

## Break U.S. ties with S. Africa — All out for October 11 protests!

### Racist regime steps up terror

BY FRED FELDMAN

Mbuyiselo Mbotya lived in Ginsberg, one of the Black townships near East London in South Africa. He was arrested September 20.

Soon the cops announced he was dead. He "became ill," a police spokesperson said.

Mbotya was a member of the United Democratic Front, the coalition of 600 anti-apartheid groups with some two million members. The UDF has led many of the current protests in South Africa against apartheid.

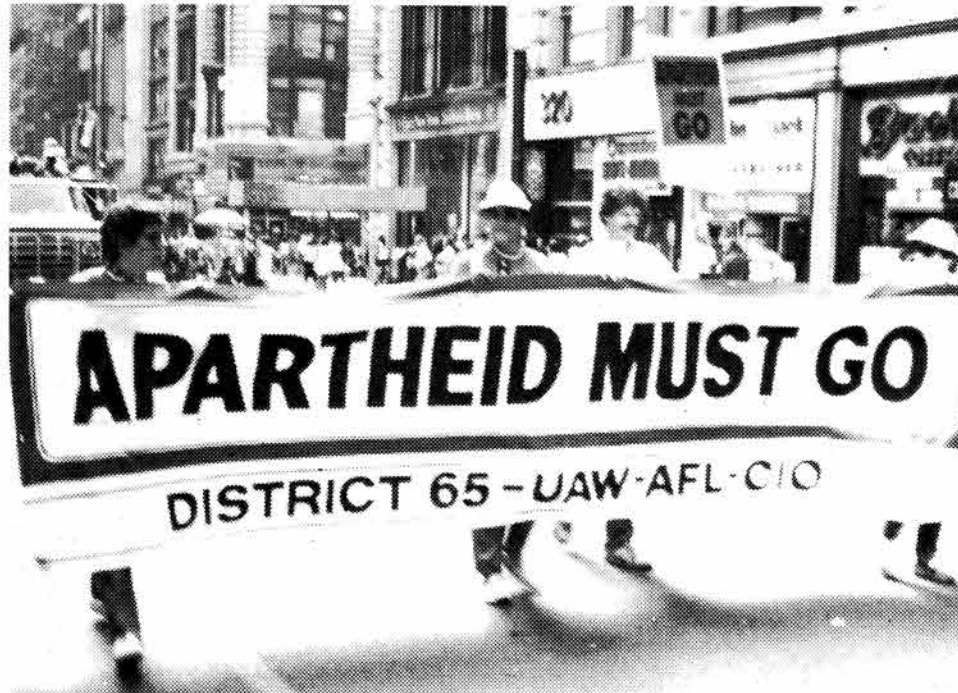
In the past seven weeks, three people from Ginsberg have died while in police custody.

Dr. Wendy Orr, a government physician in the Port Elizabeth area, charged that Black prisoners are being "systematically assaulted and abused after their arrest and before being admitted to prison, and also during their incarceration."

One common torture is the "helicopter," in which the cops handcuff Blacks with their hands between their legs in such a way that they can be suspended from a pole, spun around, and beaten.

Other tortures include forcing prisoners to drink gasoline and whipping.

These revelations led a judge to issue an order "restraining" further beatings in two Port Elizabeth prisons. But under the state



Labor Day march in New York City demonstrated deep support in unions for anti-apartheid movement.

of emergency imposed July 20, the police cannot be held liable for any of their actions. The court order will be ignored with impunity.

The slaughter of Blacks continues in South Africa, with the death toll now far surpassing 700 and growing every day. This is the regime's main answer to the massive demand for an end to apartheid and for majority rule in South Africa.

Other forms of repression are escalating as well. On September 27, Louis le Grange, who holds the title of "minister of law and order," banned all outdoor meetings, except sports events, until March 1986.

