/M. Brack

Street in Bluefields, city on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast (left). Above, young militia men and women from Bluefields practicing to defend their country from U.S.-organized mercenaries.

Report on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast

BY ARLENE RUBENSTEIN

BLUEFIELDS, Nicaragua — "Workers now have political power," Guillermo Rodríguez told us. He is a leader of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), Nicaragua's largest union, in Bluefields. This spring, two dozen North Americans, mostly industrial workers, visited this port city on the southern part of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast on a tour sponsored by Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc.

José Ortiz, a longshore worker and the union's director of labor relations, accompanied us on visits to a shrimp factory, hospitals built before and after the revolution, and a meeting with leaders of the Sandinista Youth.

CST General Secretary Delvin Joseph joined Ortiz and Rodríguez at the union headquarters to give us a brief history of the struggles of working people in this area, both before and after the July 1979 Sandinista revolution.

The language, culture, and way of life of a high percentage of the inhabitants of the Atlantic Coast are distinctly different than those of the Spanish-speaking *mestizo* majority of Nicaragua.

Miskito Indians, Sumo Indians, and Rama Indians — each with their own language; Creole Blacks (many of whom speak English as well as Spanish); and a smaller number of Garifono Blacks, who speak a dialect known as Gari, all inhabit this half of Nicaragua, along with mestizos.

Enemies of the revolution have tried to use these differences — and the isolation and underdevelopment of the Atlantic Coast — to build support for the CIA-organized armed bands. Despite these obstacles, our tour found that the revolution has been advancing and consolidating itself among *costeños*, as the people here call themselves.

No unions before revolution

Ortiz told us that before the revolution, there were no unions on the Coast. In 1960, workers at the PescaNica fishing enterprise attempted to clandestinely organize a union. One day, when leaders of the organizing drive showed up at work, Somoza's National Guard was waiting for them. "Workers were ordered to go to work without their union or go to prison, and the *compañeros* had to dissolve their union. It was only with the triumph of the revolution that workers were given the liberty to organize," Ortiz explained.

There are now 16 union locals — including one at PescaNica — with more than 4,000 members. The CST organizes the fishing and fish-processing industry, which is the largest industry here. It also organizes shipyard construction and repair, and other workplaces. A majority of union members are Miskitos and Blacks, with a large number of mestizos and some Sumos as well. The union carries out educational activities in the various languages in order to involve the maximum number of workers.

Rodríguez told us that the fundamental task of the union now is to raise production because "the working class is the rearguard to supply the soldiers on the war fronts." The other key tasks, he said, are to raise the political and educational level of the workers.

Under the reign of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza, all industry here was owned either by Somoza's family

or foreign capitalists. Since the revolution, it has become state property. Through the CST, workers participate in managing the industries.

Somoza plunders fishing industry

We visited the CopesNica shrimp factory while workers were on a two-month seasonal layoff. Unlike other capitalist governments, where workers bear the brunt of layoffs, the Nicaraguan workers' and farmers' government guarantees laid-off workers a liveable income.

Under Somoza, the fishing industry was systematically plundered, its purpose being not to feed the Nicaraguan people, but to reap profits from the export of lobster and shrimp to U.S. markets. Because these seafoods drew the highest prices, other fish were simply dumped back into the ocean. And lobster and shrimp, a traditional part of the diet of the people of the Coast, were no longer available.

With the triumph of the revolution, priorities changed. For example, experiments with a two-month breeding period have increased the shrimp harvest by 4,000 tons. Employment has increased in both fishing and fish processing, as well as in the related shipbuilding industry.

The director of human resources at CopesNica explained that the progress of the fishing industry has been hampered to a great extent by the U.S.-organized war.

"Reagan's May 1 embargo has been coming a little at a time for a long time," he said. "Immediately following our revolution, our number one importer, the United States, sharply reduced the amount of shrimp they import." An added problem is, "all the machinery and spare parts for our plant are from the U.S. The lack of a simple chain for our gear mechanism, for example, can paralyze our machinery until a new part can be made by worker 'innovators' from abandoned ship parts."

"Many boats that would normally be used for fishing must now be used for defense, and there is a labor shortage in the plant because workers are ready to serve in the battle against the *contra* invaders," he continued.

In March alone, of the 350 workers at CopesNica, 12 were mobilized for defense and another 12 participated in brigades to ensure the successful completion of the coffee harvest.

Repudiating the dictatorship

In addition to struggles to unionize the workers here, we also found out that there were important struggles by youth on the Coast prior to the revolution.

Gustavo Castro, a 23-year-old peasant from Southern Zelaya (the southern province of the Atlantic Coast) was active in the massive student demonstrations that took place on the Atlantic Coast in 1978-79.

Today he is regional director of the Sandinista Youth (JS-19). "These dynamic student strikes," Castro explained, "were our way of repudiating the dictatorship." The main demands of these actions were support for the Sandinista National Liberation Front, which led the revolution, and against Somoza's repression.

"To understand the Atlantic Coast is to understand that we were not connected with the Pacific Coast before the revolution, but with the United States. Many young people wanted to live in the United States. But now there is a good participa-

tion in the revolution, because we understand the role of U.S. imperialism."

In response to a question concerning participation in the Patriotic Military Service, Nicaragua's draft, on the Atlantic Coast, Castro answered, "Our young people are outstanding not only in our own region." There are whole battalions from Southern Zelaya fighting in other areas he told us.

"It is also perfectly natural that there are young people who are not as committed, who are fearful that they will be killed. Our task is to carry out educational work among all young people of the Coast, to help them face the reality, that if the revolution is not defended, we will all be killed. This educational work must go on, day after day, because of U.S. imperialism's military maneuvers."

Transform education; support unions

Castro told us, "We are involved with the Federation of Secondary Students in transforming education so that students are the subject, not the object, of education."

In factories where the JS-19 is organized, JS-19 members support the union and urge young workers to participate. In the countryside, the JS-19 participates in the peasant youth movement. The voluntary participation of peasant youth in health and education brigades has been key in carrying out vaccination and adult education campaigns in the countryside.

The JS-19 also works with a new organization of Black youth, in Bluefields, called JOMO.

Castro made one final point. "We think it is important to mention solidarity at this occasion. While Nicaraguan youth are defending the gains of the revolution with

weapons in hand, you are also helping to make our revolution with your solidarity."

'From prehistory to modern times'

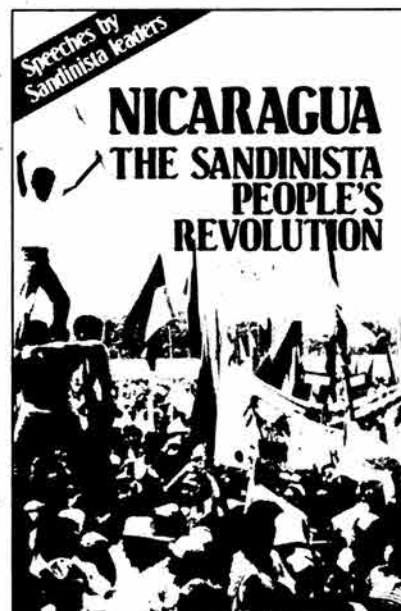
"When the Sandino Regional Hospital opens this month, we will have moved from prehistory to modern times," stated Jaime Arguëllo, the director of health care for Southern Zelaya. "We will be able to talk for the first time about curing childhood diseases like diarrhea, malnutrition, measles, and internal parasites because the revolution's hospital has potable water. We will be able to wash bedding in our laundry equipment, instead of the river," he continued.

Since the revolution, there are more than five times as many doctors in Bluefields as before. All of the medical assistants, nurses, doctors, and technicians who will work at the modern Sandino Hospital are *costeños*. Medical, dental, and hospital care is free on the Atlantic Coast, because of the Sandinista government's commitment to bring health services to this especially poor part of the country, which has the lowest life expectancy and highest infant mortality.

It was only by also touring the old hospital that we could begin to absorb the night-and-day changes that Arguëllo had described. This hospital was built in 1894, when the Atlantic Coast was first incorporated into Nicaragua. In its crumbling, stifling hot rooms, we saw victims of Washington's dirty war against Nicaragua.

We met an 18-year-old soldier gravely wounded in a *contra* ambush at Kukra River, south of Bluefields. The gun that got him was an M-16 — "made in the U.S.A."

What they're saying about Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution Speeches by Sandinista leaders



The book is an important and timely reference work, basic to understanding the current internal reality of the Nicaraguan Revolution. These carefully selected speeches of Nicaragua's leaders give an overview of the dreams and the difficulties that this small country faces in its audacious experiment. These are speeches of popular leaders used to discussing ideas directly with the people, and of keeping the promises that they make. I think the book provides a quick detour behind Reagan's curtain of misinformation to glimpse the revolution that continues to mobilize a whole people towards a vision of a just society, in the face of every conceivable difficulty.

Sheryl Hirshou
Author
And Also Teach Them to Read

This new collection contains more than 40 speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. 400 pages, \$7.95 (include \$.75 for postage and handling). Available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

Local artist gives Socialist Bookstore in S.F. a new face

Mural will depict international revolutionary fighters

BY DANIELA DIXON

SAN FRANCISCO — The Socialist Bookstore here will soon have a new face. Susan Greene, a young San Francisco muralist, is painting a mural on the front of the bookstore, which is located in the largely Spanish-speaking Mission District.