Police surrounded and sealed off the

townships around Cape Town September 24 in what they described as a "crime prevention operation" aimed at rounding up participants in protests in Guguletu, Nyanga, and Langa. There was no report on the number arrested or killed in the operation. The previous day cops roamed the streets of Guguletu, beating Blacks and looting.

Support has continued to broaden for a one-day strike called for October 9 by Bishop Desmond Tutu and other Black and white religious figures. Barclays Bank announced it would close all its branches for 90 minutes October 9, and that workers would not be punished for staying home

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### Join actions against apartheid

"Boycott South Africa!"  
"Free Nelson Mandela!"

These will be two prominent chants at the upcoming anti-apartheid protests in more than 20 cities and on over 100 college campuses October 11 and 12.

Every progressive-minded person and organization should join these solidarity actions with the oppressed South African

## EDITORIAL

majority. It is through such mass protests that the demand for a total U.S. political, economic, and diplomatic break with the racist apartheid rulers will have the broadest impact.

These protests have won the support of scores of national and local trade unions, Black rights groups, antiwar and Central America solidarity organizations, Chicano and Puerto Rican groups, and hundreds of student organizations.

October 11 marks both National Anti-Apartheid Protest Day and Southern-Africa Political Prisoner Day. Protesters will be wearing black armbands and observing a minute of silence in support of South African and Namibian political prisoners.

There will be marches, rallies, and teach-ins demanding freedom for political prisoners and an end to U.S. ties to the apartheid state — the modern, Nazi-minded slavocracy.

Now is the time for all democratic-minded people to do what we can to isolate the racist rulers in Pretoria. We can bring coworkers, fellow students, farmers, relatives, neighbors, and others to these protests.

All out in support of the just and democratic struggle of South Africa's Black majority!

Break all U.S. ties with apartheid!

## Socialist defends bilingual education

BY HARRY RING

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Moves by the Reagan administration to gut the nation's bilingual education programs drew a sharp response from Puerto Rican residents of the Williamsburg community here.

Campaigning in the area's busy shopping district on Saturday morning, Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, discussed the issue, strongly defending continuation and expansion of bilingual education.

González, who is Puerto Rican, found that many people in the neighborhood were aware of the recent attack on bilingual education by Reagan's education secretary, William Bennett.

A Puerto Rican teacher in the New York school system told her there have already been sharp cuts in the city's bilingual education program.

Because they're being denied education in their own language, he said, "kids from Puerto Rico are sitting in classrooms learning nothing."

A woman who only recently came here from Puerto Rico spoke out strongly. "There are so many of us," she said, "they want to break the bond of what holds us together — our language."

"They want us to be ashamed of what we are. They don't want us to say what we are. But at the same time, they will never integrate us into their society. They want us to learn English, but still there will be no jobs for us."

Another person reiterated the point, saying, "They want you to be ashamed," and added, "They want to divide you from people coming from the island."

One woman with several children said she spoke no English and, pointing to her oldest, said, "We can barely communicate."

The teacher added, "Bilingual education is always under attack. People in the programs start from the idea, 'We can learn.' But the school officials are always telling Puerto Rican kids, 'You can't learn.'"

González explained some of the background of the new attack. It comes, she noted, at the same time as a stepped-up drive against immigrant workers. She pointed to the Simpson-Rodino bill now in Congress that would add to the victimization of undocumented workers and intensify discrimination in employment.

Bennett's attack on bilingual education, she said, is "flat-out racist."

In a September 26 speech to a New York civic group, Bennett declared the aim of education should not be to teach students from other lands their own language and culture, but to make them learn "our common language . . . English."

The fight for bilingual, bicultural education has been long and hard. It was won through the struggles of working people — led by Blacks and Latinos — for an end to racist education, for equal education. It became a part of the battle for desegregated education in many cities as well.

Not surprisingly, federal legislation providing bilingual education was not enacted until 1968 — coming after the overthrow of Jim Crow segregation won by the massive civil rights movement. Bilingual education was not established until the Su-

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## Seattle teachers win victory

BY DAN FEIN

SEATTLE — The largest teachers' strike in the country ended in victory for the union.