A recent bookstore open house inaugurating the beginning of work on the mural attracted some 50 people including local artists. Juan Martínez, a spokesperson for the Socialist Workers Party, explained that the Socialist Bookstore is a place where workers in the community can learn about struggles for justice in this country and about revolutionary developments unfolding in Central America, South Africa, and elsewhere. The mural will reflect this aspect of the bookstore, depicting revolutionary fighters such as Che Guevara, Lolita Lebrón, Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman, Augusto César Sandino, and others.

Alan Barnett, professor of humanities at San Jose State University and author of a recent book on mural painting, showed slides of Latin American mural art that he collected on a two-year trip throughout the hemisphere.

"I am very happy to be able to help start a new mural," said Barnett. "I believe it will be a part of the struggle for self-determination and liberation embodied in the mural art of Latin America."

Susan Greene also showed slides of her work in New York, San Francisco, and León, Nicaragua.

She was involved in the now well-known and admired Balmy Alley Project in the Mission District. Greene explained that several local artists participated in the project because "we wanted to make a statement about Central America." Murals depicting conditions in Guatemala, El Salvador, and the revolution in Nicaragua are painted along the whole length of fences, garage doors, and walls fronting on the block-long alley. Neighbors became involved in the project. Children from the

neighborhood scrawled warnings on the ground against touching the murals.

The Socialist Bookstore has already been a success. In the first six months of 1985, the bookstore sold \$12,502 worth of literature for an average of \$481 a week.

One indication of the importance of the store for the Latino community, as well as of the community's support for the Nicaraguan revolution, is that 1,619 copies of *Barricada*, the Nicaraguan daily published by the Sandinista National Liberation Front, were sold in this same period. In addition, 390 books in Spanish and English about the Nicaraguan revolution, including 50 copies of the new Pathfinder book *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution* were sold.

Friends of the bookstore who visit Nicaragua bring back donations of copies of *Barricada*. Days before a shipment is due people begin to flock to the store to see if they have arrived, thus boosting general sales.

The most popular titles are works by Leon Trotsky, Malcolm X, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, Nelson Mandela, Roque Dalton, Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, and Ana Guadalupe Martínez.

In the first six months of this year, the bookstore also sold 517 copies of *The Militant* and 272 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*.

The fact that the Socialist Bookstore enjoys increasingly wide support in the community has also been shown another way.

The bookstore recently came under attack by a gang of right-wing Vietnamese thugs who opposed holding a public meeting on the gains of the Vietnamese revolution. About 100 supporters of the bookstore showed up to defend the democratic right to speak out in support of Vietnam. These included builders of the April 20th demonstration here against the U.S.-backed war in Central America and against apartheid in South Africa; women's rights activists; members of Casa El Salvador and

the U.S.-Vietnam Friendship Committee; and many others. Passers-by also stopped to confront the thugs, feeling that their bookstore was threatened.

Two Latin American merchant marine sailors have also become regular customers, that is, as regular as their ship's schedule permits.

Supporters of the bookstore who want to contribute to the cost of producing the mural can send donations to the Socialist Bookstore, 3284 23rd Street, San Francisco, California 94110.



Militant

Work begins on mural.

New sales opportunities

Continued from Page 3

In addition to increased circulation of the socialist press, plans to expand the publication and circulation of Pathfinder Press books and pamphlets were summarized in a report to the convention by SWP National Committee member Larry Seigle.

Pathfinder Press expansion

This spring and summer Pathfinder Press has published several new books and pamphlets. *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*; *War and Crisis in the Americas: Fidel Castro Speeches 1984-85*; and *The Communist League of America 1932-34*, a collection of speeches and articles by James P. Cannon, are its three newest books.

Pathfinder has also published two new English-language pamphlets — "Abortion Is A Woman's Right!" and "Is Biology Woman's Destiny?" A new pamphlet in Spanish — "El Aborto: Derecho Fundamental de la Mujer" (Abortion: the Fundamental Right of Women) — was also just printed.

Seigle told the convention that two new books would be published in the fall. One is the second volume in the series on the Communist International under Lenin, which will focus on the founding of both the German Communist Party and the Communist International in 1919. It will feature the debate in the workers' movement at that time on bourgeois democracy versus revolutionary dictatorship. The publication of this series, Seigle explained, is an international project involving over 100 people around the world.

The second book to be published this fall will be *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women*. It will include articles by SWP leaders Joseph Hansen and Evelyn Reed and an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters.

Pathfinder Press publications help to educate members of the party and the YSA as well as activists from social protest movements, Seigle explained. These books and pamphlets, he said, are tools to help activists gain a broader political view and win them to the socialist movement.

Role of socialist bookstores

The socialist bookstores around the country play an important part in this process. These bookstores are places where activists can both get information on the struggles of workers and farmers around the world and discuss politics.

The importance of these bookstores was discussed at the workshop on circulation of the socialist press. Socialist bookstores are an important place to reach activists with political ideas. Regularizing the hours at the bookstores helps them serve as effective political centers.

As an example of the importance of the bookstores, workshop leader Morell pointed to the three-month struggle to defend the socialist bookstore in San Jose, California, from attacks by right-wing Vietnamese thugs. A broad array of forces participated in this defense campaign, Morell explained, because the bookstore enriched the political life of working people and activists in the city.

Part of making socialist bookstores political centers is getting the books and pamphlets to activists through literature tables

at political activities — from forums and teach-ins to marches, pickets, and rallies.

Circulating books internationally

The expansion of Pathfinder Press is an international project, SWP leader Seigle told the convention. Cothinkers of the SWP in Britain, for example, are actively circulating these books in Britain, Ireland, and Africa, including in South Africa. He reported that the British distributors of Pathfinder Press participated in an international book fair in Zimbabwe this summer. The best sellers there were *Maurice Bishop Speaks* and *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*.

Cothinkers of the SWP in Australia and New Zealand are also participating in this expansion. They have established, for the first time, an office to systematize the circulation of these books as well as the distribution of the biweekly newsmagazine *Intercontinental Press* and the theoretical magazine *New International* throughout the South Pacific.

Pathfinder's expansion is tied, Seigle said, to the advance of the working class on a world scale represented by the Nicaraguan revolution, the deepening revolution in Cuba, and the Grenada revolution, along with the lessons of its 1983 overturn by the Bernard Coard faction of the New Jewel Movement. The emergence of revolutionary Marxist leaderships in Central America and the Caribbean strengthens the working class internationally, Seigle explained. Pathfinder, he said, is doing all it can to make the lessons of these revolutions and their leaderships available to working people throughout the English-speaking world.

Socialist Publications Fund

In addition to these publications in English by Pathfinder Press, the SWP, in cooperation with its cothinkers in Canada, have begun to publish a French-language theoretical magazine, *Nouvelle Internationale*. The first issue of this new magazine was printed immediately before the convention. A report on its launching was given to the convention by Michel Prairie, co-editor of *Nouvelle Internationale*.

All these plans take money. Therefore, a Socialist Publications Fund was launched at the convention, with a goal of collecting \$125,000.

Sales of socialist literature were brisk during the six days of the conference. More than \$20,000 worth was sold. This included 214 subscriptions to *Intercontinental Press*, 56 subscriptions to *New International*, and 60 subscriptions to *International Viewpoint*, the English-language magazine published under the auspices of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International.

Among the best-selling books were the new volume of Fidel Castro's speeches and the latest edition of James P. Cannon's writings. Other big sellers were *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution* and *South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolt*.

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Militant

Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

'PM' helps you discuss South Africa

South Africa is in the headlines. The repression by the racist Pretoria regime is being met by the growing militancy of the Black masses. Hundreds have been murdered in the last year, and thousands have been arrested since the state of emergency was declared by the apartheid regime at the end of July.

In the United States, the anti-apartheid movement is gaining steam as trade unions and civil rights organizations, as well as religious and Central America solidarity groups join together in protest demonstrations against U.S. government support and complicity with the South African regime.

If you want to discuss this issue with a coworker or friend who speaks Spanish as their first language, introducing them to *Perspectiva Mundial* can be a good way to help you communicate. *PM* includes the same essential facts and ideas that make the *Militant* such a valuable newspaper for working-class activists.

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'Motown to Coaltown' caravan aids miners

BY LIZ SOMMERS

BELFRY, Ky. — More than 400 members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) from Detroit arrived here August 10 with 217 trucks and vans full of food and clothing for coal miners who are on strike against the A.T. Massey Coal Company. The strike, now in its 10th month, involves 1,500 members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

At a rally of 2,500 UMWA President Richard Trumka said the show of support by the Detroit-area autoworkers should be taken as a signal that the UMWA is not letting up in its strike against A.T. Massey.

"We are prepared to wage this struggle for as long as it takes to reach a fair and decent settlement," he said.

Joining Trumka on the speakers stand was UAW Region 1E Director Frank Runnels. He said the labor movement is under attack from all sides and saluted all workers fighting for justice, including the striking steelworkers at Wheeling-Pittsburgh. "We know that if they can break a union in Williamson and southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky, they can break a union in Detroit," he said. Runnels concluded by stating that in addition to the food and clothing, more than \$55,000 had been raised and that "contributions are still pouring in."

The caravan left Detroit the previous evening. Taped to the side of every vehicle was a sign that read "UAW — Motown to Coaltown — Support and Solidarity." A stop was made in Ripley, West Virginia early the next morning. There the caravan refueled and was fed by members of the UMWA, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, United Steelworkers, and the West Virginia Education Association. The convoy then made its way through Charleston, continuing south. An extra hour of driving time was taken to make a trip through the strike area. As the five-mile-long caravan passed the Sprouse Creek Processing Plant, it was cheered by union pickets and others. Behind the gates, Massey employees and guards watched, while other employees recorded the procession with video cameras.