The 25-day strike began September 3 when 2,200 Seattle public school teachers, substitutes, secretaries, and aides, represented by the Seattle Teachers Association (STA), met and voted against the latest school board offer. An affiliate of the National Education Association, the STA has 3,700 members. There are 43,500 students in the Seattle school district.

The fact that, according to state law, the strike was illegal did not deter the STA — whose leaders continually repeated they would never recommend to the membership that they return to the classroom without a satisfactory contract.

Classroom size, seniority rights, extra pay for extra work, and increased pay for office personnel were the major issues in the strike. At the beginning of the walkout

the school board claimed that it, too, would like to see smaller class size, but simply could not afford it. The state of Washington has one of the worst student-teacher ratios in the country — averaging 48 students per teacher.

The settlement includes \$3 million to hire more teachers and aides this year to reduce class size. Under the one-year contract, teachers will get 3.5 extra days of pay at \$225 a day if they volunteer to work extra time; secretaries will get \$987 more per year. The STA, however, did lose some ground on the seniority issue.

The last week of negotiations took place in the state capitol in Olympia under the direction of Democratic Gov. Booth Gardner. Some argue the governor was responsible for getting the teachers a good contract.

But it was public support to the teachers, especially from parents of school age chil-

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# Sales to Texas OCAW members reach record high

BY PETE SEIDMAN

HOUSTON — *Militant* sales at area plant gates hit a record high with the issue reporting on the decision by the August 19-23 convention of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW)

"This was the easiest sale I've been on in a long time," explained one team member. Ten people bought papers. Many of these were Black workers sitting around in the parking lot after work. Deep interest and solidarity with the

portunity for Blacks to organize around issues that particularly concern them.

He also thought that unlike the previous merger between workers organized in the closely related chemical and oil industries, the present merger made no sense since there was nothing really in common between paper production and the manufacture of petrochemicals.

One worker said that Texas' Democratic governor, Mark White, would be speaking to their union, and he urged the socialists to come by.

Texaco workers also urged the sales team to visit a nearby supermarket where many oil workers shop. This was a valuable suggestion. Five more *Militants* were sold there.

The prominent back-page headline on OCAW no doubt spurred the high sales at the AMOCO refinery in Texas City. Unlike Texaco, AMOCO is a fast sale, where you have to hit cars driving out of the gate at shift change. Six workers stopped to buy the *Militant* while security personnel stood by watching grimly.

Other sales teams systematically approached workers on both operations and maintenance shift changes at the Shell, ARCO, and Ethyl refineries along Houston's Ship Channel. A team also sold at Denka Operations.

These plant-gate teams — most of which are aimed at workers coming and going in fast-moving cars — were aided by posters featuring announcements of the coverage of the OCAW conven-

tion, of what the *Militant* is, and how much it costs. The posters are mounted on light-weight plywood sandwich boards.

The highest sale on the Ship Channel was to workers leaving on the evening shift at Shell. Eight workers stopped their cars to buy a copy of the *Militant*. This was despite the darkness and the fact that a company security vehicle was parked prominently near the sales team, and guards were taking pictures. Socialists in the plant reported that coworkers took note of the situation and a few even went out of their way to explain that they stopped to buy a paper.

More sales to coworkers took place at a meeting of OCAW Local 4227 (ARCO) during the week, where an additional four *Militants* were sold.

## SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

to merge with the United Paperworkers International Union.

Ten teams of socialists here sold 44 papers at six East Texas plants organized by the OCAW.

The highest sales were to workers coming off the daylight shift at the giant Texaco refinery in Port Arthur.

freedom struggle in South Africa sparked most of the sales.