As the convoy neared Belfry, it was greeted in a holiday spirit by hundreds of strikers and supporters who poured out of their homes to express their solidarity. Local residents waved stenciled signs with slogans like "UAW plus UMW equals VICTORY" and "Thank you for caring."

Everyone I spoke to talked about the big impact this show of solidarity had on them. The miners were inspired by the distance the autoworkers had traveled to deliver so much food, clothing, and money. As one miner put it, "Just them being here, not to mention the clothing and food, has been worth it. Just to know somebody cares."

The autoworkers were inspired by the determination of the miners to carry out a long and united fight for a decent contract, and by the reception they received.

Solidarity from the autoworkers was especially welcomed by the thousands of

UMWA members and supporters because of the history of the strike. On Oct. 1, 1984, subsidiaries of the Massey mining conglomerate refused to sign the national coal contract. The strike was on. Miners saw this as a union-busting campaign with dangerous, precedent-setting results.

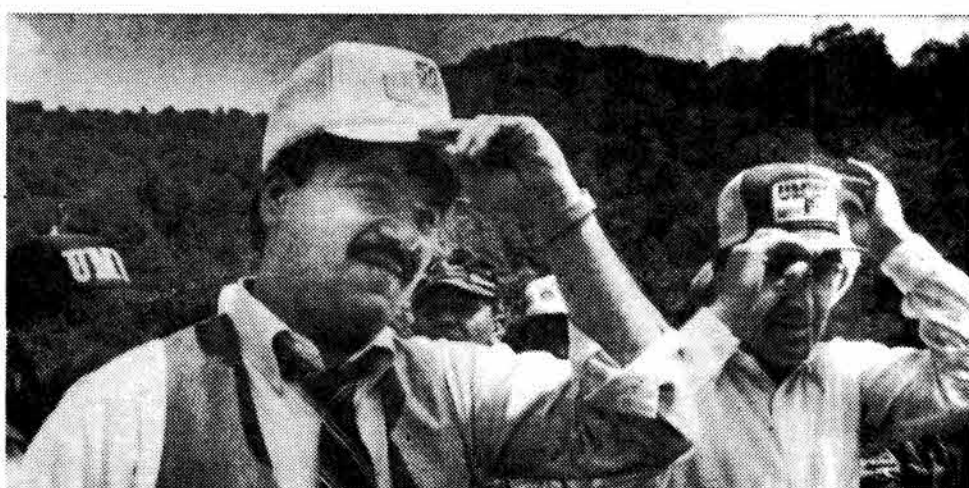
The union has met this attack with mass demonstrations, including at the Sprouse Creek Processing Plant in Lobata. This plant today continues to process coal from some of Massey's non-union mines in Kentucky. Court injunctions have now prohibited any mass gatherings and have limited the number of pickets allowed at any one site.

Residents of the strike area say their communities are like concentration camps. Massey has hired armed thugs to protect his property. He has video cameras recording every move of pickets and traffic that passes by, and has installed high-powered lights.

Scab drivers hauling Massey coal have tailgated school buses, frightening the children. State police are everywhere and the union has charged the troopers are "babysitting" scab trucks. On top of this, the big-business media has taken Massey's lead by falsely portraying the UMWA as the source of violence in the coalfields.

For some of the autoworkers, the trip to Appalachia was like coming home. Historically, when coal mining was in a slump, many miners moved to Detroit and other cities to find jobs. When coal picked up, most returned, but some stayed on. One caravan participant grew up in the coalfields of Harlan, Kentucky, and left Appalachia 20 years ago. He is now the president of a UAW local in Detroit.

"We share some of the same roots in



United Mine Workers President Richard Trumka (left) and United Auto Workers Region 1E Director Frank Runnels, at Belfry, Ky. rally in solidarity with coal miners on strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co.

other ways," UMWA President Trumka said. The A.T. Massey Coal Co. is co-owned by Royal Dutch Shell and the Fluor Corp., both of which are making big profits in South Africa. Ford Motor Company is in South Africa too. The greatest supplier of coal to the Ford Motor Company steel plants is A.T. Massey. Massey also has a major contract with Detroit Edison, the electric company of Detroit.

When asked if the strike is nearing an end, Trumka responded, "We should not plan our future course of action as if it was." To this he added, "It ain't over until we say it's over; and Mr. Massey, it ain't over until we get a fair and decent contract."

After the speeches, a proposal was ratified by the crowd that in return for the autoworkers' solidarity, a Coaltown to

Motown caravan would be organized in order to participate in the Labor Day parade in Detroit.

Finally, it was announced that bonus money would be given to striking miners with schoolchildren in order to buy school clothes, and that all the UAW members in the caravan would receive a special T-shirt. Printed on a camouflage-fatigue background is the caravan slogan: "UAW-Motown to Coaltown-Support and Solidarity-August 10, 1985."

The rally visibly boosted the morale of the embattled strikers, their families, and their supporters. This was clear when rally participants joined hands and sang "Solidarity."

Liz Sommers is a member of UMWA Local 2271 in West Virginia.

Calif. NOW maps abortion rights fight

BY PAT NIXON

LONG BEACH, Calif. — More than 300 women met at the California National Organization for Women (NOW) State Conference here August 16-18.

These women, many of them young, were in a fighting mood. They wanted to make their NOW chapters more active, and to be part of the movements against apartheid and U.S. government intervention in Central America. Participants enthusiastically made plans to implement the decision of the July national NOW conference to organize mass abortion rights demonstrations in both Washington, D.C. and the West Coast in the spring.

Outgoing national NOW President Judy Goldsmith condemned Justice Department attacks on abortion rights, comparable worth, and affirmative action. She said that U.S. women had to oppose South African apartheid.

A packed workshop on how to fight "Anti-Abortion Extremism" reflected the determination of conference participants to defend abortion rights. The workshop resolution — which passed unanimously at the

plenary — declared California "in a state of emergency concerning all aspects of women's reproductive freedom." It called on California NOW chapters "to make women's reproductive rights a high visibility and priority issue to help build the 1986 West Coast March(es) . . ." for reproductive rights. The resolution also urged that the West Coast action be held either in Los Angeles or San Francisco.

Another section of the resolution called on national NOW to provide a fulltime staff person to organize all California NOW chapters to defeat two antiabortion initiatives that aim at limiting "women's constitutional right to abortion funding and to choose abortion. . . ."

Many women felt that U.S. intervention in Central America is an issue that feminists need to discuss. About 50 women attended the workshop on Central America. Four women who had been to Nicaragua within the past year gave presentations. They also gave a slide show detailing the gains of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Panelists described how Nicaraguan women are winning their rights and

explained that solidarity with our Nicaraguan sisters is important for women's rights struggles here at home. Women at the workshop expressed a desire to act on the position adopted at the National NOW conference opposing Washington's intervention in Central America and its aid to the armed counterrevolutionaries.

The workshop passed a resolution encouraging California NOW chapters to actively participate with other organizations in educational events, demonstrations, and other activities opposing U.S. intervention in Central America. Unfortunately, there was no time to discuss this resolution at the plenary session.

A workshop called "Women Working for Peace" took up the struggle against apartheid. It resolved "that Calif. NOW supports the marches and rallies sponsored by the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement and the Free South Africa Movement in Southern California planned in opposition to apartheid October 11 and 12." This was passed by the conference.

Many women sported anti-apartheid red ribbons distributed by two Black high school women. These young women expressed interest in forming a NOW chapter at their high school as well as a desire to organize a contingent from their school to the October 12 Los Angeles anti-apartheid march and rally.

Other workshops discussed pornography, lesbian rights, pay equity, membership activism, and labor.

Unionists from the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers Local 78-A, an affiliate of the United Food and Commercial Workers, came to the conference to win support for their struggle against Sunkist lemon packinghouses' discriminatory practices. The nearby Ventura-Oxnard NOW chapter is calling for a nationwide consumer boycott of all Sunkist lemons until the more than 170 women employees win their sex discrimination lawsuit.

Many women showed keen interest in political discussions at the socialist literature table. Nearly \$200 worth of literature was sold, including more than 30 copies of the *Militant*. *Sandino's Daughters*, *I Am Prepared to Die* by Nelson Mandela, *Women Under Apartheid*, and the pamphlets *Abortion is a Woman's Right* and *Is Biology Woman's Destiny?* were top sellers.

Socialist runs for mayor of New Orleans

BY ALLYSON BEST

NEW ORLEANS — The Terry Hardy for Mayor campaign was launched here in July. Hardy is running on the Socialist Workers Party ticket.

In her opening statement, Hardy said that she was proud to launch her campaign in July because, "This month there are two historic anniversaries for all those struggling against injustice. July 19th was the sixth anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution. And July 26th marked the beginning of the Cuban revolution 32 years ago."

Hardy is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, Local 4-522. She is also a member of the National Organization for Women and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Bill Gish, a former member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, spoke at the rally to kick off Hardy's campaign. He discussed the widespread sentiment in this country against U.S. government intervention in Central America.

"I am running to oppose the pro-war, anti-labor, racist, and sexist policies of the Democratic and Republican parties,"

Hardy told the rally. She was one of the organizers of the April Actions coalition in New Orleans that built the April 20th anti-war march in Houston this spring.

Hardy said her campaign is helping to build the October 11 national anti-apartheid protests which can mobilize thousands of trade unionists, students, Black rights' activists, women, farmers, and others. "We are giving notice that we will do all we can to prevent others from growing rich off the blood of our brothers and sisters in South Africa," declared Hardy.

In June, New Orleans became the 29th U.S. city to sever its financial ties with the racist regime in South Africa.

Several New Orleans companies that do business with South Africa have announced that they will not cut back their trade with the apartheid regime. Spokespersons for these companies claimed to be opposed to apartheid, but said that halting trade with South Africa would be disastrous for them. This is the major reason why Lykes Brothers and Strachan, two large

shipping companies, refuse to break their financial ties with South Africa. But, Hardy pointed out, "Child labor and slavery were profitable too."

Hardy plans to walk the picket lines of striking workers like those at the Todd Shipyards, where workers were threatened with the loss of their jobs if they did not succumb to forced overtime, a \$2.13 cut in pay, and a two-tier wage system.

Hardy attended the national conference of the National Organization for Women, which was held here July 19-21. The conference launched an action campaign in defense of a women's right to safe, legal abortion — a right that Hardy wholeheartedly supports. She was warmly greeted when she addressed a plenary session at the conference. Several participants requested more information on her campaign.

Hardy has also been active in the Clements Family Justice Committee which is supporting victims of police brutality.

Supporters of the Hardy campaign will be petitioning this fall to obtain the 1,000 signatures required to obtain ballot status.

Sinking ship? — BBDO, one of the world's top ad agencies, is dumping its South African unit. It's been sold to the local managers, with whom the Madison



Harry Ring

Ave. agency will maintain an "associate" relationship. A BBDO spokesperson assured the decision had nothing to do with the apartheid issue. Simply that "the turbu-

lent political situation would not make our investment attractive from a longer-term point of view."

The march of culture — Where else but in the capital of the "Free World" would you get such a choice? Revlon currently offers 157 shades of lipstick, including 41 shades of pink. Ads label the array as "Sweet confusion."

The march of science — We recently reported a group of undertakers had won a federal license to bury dearly beloveds in outer space. That's already obsolete. A consortium of businesspeople, inventors, and rocket engineers have

developed a process for reducing a body to ashes, condensing it to the size of a bullion cube, and shooting it into space for about \$3,900 per cube. And, we assume, when they learn how to bring back the dead, all you'll have to do is add a cup of hot water.

Sure thing, boss — In a court action, Nassau County, N.Y., employees complained that if they wanted pay raises or promotions, they had to "voluntarily" contribute 1 percent of their pay to the Republican Party. An official testified he never received a single grievance about this. He conceded there was no provision for anonymous grievances.

Keeping us informed — In case you're not getting enough advertising from the tube and local daily, relax. Campbell's is now plugging its products on billboards spotted near ski lifts, on supermarket shopping carts, in church bulletins, and atop parking meters. Other firms are using supermarket floors, park trash baskets, and the back of taxi receipts.

We'll stick to gin — Some partisans, and the sugar industry, are complaining that the "Classic Coke" really isn't. It seems that for the past five years, the company has been gradually, and quietly, switching over to high fructose corn syrup. (Up to 8 cents

a pound cheaper than sugar.) Meanwhile, over at Pepsi, there was an equivocal denial that they were planning to meet the challenge of two Cokes by adding a "Pepsi Supreme."

Household hint — Hammacher Schlemmer, the New York gadget folk, are featuring a butter dish with a built-in freezer pack which will keep butter fresh and firm up to three hours. \$32.95. If it also made ice cubes we'd consider trading in our present fridge for one.

How about Searit? — A new device, Breathlight, is a combination cigarette lighter and breath freshener.

Reagan hails apartheid regime as repression grows

Continued from front page

While Reagan and his aides spun fiery tales about progress in South Africa, the Botha government seized nearly 900 children — many of them just eight years old or younger — in the Black township of Soweto August 22 and 23.

The children were rounded up outside their homes, in schoolyards, and even in classrooms in an effort to terrorize the community. They were charged with participating in a boycott of classes.

Hundreds of thousands of Black youths in South Africa have been boycotting schools to protest the apartheid regime and its racist education system. And young people have been in the forefront of all the current protests against racial injustice.

About two-thirds of the thousands arrested since the state of emergency was imposed on July 20 are under 18.

Some of the children rounded up in Soweto were beaten with whips.

As hundreds of parents gathered outside a Soweto police station August 23, a delegation of religious figures pressed for release of the children. The regime released more than 700.

But 27 of the children who were supposedly released were still missing as of August 26.

The attack on the children was criticized by many whites. The anti-apartheid Black Sash, led by white women, provided attorneys for the children.

The conservative National Council of Women protested to Minister of Law and Order Louis Le Grange. "Our reaction is one of sick dismay to the arrest of hundreds of small children," its statement read.

Trevor Tutu, the son of Bishop Desmond Tutu, was arrested August 26 at the hearing for the children when he denounced the arrests.

Incidents like this spur big business fears that the regime may not be able to stem the protests. On August 27, the Botha government temporarily suspended trading on the stock and currency markets, as the country's currency fell to its lowest level ever.

The government is attempting to crush the UDF, the coalition of 600 anti-apartheid groups that has organized many of the mass anti-apartheid protests. With a membership of some 2 million, the UDF's ac-

tivities are supported by a wide spectrum of anti-apartheid fighters, including Bishop Tutu and the outlawed African National Congress.

Thirty-eight leaders of the UDF have been charged with treason.

Thirty-two additional UDF leaders were arrested August 24 and August 25. They included five UDF leaders in the Indian and African communities in the Durban area.

What happened in Durban

The UDF has been the target of a particularly savage attack in Durban and the surrounding townships. The media in this country have covered up this war against the UDF by portraying the events in Durban as a conflict between Africans and Indians.

Protests against apartheid have been growing in the Durban area. In late July, Black bakery workers walked off their jobs to demand a pay increase. In the nearby Black townships, students and other youths staged protest actions.

Blacks mobilized to participate in memorial rallies for Victoria Mxenge, a lawyer and UDF leader who was murdered, anti-apartheid activists believe, by a government-backed death squad.

The response was fierce repression. More than 70 people were killed in the Durban area.

Much of the repression came from the cops. But some came from reactionary Black goon squads organized by the KwaZulu Bantustan administration headed by chief Gatsha Buthelezi.

Buthelezi's role

Buthelezi collaborates with Pretoria and helps the regime administer the racist Bantustan system of Black rural reserves. But he also criticizes the apartheid regime. This stand, and his authority as a traditional tribal chief, aids his effort to impose his political control over the 5 million Zulu-speakers in South Africa.

Buthelezi has become increasingly strident in his denunciations of the UDF and the ANC. As protests developed in Durban's Black townships — which Buthelezi regards as part of his domain — he turned loose thousands of armed members of his

organization, Inkatha, to attack them.

The first big attack came after a memorial rally for Mxenge, where 12 were killed. With cops looking on or joining in, Buthelezi's thugs attacked protesters and others in KwaMashu and other townships.

One aspect of Buthelezi's government-backed crackdown involved attacks on Indians in the township of Inanda. Several deaths resulted, and hundreds of Indians fled. According to Farouk Meer, a UDF leader in Inanda, the area was slated by the government for incorporation into the KwaZulu homeland, but the population had been reluctant to leave their homes as the government desired. The attacks, he noted, "will certainly facilitate the movement of Indians away from Inanda."

Meer has since been arrested. Buthelezi's political influence is waning. More and more Blacks, including Zulus, support the struggles organized by the UDF and identify with the ANC. In May, the Zulu-language newspaper *Ilanga* reported that, in an opinion poll of Africans around Durban, 48 percent favored imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela as "the best leader for the Black people in South Africa today." Buthelezi came in second with 28 percent.

Free Nelson Mandela!

Support for Mandela, who has been serving a sentence of life plus five years since 1964, stems from his heroic refusal to give up his principles and from the leading role of the ANC in the battle against apartheid.

On August 21, Winnie Mandela, an ANC leader who is Nelson Mandela's wife, rejected an offer of \$10,000 from the U.S. embassy to help repair her house. Her home had recently been destroyed by arsonists believed to be linked to the apartheid regime.

The South African government has classified Winnie Mandela as a "banned" person under the Suppression of Communism Act. The act defines communism as any idea "which aims at bringing about any political, industrial, economic, or social change ... by the promotion of disturbance or disorder by unlawful acts."

Winnie Mandela is forbidden to attend meetings or publish anything or meet with

more than one person at a time. She was banished to the Orange Free State province, but has been living in Johannesburg since her home was destroyed.

Since a banned person cannot be quoted in the South African media, a statement on the rejection of the embassy's offer was made by her lawyer:

"Our client is of the view that the offer could well give the impression to the people of this country that your administration genuinely opposes apartheid."

"Our client believes this is not so and that acceptance by her of any monies from your administration would reinforce that incorrect impression."

She accepted a \$6,000 donation from several U.S. senators.

Following a visit with Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela declared August 21 that as long as the regime jails and kills the opposition, the "only other aspect then to be discussed by the people of this country with the ruling Afrikaners is the handing over of power."

She stated August 24, "If the government abandons apartheid, lifts the ban on the ANC, releases all political prisoners and allows the exiles to return, then Nelson and the other ANC leaders would be prepared to sit down and talk."

A statement by Bishop Desmond Tutu indicated the depth of feeling among South African Blacks about Nelson Mandela:

"He has become the symbol of our people. His imprisonment represents their oppression. His self-sacrifice is what we would all like to be in resisting that oppression, and his release has come to symbolize the liberation they are longing for."