But team members reported that there was also interest in the *Militant's* analysis of the OCAW merger decision. One older worker expressed his suspicion of the merger, saying he didn't think the new union would offer much op-

## Woman author needs support in U.S. residency fight

BY JANE HARRIS

Margaret Randall, a prominent writer, poet, and photographer, faces possible deportation from this country at the hands of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Through a lengthy INS interview and a delay of over one year, it has become clear that the U.S. government seeks to deny Randall residency based on her beliefs and associations.

Who is Margaret Randall and why is the INS giving her such a tough time?

For 23 years, Randall lived in Mexico, then Cuba, and later Nicaragua. She has authored close to 40 books, many concerning women and Third World struggles.

She is perhaps best known in the United States for her books on women in the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions — *Cuban Women Now* and *Sandino's Daughters*.

Randall has made the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions come alive not only through her books and photographs, but as well by serving as an on-the-spot translator for hundreds of U.S. groups and individuals who have toured those countries in search of the truth.

While living in Mexico in the 1960s, married to a Mexican citizen and raising three children, Randall filed for Mexican citizenship in order to better enable her to earn a living in that country.

When advised by her lawyer to report to the U.S. embassy, Randall was asked by embassy officials to sign a form renouncing her U.S. citizenship. She did this under the impression that she was optionless.

Returning to her home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in May 1984, where she is married to a U.S. citizen, she filed for residency. Randall is an assistant adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Normal processing time for permanent residency applications is 60 days. Usually,

those with close family members (Randall's parents, brother, and one daughter are all U.S. citizens) are given top priority.

Not so with the Randall case. Here's an example of the INS procedure in this case: "[W]ould you agree . . . that your account of your North Vietnamese visit is highly biased in favor of the communist struggle there at the time?" an INS officer asked Randall referring to her book of interviews with Vietnamese women, *The Spirit of the People*.

As well, the INS officer wanted to know if Randall had been a member of the Mexican Communist Party, the Mexican

Socialist Party, or the Cuban Communist Party.

While never a member of any political party, Randall has been a supporter of liberation struggles all over the world.

In a telephone interview with the *Militant*, Randall stressed, "the case is a First Amendment issue: do the American people have or don't they have a right to hear dissenting opinions?"

Should the INS deny the residency application, the Center for Constitutional Rights is prepared to file a lawsuit on Randall's behalf.

Thus far, the INS's intentions have been slowed down by the written protests of dozens of well-known writers and artists, from the PEN American Center, E.L. Doctorow, and Arthur Miller, to Tillie Olson, Kurt Vonnegut, and Alice Walker, just to mention a few.

Randall emphasized the importance of keeping up this written protest urging permanent residency be granted to her. Letters should be addressed to Alan C. Nelson, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Room 7100, Chester Arthur Building, 425 Eye St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20536.

## N.J. sanctuary meeting exposes INS threats

BY ROBERT DEES

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Over 150 people attended a church service and fundraising dinner at St. Michael's Chapel here to commemorate the first anniversary of the church taking a Salvadoran family into sanctuary.

Ramón Flores, the father of the family, was recently arrested by Immigration and Naturalization (INS) agents and is now applying for political asylum. He spoke first: "I must speak carefully," he said, "because of certain laws that could in the future be used against me."

"The manner in which the sanctuary movement has been infiltrated [by INS agents] is proof that the movement is a threat to the U.S. government. We are being forced to testify against the Americans who helped us, fed us, took us in. They want us to turn against those people who helped us."

"It makes us wonder what methods or strategies they are going to use against us or against the movement tomorrow."

"The response has been that more sanctuaries have opened. There are 54

more now. What more eloquent response could there be?"

"Many laws are written one way and interpreted another," he said. "So after a year here we have trouble accepting this democracy. It can accept terrorist groups like the Ku Klux Klan, Omega 7 [right-wing Cuban group], etc. But the law seeks to punish a nun whose only crime is to take in a refugee family. So we cannot accept this democracy."