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

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

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

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

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 611A Tennessee. Zip: 25302. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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

Balto. steelworkers back Wheeling-Pitt strikers

BY JOE KLEIDON

The current strike at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. is hitting home to steelworkers at the Sparrows Point plant of Bethlehem Steel, just outside of Baltimore. Workers here realize that U.S. Steel Chairman David Roderick's pledge to extract the same concessions from his union employees as Wheeling-Pittsburgh gets will be echoed by the Bethlehem bosses.

Recently another wave of layoffs hit "The Point," with a new wrinkle. Beth Steel has taken these most recent job

ing. In a related press release, the union accused the company of pursuing "a course of confrontation . . . over the issue of concessions" and forcing layoffs not required by a drop in orders.

The threat of shut-down of at least major parts of the Sparrows Point Plant is constantly held over our heads by Bethlehem Steel. In the immediate vicinity, a mini-mill is being built which will be able to perform some of the operations currently done at the Point, and where, it is said, the worker will be paid \$6 an hour with no benefits.

In this atmosphere, Beth Steel proceeds with cutbacks and changes in work rules which the local membership has voted against accepting. A company program now being implemented, known as Total Predictive Maintenance, involves combining and eliminating jobs. It leads clearly in the direction of contracting out of maintenance work and adding more responsibilities to the jobs of those production workers who manage to remain. While concessions were once seen by some steelworkers as necessary to save jobs, they are now increasingly regarded as blackmail aimed at squeezing as much out of us as possible, before the company finally throws us out on the street.

A key part of the union's current defense against the elimination of entry-level positions in various jobs is calling for application of the Consent Decree, which was a gain won by Blacks and women in the union, to support their right to access to formerly segregated, higher-skilled jobs. If the company successfully abolishes entry-level positions, it will, in effect, be closing off depart-

ments and related job classifications once again — this time not just to women and Blacks, but to all steelworkers. This will enable the company to shrink various departments and contract out maintenance work to non-union contractors.

In well-attended emergency union meetings and discussion on and off the job, Beth steelworkers are beginning to grapple with the question of how to build an effective fightback against the relentless company attacks on our union, jobs, and standard of living.

An important starting point for this fightback is the growing appreciation of the need for solidarity with steelworkers and other workers under attack.

For example, many steelworkers believe much more could and should have been done to support the Arizona copper miners, which included the now-decertified steelworkers and other unionists, in their heroic fight against Phelps Dodge Corporation.

Many Bethlehem Steelworkers see the fight of the Wheeling-Pittsburgh strikers as our fight as well. An outpouring of solidarity has begun. A union-organized campaign for weekly financial contributions from individual steelworkers to our brothers and sisters at Wheeling-Pittsburgh, for the duration of the strike, is already under way. Also, plans are being made by the union to transport steelworkers by bus from Baltimore to join in the picketing at Wheeling-Pittsburgh.

Joe Kleidon is a member of USWA Local 2609 at Sparrows Point.

UNION TALK

combination and elimination actions without even waiting for agreement from the union.

According to the July 21 issue of the *Baltimore Sun*, Bill Lohman, a grievance committeeman with United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 2609, said that the company has laid off steelworkers in the sheet and tin division, and the hot mill and the rod mill, after combining jobs so that one employee does work formerly done by two people. Lohman said that the union has filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board because job combinations violate the contract.

The *Sun* article reported that Henry H. Von Spreckelssen, a company spokesman, said that job elimination is part of Bethlehem Steel's corporate-wide restructur-

Steelworkers union District 31 pledges solidarity

BY JIM LITTLE

MATTESON, Ill. — Delegates to the annual District 31 Conference of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) pledged their solidarity and support for the workers on strike against Wheeling-Pittsburgh.

The conference, held here July 26-27, was attended by over 400 delegates and guests from 100 locals in the Chicago-Gary area.

District Director Jack Parton announced plans to send buses full of steelworkers from District 31 to demonstrate solidarity on the picket lines with strikers at the Wheeling-Pittsburgh plants in Pennsylvania. More than 250 members turned in forms saying they wanted to go.

"If they break our spirit at Wheeling-Pittsburgh then it will be twice as difficult at our negotiations next year," Parton said in a speech at the opening session.

District 31 is the largest steel-producing region in the country. It covers 60,000 union members in northern Illinois and northwest Indiana. Steelworkers here are following the Wheeling-Pittsburgh strike closely. The basic steel contract expires in July 1986. The steel bosses have decided to end industrywide bargaining. This means the bosses will be trying to pit workers at Inland, U.S. Steel, Bethlehem, and other mills against each other, so that they can get more concessions.

The attempt of the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Corp. to impose big pay cuts, reduced vacation time, and restricted union representation on the job are an indication of what's ahead.

The conference unanimously passed a resolution, submitted by Local 1010, that read, "surrender to Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation's attack on its workers standard of living would likely cause other basic steel companies to demand similar concessions." It resolved, "to offer any and all support we can to the struggle to stop this attempt to divide and conquer our union."

Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel has no plants in District 31. But the possibility of a strike here was a big discussion at the conference. Parton has established a Basic Steel Strike Task Force to prepare for a possible strike.

USWA International President Lynn Williams also addressed the conference. He explained that in the Wheeling-Pittsburgh strike the union will be exposing the company's shady business dealings and mismanagement, and seeking to put pressure on stockholders, bankers, and others who do business with Wheeling-Pittsburgh. "This district has a militant tradition," he said. "Maybe it's time to get militant against the companies."

In the workshop on basic steel, USWA General Counsel Bernard Kleiman warned that other steel companies were likely to

use Chapter 11 bankruptcy laws as Wheeling-Pittsburgh did.

He explained that corporations don't go bankrupt in the sense that workers use the word. They use the bankruptcy laws to reorganize their corporations, and as a tool to trample on union contracts and the interests of workers.

Looking toward the upcoming negotiations Williams asserted that, "The single most important issue is giving the workers some say in the economic decisions of the companies, some way to influence strategic longterm planning."

Leon Lynch, USWA Vice-President (Human Affairs), and Edgar Ball, the union's International Secretary, also addressed the conference.

Ninety resolutions were submitted for delegates' approval. They reflected the discussion going on in the basic steel locals about the upcoming contract. A resolution on the right of the membership to ratify the contract passed unanimously. This was a change from past years when the issue was hotly debated.

A debate did break out around a resolution on the Labor Management Participation Teams (LMPTs) — the "quality-of-work-life circles" of the steel industry. Paul Gipson and other members of Local 6787 explained how the LMPTs at Bethlehem Steel undermine the union grie-



Local 1010 Steelworker

Wheeling-Pittsburgh strikers

vance procedures and are potentially dangerous to the union during contract negotiations. Other delegates disagreed and the conference voted, with some opposition, to reaffirm its support for the

LMPTs.

Other resolutions were passed opposing concessions contracts, for affirmative action, for a freeze on nuclear weapons, and against outside contractors in union shops.

1,500 rally for Wheeling-Pittsburgh strikers

Continued from front page

bankruptcy court ruling as the pretext.

Union members explain that the company's unilateral throwing out of the contract, which was due to expire in July 1986, constitutes a lockout.

USWA International Vice-president Leon Lynch told the rally, "We gave up \$141 million to help this company. No more!"

Rally participants took up the chant, "No More! No More!"

Lynch said the company is asking for \$75 million per year in additional concessions. "This is just a test for our union. We won't let them succeed. The International is pledging full legal and financial resolve behind this strike," he said.

Lynch called on all steelworkers to visit the picket lines to show their solidarity.

Andrew ("Lefty") Palm, USWA District 15 director, said the rally was the beginning of the effort to use the power of the whole union to support the strike.

Paul Russen, director of USWA District 23 and chairman of the USWA-Wheeling-Pittsburgh Negotiating Committee, called the strike a "rebirth of the USWA and its principles. You are sending a message to

all steel companies that if they try what Wheeling-Pittsburgh tried, they will get worse and worse and worse."

Russen talked about the hundreds of steelworkers who showed up for mass picketing at Beech Bottom, West Virginia, on August 20. On that day, eight USWA members, including three local union presidents, were arrested after more than 500 pickets blocked a Wheeling-Pittsburgh truck from removing equipment from the company's Beech Bottom plant. The union officials believed the load of forming rolls on the truck was being shipped to a non-union Wheeling-Pittsburgh plant. A human wall of pickets blocked its exit, as state troopers were called out. Finally, the company agreed to unload the truck and allow the union officials to inspect it. The truck went out empty.

"If the rolls go out of this plant to a non-union plant, they can shut this plant down," explained one union member.

This was just the latest incident in the company's attempts to undermine the strike.

In the first week, the company cut off all health benefits to strikers. On August 1, it stopped payments to the workers' pension fund. It is now seeking a restraining order

to prevent the states from processing workers' unemployment claims.

The Pittsburgh rally emphasized the union's resolve not to back down.

Jack Parton, District 31 director from South Chicago and Northwest Indiana, spoke about how steelworkers in his district are supporting the strike (see story above).

Joe Romano, president of Local 15271 at the Danly Corporation in Chicago described the nine month strike just ended there and pledged Danly workers' support.

Bill Andrews, president of Local 1010 and several other local presidents expressed their solidarity.

The wife of a striking steelworker, who is also the president of the District 15 USWA Mon-Valley Hospital Local, said she had a message for Wheeling-Pittsburgh. "Sacrifices were made by our families in good faith. We built this union with our blood, sweat and tears, and we'll do nothing less to keep our heritage."

"Carney [chairman of Wheeling-Pittsburgh] has to fight the entire USWA. If these 8,200 people lose, everyone loses," concluded a woman steelworker from the Monessan Wheeling-Pittsburgh plant.

'Contras' get a new commander

In early July, Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary terrorists attacked a passenger boat bound for the port of Bluefields. The *contras* killed four Sandinista soldiers, kidnapped at least eight people, and robbed everyone on board.

That attack, it's now been disclosed, was carried out with advice and direction from a U.S. military official acting in his capacity as a member of Reagan's National Security Council.

The disclosure of the White House role in the attack was included in revelations in the August 8 *New York Times*.

The paper reported that the *contras* are now receiving "direct military advice from White House officials on the National Security Council."

A top White House aide delicately explained the *contras* were getting "tactical influence" on military operations.

The *Times* said the operation is being run by a military officer identified in a later article as Lt. Col. Oliver L. North.

North is also reported as raising funds from undisclosed private sources for the *contra* operation, which includes murdering, raping, and kidnapping civilians as well as arson and other forms of sabotage designed to damage the Nicaraguan economy.

White House direction of the *contra* drive against the Sandinista government began last year after Congress ended direct military aid which had been handled through the CIA.

During the course of the CIA-*contra* operation increasing evidence became available that the *contras* were functioning strictly as paid hirelings of Washington — as mercenaries — with zero say about the "freedom" fight they were supposed to be conducting.

One recent confirmation of this came in an August 5 *New Republic* article by Edgar Chamorro, a *contra* official who was iced out for criticizing the CIA's total control of the operation, both military and political.

Nothing has changed in this respect with the transfer of

direction to the National Security Council.

The *Times* explained:

"Until Congress ended aid to the rebels last year, the CIA had managed almost every aspect of their activities."

"But," the account continued, "when left to their own devices, the rebels 'couldn't manage themselves very well,' a senior official said."

Continued "management" of the *contras* includes National Security Council consultation with the CIA, Pentagon, and State Department. But everything is channeled through the Security Council. Lt. Col. North meets frequently with the *contra* chiefs in Washington and Central America, and briefs Reagan on the operation.

The *contras*, one official explained, "are his account."

North also makes frequent speeches to unreported gatherings, and "when asked, advises people on how they might donate money to the rebel cause."

Reportedly, \$20 million has been raised this way in the past year. In addition there is the \$27 million in "humanitarian" aid voted by Congress which, reportedly, a new White House agency will parcel out.

One of the ways the money is being used is to compel the various *contra* groups to accept the leadership of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force. Favored by Washington from the outset, this is the outfit which is controlled by former officers of ex-dictator Anastasio Somoza's murderous National Guard.

For Washington to be organizing and directing an undeclared, proxy war against another government is in patent violation of U.S. and international law.

Yet Congress permits it to continue without a serious murmur — and provides the funds.

Responding to the disclosure of the National Security Council activity, Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.), a member of the House Intelligence Committee, philosophized:

"If the president wants to use the NSC to operate a war in Nicaragua, I don't think there's any way we can control it."

All of this in the name of freedom, democracy, and morality.

Labor Day: solidarity is key

Continued from front page

needed by those striking unionists who are in the forefront of the fight against employer takebacks.

The Executive Council of the AFL-CIO has declared its solidarity with the South African workers and their fight against what the council rightly calls the "cruel, unjust and violent system of apartheid."

The council has called on unions worldwide to pledge full support to Black South African workers in their struggle for trade union and human rights, declaring the fight will continue until the apartheid system is dismantled.

Such a stand does more than discharge an elementary obligation to our embattled South African brothers and sisters. It expresses the recognition that in fighting for their rights South African workers are advancing ours as well.

A pillar of South African apartheid is the big U.S. corporations that coin added profits from that system.

Ford, General Motors, Dow Chemical, Honeywell, FMC. These are just a sampling of the big U.S. companies that do business in South Africa.

And, it is these same companies that are spearheading the present attack on the wages and conditions of working people in this country. Every blow struck at these wealthy corporations by South African workers slows down the drive against unions here. Their fight is truly our fight.

An impressive number of unions recognize this. Several international unions, and many local unions, have joined in anti-apartheid protests. Most recently, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers convention condemned apartheid (see story page 4).

In New York, labor was key in turning out 30,000 people for a recent anti-apartheid march. It's important for the unions to give maximum support and leadership to the slated October 11 nationwide demonstrations against the racist Pretoria regime.

And labor should get solidly behind the opposition to Washington's intervention in Central America. If that war drive is not reversed, U.S. GIs may find themselves dying in an attempt to roll back revolutionary struggles of fellow working people.

In this respect, it's encouraging that the AFL-CIO Executive Council has given a measure of support to the many Salvadorans seeking refuge here from the oppression in their homeland. The council has urged support for a Congressional bill that would suspend detention and deportation of Salvadorans for a period of time following a federal review of their plight.

Washington is also determined to crush the revolutionary government in Nicaragua, which puts people before profits and, for that reason, refuses to bow before U.S. dictates.

The intervention in the Salvadoran civil war and the anti-Nicaragua campaign have become the subject of increased discussion among unionists. This has resulted in more labor involvement in antiwar activities. It was evident in the labor participation in the April 20 Washington and San Francisco demonstrations against U.S. intervention in Central America.

Along with extending the hand of solidarity to Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, and Southern African liberation fighters, organized labor has the job of building solidarity on the home front.

That means translating into action the AFL-CIO declaration of support for the striking steelworkers at the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. They were forced onto the picket line July 21 when the company arrogantly tore up their union contract and demanded a new round of pay and benefit cuts.

The same solidarity is needed by the striking members of the United Food and Commercial Workers at the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota; the striking shipyard workers at the Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine; and the coal miners striking A.T. Massey.

In these strikes, too, the workers are resisting company attacks on wages and conditions.

Clearly, a victory for them will be a victory for all of us.

The labor movement should also stand in solidarity with all others fighting for their rights in this country. The Reagan administration is on a concerted campaign against affirmative action and the right of women to safe, legal abortion. These rights, which were fought for and won by Blacks, women, and working people, are important conquests for the entire labor movement.

"Solidarity Forever" was the battle song of this country's pioneer union builders. Labor Day 1985 is a good time to sing it with renewed vigor and determination.



Malcolm X on solidarity with struggle in Africa

The upsurge in the struggle of the Black majority to overturn the apartheid system in South Africa has inspired tens of thousands of working people here to participate in actions demanding that the U.S. government break all ties with the apartheid regime.

The role of this type of international solidarity in helping to advance the struggle of the oppressed and exploited in the United States was the topic of many speeches by the revolutionary fighter Malcolm X, who was assassinated in 1965.

Most of Malcolm X's speeches on international solidarity as part of the fight against racism at home centered on winning support for the major struggle in Africa at the time — the fight of the Congolese people against the U.S.-backed Belgian invasion. The Congo, now called

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

Zaire, had won its independence from Belgium in 1960 under the leadership of Patrice Lumumba. When the Lumumba government charted an independent course, the U.S. and Belgian governments backed a coup in which Lumumba was murdered.

By 1964 supporters of Lumumba fighting the proimperialist government, installed after the coup, had won control of the majority of the country. To crush the popular struggle the Belgian government, with the support of the U.S. government, invaded the Congo.

Below are excerpts from a speech by Malcolm X. The speech was delivered at a Nov. 29, 1964 meeting held in New York City after Malcolm's return from an extended visit to Africa and the Mideast.

The complete text of this speech can be found in the book *By Any Means Necessary* by Malcolm X. The book costs \$3.95 and can be ordered from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014 (please enclose \$.75 for postage and handling).

* * *

It would be a crime for you and me to be in a city that has more black people in it than any other city on this earth, New York City, and be silent in the face of the criminal action of the United States government in conjunction with Belgium in the Congo. This government, in conjunction with that government, is dropping paratroopers in the Congo under the pretext that it's some kind of humanitarian operation.

But never believe what you read in the newspapers — they're not going to tell you the truth. The truth isn't in them. Not when it comes to the Congo; they can't tell the truth. I was on the radio with a man the other night, and he had the nerve to tell on the air about some Congolese atrocities, and the benevolence of the Belgian government, and how [Belgian] atrocities never took place.

You know they have freedom movements on the African continent. There are many liberation movements; there are movements of Africans from South Africa, from Mozambique, from South-West Africa, Bechuanaland, Swaziland, Angola. In every country, in every area on the African continent that has not tossed aside the shackles of colonialism, they have developed a liberation movement, and the purpose of these liberation movements is to throw aside the oppressor.

My main theme, while I was traveling with our brothers abroad, on the African continent, was to try and impress upon them that 22 million of our people here in America consider ourselves inseparably linked with them, that our origin is the same and our destiny is the same, and that we have been kept apart now for too long.

This doesn't mean that we're getting ready to pack up our bags and take a boat back to Africa. This was not the impression that I was trying to give, because this is not true. That's not necessary. But what is necessary is that we have to go back mentally, we have to go back culturally, we have to go back spiritually, and philosophically, and psychologically.

And when we go back in that sense, then this spiritual bond that is created makes us inseparable, and they can see that our problem is their problem, and their problem is our problem. Our problem is not solved until theirs is solved, theirs is not solved until ours is solved. And when we can develop that kind of relationship, then it means that we will help them solve their problems, and we want them to help us solve our problems. And by both of us working together, we'll get a solution to that problem. We will only get that problem solved by working together.

When I speak of some action for the Congo, that action also includes Congo, Mississippi. But the point and thing that I would like to impress upon every Afro-American leader is that there is no kind of action in this country ever going to bear fruit unless that action is tied in with the overall international struggle.