"I wish to say that things have not gotten better since [El Salvador's President José Napoleón] Duarte took over. In fact they have gotten worse."

After Flores, Gus Newport, the mayor of Berkeley, California, spoke. Newport is on a 10-city tour to share his experiences in liberated territory in El Salvador. "Berkeley was a sanctuary in 1971 for sailors from the USS *Missouri* who may not have wanted to go to Vietnam. It was also the first city to totally divest from South Africa," he said.

"The Reagan administration says that U.S. aid is being used to fight the [Salvadoran] guerrillas," Newport added. But

"I know that it is being used for daily bombings of civilian populations. We came under one rocket and two mortar attacks. Everyone I talked to had lost members of their families."

"I think that we should be very proud of any church that has the courage to become a part of the sanctuary movement."

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## The Militant

Closing news date: October 2, 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.



# 'Militant,' 'PM' sales drive is doing well

BY HARRY RING

We've been doing very well. That's the conclusion to be drawn from the results of our sales and subscription drive so far. From the outset, we've been close to schedule on individual sales, and if we move into higher gear on the subscriptions, we can make that goal too.

In the 10-week drive, branches of the Socialist Workers Party, backed by the Young Socialist Alliance, are aiming to sell 40,000 individual copies of the *Militant* and its sister Spanish-language publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*, along with 2,000 subscriptions to both.

So far, we've sold 7,612 copies of the *Militant*, 832 of *Perspectiva Mundial*, 244 subscriptions to the *Militant*, and 21 to *PM*.

These figures testify to the increased political ferment in the country, with South Africa its principal catalyst.

The growth of interest in politics assures that we can reach our subscription goal along with the individual sales. All it really takes is a conscious effort.

Consider Washington, D.C., as an example. They sent out a special subscription appeal to the people on the *Militant* Forum mailing list. So far, they've received three subscriptions from this. The other five they've sold include two sold at *Militant* Forum meetings.

Albany, New York, is building a special forum where a savings will be offered on a combination admission and subscription.

Coworkers are a high priority source of subscriptions. In Houston, socialist oil workers have already sold six to coworkers. And they've also sold three to activists in the Free South Africa Movement.

But, equally important, they sold three subscriptions during door-to-door sales.

In Morgantown, West Virginia, four *Militant* subscriptions were sold while going door-to-door.

And in Greensboro, North Carolina, four were sold at demonstrations and other political events.

The selling point for subscriptions there

was that the local media carries so little real news on South Africa that you need the *Militant* to keep informed. And that certainly holds true for reporting on activity in this country as well.

Los Angeles has a subscription project under way that's sure to prove productive. During our circulation drive last spring, they sold 100 subs. Now they're systematically visiting those subscribers for renewals.

Another important point. With campuses in the forefront of the South Africa protests, not surprisingly, all initial experiences confirm that campus sales — single copies and subscriptions — have gone up. Several areas report this is particularly true of schools with mainly Black students.

And demonstrations are proving a high-yield sales arena. From Atlanta, Maceo Dixon reports a "great day" at an NAACP anti-apartheid action. Four *Militant* subscriptions were sold, along with 75 individual copies, plus 15 copies of the *Young Socialist*, the newspaper of the Young Socialist Alliance.

At a Central America solidarity demonstration of 1,500 in Boston, 68 *Militants* were sold, six *PMs*, and 28 *Young Socialists*.

While the *Young Socialist* is not formally part of our circulation drive, we're happy to report it's been selling very well. And in a number of cities, tie-in sales of the *Militant* and *YS* have proven effective, especially with the current issue of the *YS* featuring its striking back-page South Africa poster.

The present political upsurge not only makes it easier to sell our press, it also makes more people want to participate. For instance, last weekend in Los Angeles, two active supporters of the Socialist Workers Party sold 30 copies of the *Militant* and *PM*.

Finally, while working to build the October 11 anti-apartheid demonstrations, we should also be preparing for record sales at these actions.