Apartheid: source of all violence in So. Africa

Rashaad Ali, a new staffwriter for the *Militant*, will now be writing the By Any Means Necessary column.

The big-business press in this country is echoing the lies and violence-baiting by the racist apartheid government of the democratic movement in South Africa.

The picture being painted by the electronic and printed media is that South Africa's Black majority is a wild, bloodthirsty bunch of criminals, who are responsible for



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Rashaad Ali

the death of hundreds of Blacks. It paints the apartheid government as an innocent bystander or even a great white father, trying to save Blacks from themselves.

The purpose of this campaign is to discredit the just struggle of the Blacks of South Africa to free themselves from the bondage of the modern slaveholders headed by President Pieter Botha.

The other side of this racist campaign is the capitalist media always taking any opportunity to deepen anti-Black sentiments at home. The use of racist code words like "looting," "crime," and "Black-on-Black violence" to describe events in South Africa is designed to smear all

Blacks as criminals — inhuman animals not fit to govern who can be brutalized without apology.

What are the real issues in the present struggle in South Africa?

It is a fight by the Black majority to gain their freedom from apartheid. It is a revolutionary democratic movement of the great majority of that country to win their freedom from the violent racist minority that rules over them.

The source of violence in South Africa is the apartheid system and its state — its army, its laws, and everything connected to the defense of the regime.

Those who are trying, and have been trying for decades, to overthrow that system are not the source of violence. They are the *victims* of racist violence.

The apartheid system came into existence with the blood of the Black majority dripping from its jaws. It continues to feed on that blood and will do so until it is destroyed by its victims.

What are the facts about violence in South Africa?

In less than one year the South African government has killed about 650 people and has arrested or detained 20,000. That includes 800 students — more than half under the age of 13 — who were carted off to jail. Many, many more have been injured.

Repression did not begin with the present upsurge against the racist regime. It is as old as the regime itself.

In 1910 the annual arrest rate of Blacks was 90,000. By 1970 it had risen to 1 million a year. From 1972 to 1973 more than 45,000 Blacks were flogged by the racist authorities.

In 1978 alone, 131 Blacks were hanged.

These figures don't include the many Blacks that were

killed by other means, nor the floggings by the police and army that were never recorded.

South African violence is institutionalized, governmentally organized, and runs like a thread through all aspects of life for the oppressed majority.

I think that all deaths of Blacks in South Africa, no matter who actually pulls the trigger, have to be laid at the doorstep of the racist apartheid government.

The big-business press here has shed plenty of tears over the deaths of a few Black cops and other stooges of apartheid.

Is it surprising that those who have served their racist masters well are so bitterly hated?

It seems to me that it's very easy to understand why they have been attacked. They are not innocent victims who are caught in the middle between the forces of freedom on one side and the government racists on the other. They are willing stooges of the white rulers.

The press emphasizes that these stooges are Black to try to trick us into forgetting that they are part of the machinery that is set up to defend the apartheid system from those that are willing to challenge it.

It's just like it's done here in this country. They try to get you to believe it makes a difference whether a cop is Black or white. But the color of the person who pulls the trigger doesn't matter much — you're still dead.

Those of us who live in this country can contribute to the growing worldwide movement against apartheid by helping to get out the facts about the apartheid system.

We should redouble our efforts to organize the broadest forces possible to demand that the U.S. government break all ties with apartheid and join the boycott of the outlaw racist state of South Africa.

Defend all Puerto Rican political prisoners!

There are currently 40 Puerto Rican political activists in prison in the United States. The only "crime" these activists have committed is supporting independence for the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico.

These 40 prisoners are not criminals — they are *victims* of frame-ups by the government's political police.

They are also victims of a government and big-business media campaign to paint all supporters of Puerto Rican independence as terrorists. The racist character of



¡BASTA YA!

Andrea González

this campaign was brought home to me last year when I was running for vice-president of the United States on the Socialist Workers Party ticket.

While reporters would ask my running mate Mel Mason about our program, their first question to me, after finding out that I was Puerto Rican and supported independence, was, "Do you know any terrorists?"

I always said yes, I know the biggest terrorist in the world — he is sitting in the White House.

This racist campaign is aimed at intimidating supporters of democratic rights from coming to the defense of these Puerto Rican activists out of fear that they, too, will be smeared as terrorists and also become possible targets of government repression.

The recent trial and conviction of four Puerto Rican independence fighters for seditious conspiracy by a federal

court in Chicago offers a perfect example of this ruling class campaign.

The four activists — Edwin Cortés, Alejandrina Torres, Alberto Rodríguez, and José Luis Rodríguez — were the subjects of an unprecedented government surveillance effort. One hundred and fifty FBI agents illegally made over 300 hours of video and audio recordings of their activities. At the end of all these hours, the government was unable to come up with a single shred of evidence of illegal actions by these fighters.

The government made up for its lack of evidence by whipping up hysteria against these activists, labeling them terrorists.

Extreme security measures were taken in the trial, aimed at intimidating jurors and supporters alike and trying to portray the defendants as dangerous criminals. Each person who came to the courtroom was subject to a meticulous search with metal detectors. The courthouse was lined with cops and guards. Access to the building was severely restricted.

At one point the judge in the case interrupted the proceedings to order five people out of the courtroom for allegedly threatening the government's star witness Alfredo Méndez. The five were wearing T-shirts with one letter each which spelled out the Spanish word — *chota* — cop.

Having already convicted the defendants in the press, the government proceeded to restrict their legal rights. They were denied bail. Three of the four victims have already been in jail for over two years.

The 300 hours of illegally obtained video and audio tapes were ruled admissible evidence even though the tapes were often so garbled that they were unintelligible. The FBI admits having "enhanced and reprocessed" the tapes. As for the Spanish-language tapes, the jury was

given FBI "translations."

This trial, along with the Brink's armored car robbery trial of 1984, the New York 8 + trial this year, and the cases of the 36 other Puerto Rican activists form part of a systematic offensive by the U.S. ruling class to undermine political rights.

The U.S. government hopes that by calling these activists terrorists, it can isolate them and prevent public support for their democratic rights. In this way the ruling class can not only railroad these fighters to prison but also establish undemocratic precedents — denying bail, allowing illegally obtained material to be admitted as evidence, and holding trials in an intimidating atmosphere which violates the principle of innocent until proven guilty. The government's goal is to make it easier to railroad others to prison, like union militants, antiwar fighters, Black rights and women's rights fighters, and farm activists.

The slogan of the early labor movement in this country — "an injury to one is an injury to all" — should be our guide to action today. All supporters of the Bill of Rights should defend every victim of political repression.

This attitude was summarized in a speech by Rafael Cancel Miranda, one of five Puerto Rican nationalists who was imprisoned for 25 years for supporting Puerto Rican independence. At a defense meeting in Chicago for the latest four victims Cancel Miranda said, "To end repression, we must fight it. . . ."

"Therefore I call on all leaders of our struggle for national liberation and all *independentistas* [supporters of independence] in general to defend . . . these four *compañeros*."

"Let us unite and confront the vicious and genocidal imperialist terrorism with the spirit of revolutionary solidarity. . . ."

LETTERS

Socialist publications

Here are two new subscriptions to the *Militant*. The subscribers were signed up at a community festival here last weekend, at a very successful book sale. Some of the most popular books were *White Rule*, *Black Revolt*; *Maurice Bishop Speaks*; *Women's Evolution*; and *By Any Means Necessary*, an autobiography of Malcolm X.

The interest in Azania (South Africa) and Black liberation in general has increased here in Columbus as a result of the activity of the Students United Against Apartheid, which has been active for about six months at Ohio State University. The student group has won a vote in the Board of Trustees for divestment of the university.

Ohio State's divestment is an important initial victory for the anti-apartheid fight. Both the state government of Ohio and the city



government here have divestment legislation in committee.
Nevin Siders
Columbus, Ohio

Renew sub

While I was confined within a federal correctional institution in Tennessee, I was receiving the *Militant* newspaper. For reasons unknown, during 1984 I did not receive a newspaper. I am now confined in a federal correctional institution here in Oklahoma and I would like very much to resume getting the newspaper. The need

to know is even greater here.
A prisoner
El Reno, Oklahoma

Gratitude

Thank you sincerely for continuing to send the *Militant* to me. On behalf of myself and others we wish to express our gratitude for your sending this free subscription.
A prisoner
Joliet, Illinois

Wants 'Militant'

Please be advised that I am an



indigent inmate who's temporarily incarcerated at the Texas Department of Corrections (prison). I am not only interested but would like to obtain the *Militant* newspaper for purposes of acquiring knowledge and perception of revolutionary events.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.
A prisoner
Lovely, Texas

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund

also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

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

Union Carbide 'accidents' protested

BY GREG ROSEMONT

INSTITUTE, W. Va. — Some 375 people gathered here to condemn Union Carbide and demand action against the giant corporation for the toxic chemical leak on August 11 that sent 135 people to the hospital.

The meeting was sponsored by People Concerned About MIC, a community organization formed after Union Carbide killed 2,500 people in Bhopal, India, last December. MIC (methyl isocyanate), the deadly chemical released in Bhopal, is still being produced at Carbide's Institute plant.

Poisons spewed into Black community

The August 11 leak spewed aldicarb oxime and methylene chloride into the air of the Institute-West Dunbar area. This is a working-class community with a large Black population. It is located next to Charleston, the state capital.