What we've accomplished so far brings to mind the old slogan — "Seize the time!"



Willie Mae Reid, SWP candidate for mayor of Houston. She is campaigning for divestment of all city funds from companies doing business in South Africa.

## Houston socialist says city council must divest

BY MIKE TABER

HOUSTON — Willie Mae Reid, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, is a familiar figure in the growing anti-apartheid movement. She is the only mayoral candidate campaigning for divestment of all city funds from companies doing business in South Africa.

In a statement to the city council announcing her campaign, Reid declared that "my campaign will work to help educate and to organize discussions and activities that will in turn help to push the issue of city divestment to the center of the campaign for mayor."

Reid is a Shell Oil refinery worker and member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-367. She has been active in Houston's Free South Africa Movement. This broad coalition is organizing a march on October 12.

The march promises to be one of the largest demonstrations in the city in several years. But in a blatant attack on democratic rights and a show of complicity with the racist South African regime, the city government of Mayor Kathy Whitmire has refused to grant a permit for the march. Reid

and her campaign supporters have been in the forefront of the fight against this attack on democratic rights.

The socialist campaign here has also been active in defending women's right to abortion. Houston has been the scene of a number of right-wing bombings of abortion clinics. Reid joined other supporters of abortion rights in a mobilization September 14 to defend one clinic that antiabortion forces had threatened to disrupt.

The socialist campaign has also been on the United Farm Workers (UFW) picket lines outside area supermarkets in support of the union's grape boycott.

The Houston socialist campaign is currently on a drive to collect \$1,250 to pay a filing fee so that Reid's name can appear on the ballot. This drive is the result of yet another attack on democratic rights. A new law increased the required number of signatures for ballot status from 25 to 1,407.

Although Reid is an officially declared candidate, the city government did not inform her of these requirements until one month before the signatures had to be filed.

While collecting donations for the filing fee, socialists are actively fighting this attack on democratic rights.

## Toledo campaign for abortion rights

BY LYNN EDMISTON

TOLEDO, Ohio — Women's rights supporters here are organizing to defend safe, legal abortion. Fifty supporters of abortion rights marched in front of the Center for Choice, a local abortion clinic, to make sure it would stay open. September 14 was designated by right-wing antiabortion forces as a "national day of rescue" — a target date for harassment at abortion clinics.

The Center for Choice has been a target in the past for the antiwoman forces, who have bused in large numbers of pickets in an attempt to deter patients from entering the clinic. On these occasions small groups of reactionaries have entered the building attempting to disrupt the clinic.

Only six antiabortion picketers showed up September 14, but women's rights activists stayed to ensure that more wouldn't show. Several women carried signs saying, "Keep abortion legal and safe" and "Save women's lives." The clinic defense was organized by both the Center for Choice and the Toledo National Organization for Women (NOW) chapter.

A main topic of discussion was the upcoming abortion rights demonstration in

front of the Federal Building called by Toledo NOW for October 4. The national NOW convention in July called for abortion rights demonstrations around the country on October 6, the day before the Supreme Court reopens. This was in response to the Justice Department calling on the Supreme Court to overturn the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision that made abortion a constitutional right. Toledo NOW chose the Friday, October 4, date to increase the visibility of the action since the Federal Building is downtown, which is empty on weekends.

Efforts are being made to build support for abortion rights as broadly as possible. Leaflets announcing the October 4 demonstration have already been distributed to members of NOW, ACLU, campus women's groups, to patients at local abortion clinics and Planned Parenthood, and at meetings held by the local anti-apartheid coalition. Efforts are being made to reach out to unions, and Black, Latino, and student organizations.

Plans are under way for a citywide meeting on abortion rights Jan. 22, 1986. October 4 is just the beginning of the fight to defend abortion rights in Toledo.

## SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #2: Totals as of *Militant* issue #37, *PM* issue #18)

Area	SINGLE ISSUES		SUBSCRIPTIONS	
	Sold this week <i>Militant</i> / <i>PM</i>	% of goal reached <i>Militant</i> / <i>PM</i>	Sold so far <i>Militant</i> / <i>PM</i>	% of goal reached <i>Militant</i> / <i>PM</i>
Atlanta	86/3	20/10	16/0	36/0
Baltimore	94/0	22/0	9/0	16/—
Birmingham	143/0	31/—	3/0	12/—
Boston	91/11	24/14	4/5	10/50
Capital District	60/0	20/0	11/0	22/0
Charleston, W. Va.	72/0	13/0	3/0	10/—
Chicago	176/8	19/9	13/0	22/0
Cincinnati	68/0	22/—	3/0	10/—
Cleveland	68/7	18/26	3/0	10/0
Dallas	128/32	22/20	4/0	9/0
Denver	55/5	14/17	7/0	14/0
Detroit	160/10	19/22	19/2	32/40
Greensboro, N.C.	61/0	22/—	12/0	40/—
Houston	151/11	19/8	17/0	26/0
Kansas City	105/15	26/80	5/0	19/0
Los Angeles	184/42	36/18	6/4	10/10
Louisville	60/0	25/—	2/0	5/—
Miami	50/9	13/22	9/0	20/0
Milwaukee	56/0	21/11	4/0	11/0
Morgantown, W. Va.	32/0	19/—	1/0	3/—
New Orleans	70/2	19/10	6/0	15/0
New York	109/31	10/11	7/1	5/2
Newark	164/36	22/17	6/2	6/8
Oakland	105/15	24/19	3/0	9/0
Philadelphia	66/19	21/23	7/0	18/0
Phoenix	79/16	22/18	3/0	10/0
Pittsburgh	67/0	16/4	1/0	3/—
Portland	64/11	17/22	0/0	0/0
Price, Utah	10/0	14/—	0/0	0/—
Salt Lake City	56/8	19/20	1/1	5/20
San Diego	53/12	22/24	5/1	14/—
San Francisco	102/15	23/9	2/0	5/0
San Jose	55/24	18/17	5/0	13/0
Seattle	105/7	22/20	8/0	17/0
St. Louis	113/0	11/—	8/0	16/—
Tidewater, Va.	38/0	25/—	0/0	0/—
Toledo	88/0	22/12	15/0	31/0
Twin Cities	160/11	17/18	4/0	7/0
Washington D.C.	92/15	27/75	12/5	40/50
Total sold	3,496/375	20/16	244/21	14/7
10-week goal		40,000		2,000



# Nicaraguans rebuild mining community

## Since victory of revolution, Atlantic Coast gold-mining town makes gains

BY CINDY JAQUITH

SIUNA, Nicaragua — The Siuna gold mine towers over this small town of wooden houses and huts with thatch roofs. A pick-up truck takes us up the steep grade to the mine entrance, which is being guarded by retired miners and military personnel. Although the mine is not working right now, it is considered a military target. U.S.-armed mercenaries have been captured within 10 miles of town.

Until 1979 the Siuna mine and other Nicaraguan gold mines were owned by U.S. and Canadian companies. The underground part of the Siuna mine was flooded in 1968 when a dam burst. The mine's U.S. owners, Light Mining Ltd., never bothered to fix the dam. They just abandoned the mine, leaving it full of water.

All the mine buildings, aboveground machinery, and other facilities have been kept up by the mine workers, however, in preparation for reopening the underground mine.

At the entrance we meet Alex Lightburn Allen, one of the retired miners responsible for maintaining the mine and its defense. Allen is a Black Nicaraguan. He speaks both Spanish and English, slipping casually from one to the other in mid-sentence. Often he switches to English as he describes the U.S. bosses he used to work under. Allen calls those days "the time of the gringos."