Even Union Carbide admits that these two chemicals cause central nervous system, respiratory, and blood disorders, as well as eye irritation. Despite this fact, a Carbide spokesperson insisted that "there was never any threat to the community."

At the meeting, held August 18, virtually every speaker expressed outrage at the chemical giant's consistent policy of lies and toying with people's lives. Half of the participants of the meeting were Blacks who live near the plant.

Signs were posted all over the auditorium, saying: "Solidarity with Bhopal"; "Don't Blame the Workers, Blame UC Management"; "Institute trivia: Name that smell—run like hell"; and "Welcome to Cancer Valley."

The Kanawha Valley is lined with chemical plants, two of which belong to Union Carbide. Residents of the valley are constantly subjected to a barrage of foul odors and foggy and strange-colored air. Warning sirens go off at all hours of the day.

Bhopal can happen here

Prof. Ed Hoffman of West Virginia State College opened the meeting. He is a cochair of People Concerned About MIC (PCMIC).

Hoffman explained that PCMIC was formed despite a concerted propaganda campaign that insisted "Bhopal can't happen here." He hit the racist character of this campaign, which blamed the Bhopal "accident" on Indian workers.

Hoffman reported on an internal company memo that put aldicarb oxime in the same class of chemicals as MIC. "Union Carbide says it's anxious to reassure us. But it's not a problem of smoothing it over — it's a problem of making it safe."

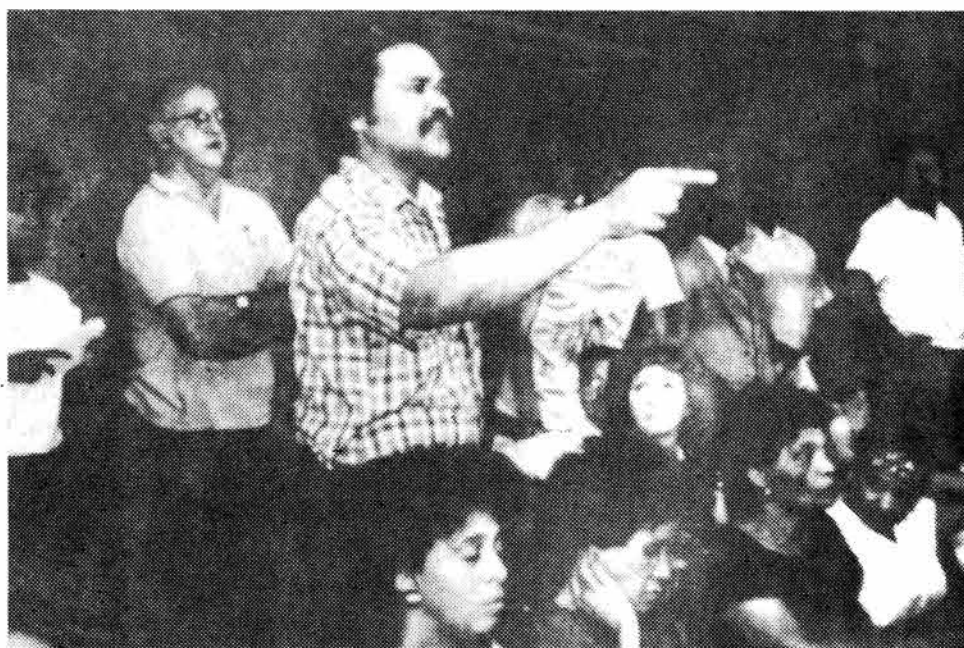
Union Carbide has thrown its massive wealth into a propaganda campaign aimed at making working people accept the "small risks" involved with the production of toxic chemicals. The company says the danger is outweighed by the jobs that UC and other chemical corporations provide.

Government officials, like Gov. Arch Moore, put UC forward as a "good citizen" who's just trying to give us all a fair shake. One example of their "interest in our safety" is the fact that UC waited more than 30 minutes before using their warning signal to announce the leak.

Lively debate among working people

The leaks at Carbide have initiated a lively discussion among working people here.

Some have been swayed by Carbide's propaganda campaign. The day before the meeting took place, about 325 people paraded through Charleston in support of the company. The primary focus of the parade was to insist that West Virginia would be "almost hell" without the jobs provided by Union Carbide. This is a serious question in this state, which has the highest unemployment rate in the country. Several Carbide workers attended the parade.



Union Carbide worker challenges Robert Kennedy, president of the corporation, who tried to cover up company responsibility for poison gas leaks.

Several people at the community meeting took up this question, dubbing it "jobs blackmail."

"We don't need you to pay for our burial shrouds. We'd like you to take some of those millions you use for those hideous propaganda drives and move the gases out of here," said one Black man.

Many residents demanded the right to know about all the chemicals Carbide produces and their effects. Others said there should be community control over the processing. Many said that if the plant can't produce chemicals safely, it should be shut down.

"We should have control over chemical emissions. The big question is how long

will we let private companies make decisions that impact the public. They're doing the controlling, not us," said one woman. "Maybe they [UC executives] should come live down here. Our health is not public relations — we should be able to decide what's produced," she continued. She received loud applause.

So did an older woman who declared, "I detest blackmailing people for jobs, dividing people, and threatening people's livelihoods. Forget about warning systems — I don't need you to tell me that you're going to kill me. Do something about the problem."

The hall filled with silence when Union Carbide President Robert Kennedy, sec-

ond-in-command of the multinational, got up to speak. He admitted that all the concerns raised were real, but stated that "shutting down certain operations wouldn't be a good idea." Why not? "We're not quitters. We don't want to admit that we're not capable of handling our affairs. That's why we don't want to shut down," he said. At that point, people started to boo and shout him down.

Workers answer UC president

Eric Howard, a tankerman at Carbide's South Charleston plant, jumped up while Kennedy was speaking. He shouted, "You're manning these plants with untrained people. They aren't trained, they're broken in by fellow operators." The worker pointed to numerous safety violations by the company. To thunderous applause he said that he might be putting his job on the line by shouting down a top boss, but "you can have my job. I can get another job, I can't get another life!"

While Howard received a standing ovation and Kennedy looked flustered, Don Evilsizer jumped up and identified himself as a business representative for International Association of Machinists Local 598, which organizes the South Charleston plant. "I disagree with one thing he said — you *can't* have his job!" Evilsizer yelled at Kennedy, to which participants responded with another ovation.

The right to know

There have been four additional leaks recently from other chemical plants, one of which sent six people to the hospital. The chemical giants insist that there's no harm from these emissions. Residents of the communities around these plants know different. They live in constant fear of being

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Leader of Kanak struggle tours U.S.



Susanna Ounei

Militant/Harry Ring

BY PAT GROGAN

Susanna Ounei, a leader of the Kanak people of the South Pacific island nation of New Caledonia, has just begun a two-month tour of the United States. She began her tour with major press interviews and speaking engagements at anti-apartheid rallies. This shows the potential to win support in this country for the Kanak people, who are fighting to end more than a century of French colonial domination of their country.

Ounei is on tour as the official representative of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), of which she is a founder and central leader.

She is also a founder of the Kanak and Exploited Women's Group in Struggle,

one of the component groups of the FLNKS, and author of the pamphlet, "For Kanak Independence: The Fight Against French Colonial Rule in New Caledonia."

FLNKS has led protests by the Kanak people and their supporters for independence from French rule. In response, the French government has sent thousands of troops to occupy New Caledonia. The Kanaks also face hostility from thousands of heavily armed anti-independence French settlers.

French settlers have assassinated leaders of FLNKS, which established a provisional government of Kanaky last December.

Ounei's tour has received attention from the major media. An interview with her appeared on page three in the August 26 *New York Times*. She explained that the French government had repeatedly broken promises to the Kanak people about the question of independence. "If they [the French government] don't keep their promises, we just have to fight," she told the *Times*. "We have no other way." She has also done interviews with the *Washington Post*, National Public Radio, and the Pacifica Radio Network in Washington, D.C.

Ounei has received an especially warm welcome from opponents of racism in South Africa. She spoke at a 2,000-strong anti-apartheid rally organized by the Free South Africa Movement in Chicago. Also speaking at that meeting was Neo Mnumzana, chief representative to the United Nations of the African National Congress.

On Labor Day weekend, Ounei is a featured guest at a conference of Indian women to be held in Washington State. Hundreds of Indian women from across the country, as well as indigenous peoples from Hawaii and Australia, are expected to attend.

A key part of Ounei's tour will be raising funds to help establish a Kanak radio station and newspaper in New Caledonia. All

the media on the island is now controlled by the French government and white settlers who oppose independence.

Initial sponsors of the tour include Conrad Worrell, national chairperson of the National Black United Front; Tony Russo of the U.S.-Vietnam Friendship Society; Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition; Wabun Inini (Vernon Bellecourt) of the American Indian Movement; Adeyeme Bendele, a supporter of the Grenadian revolution; and Jackie Floyd, national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Ounei's tour takes her to New York, Newark, Atlanta, Miami, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Houston, San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Detroit, St. Louis, New Orleans, Birmingham, and Salt Lake City. Ounei will also visit Greensboro, North Carolina; and Price, Utah.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

For Kanak Independence: The fight against French rule in New Caledonia.

Speaker: Susanna Ounei, official representative of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front.

Moderator: Leonard Harvey, National Vice-Chair for International Affairs, National Black United Front.

Tuesday, September 10.

Reception: 6-7 pm; program at 7. Undergraduate Library, Lecture Hall, Howard University.

Sponsors: National Black United Front, Howard University Student Association, Young Socialist Alliance, D.C. Unit Provisional Government of Republic of New Africa.