The time of the gringos ended on July 19, 1979, when the workers and peasants in Nicaragua succeeded in toppling the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. It was Somoza who allowed the U.S. mining companies to exploit the country's gold mines with no regard for the environment or the lives of the mine workers. Once Somoza was overthrown, the new, revolutionary government that took power nationalized the mines and began to rebuild the devastated mining communities. In this area of Northern Zelaya Province, the main

mining towns are Siuna, Rosita, and Bonanza.

These mines now belong to the people of Nicaragua, to workers like Alex Lightburn Allen who put in 42 years at the Siuna mine. He knows every inch of the mine and proudly takes us on a tour of the above-ground facilities. "You see this here?" he asks, pointing to a concrete sluice. "Here the gold used to pour out just as fine as flour."

### 1960s strike

What was life like for miners under the rule of Somoza and the U.S. mine bosses? Most people here answer this question by talking about the strike Siuna miners waged in the early 1960s. "All we were asking for was five cents more — five cents!" says Allen.

Two retired miners at the market recall that when the strike reached a stalemate, word spread through town that a delegation from the capital city of Managua was fly-

ing in to arrange a settlement. The strikers and other townspeople gathered on the main road, which also serves as a runway for small planes. But when the plane touched down, out jumped Somoza's National Guard, submachine guns in hand.

"Back to work!" they barked. The strike was broken and the strike leaders fired.

The miners were subjected to other forms of violence as well. This started with the highly dangerous conditions in the mine. Allen told us that all the machinery in the Siuna mine had been used previously in U.S. mines. When it got worn out, it was shipped to Nicaragua.

He went on to describe a major disaster at the mine in the 1950s. The company, disregarding safety, ordered improper use of dynamite. Twenty-six miners were killed in the explosion that resulted.

Other miners were killed slowly from tuberculosis or silicosis produced by the gold-ore dust. Out of some 2,000 miners in this region, some 600 suffer today from silicosis.

Since the 1979 revolution here, miners' health and safety has been a priority of the government. Those miners with silicosis are flown to Managua for treatment, at government expense. An effort is made to rotate jobs in an open-pit section of the mine that remained operating. This was to ensure that the workers were not exposed all day to the gold-ore dust.

Under Somoza, miners were afraid to even admit they had silicosis. It meant losing their jobs, with no disability benefits.

### First union contract

Health care is just one of the things that changed for the miners of Siuna once they got rid of their U.S. bosses and the Somoza regime. Before 1979 they had no union — and no contract. Following the revolution the miners were organized into the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), the largest union federation in the country. In 1981, for the first time ever, a union contract was negotiated at all five gold mines in Nicaragua by the CST and the government mine agency.

The contract included significant union control over health and safety, better working conditions and benefits, and health care, housing, transportation, and food subsidies.

Subsequently, the government established pensions for the retired miners. The union and the government went on a campaign to track down retirees to alert them to the benefits they had coming. The U.S. companies had never kept records of em-

## Siuna fair: 'for peace & autonomy'

BY HÉCTOR CARRIÓN

SIUNA, Nicaragua — As our plane got closer to Siuna, we could see the gold mine. We started to descend and get ready to land, but as soon as we got close to the ground, up we went again and circled around the town. Then the pilot brought us in for the landing. It was extremely bumpy.

When we got out of the plane we realized why. Siuna has no runway and no paved roads. We had landed on a gravel road, the widest one in town. When we made our first landing attempt, there were still too many people on the road, walking toward the market.

### Gold-mining town

Siuna is one of three gold-mining towns located in the central part of Northern Zelaya Province on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. About 5,000 people live in Siuna and another 15,000 in the surrounding area. From the air, parts of Siuna look like a coal-mining town in Kentucky. In fact, Siuna used to be a company town, run by U.S. mine operators.

Cattle, corn, rice and beans are raised here. On September 15, the day we visited, Siuna was having a fair organized by the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG). At the fairgrounds hundreds of people were buying goods brought in from Managua, Nicaragua's capital. The goods ranged from rubber boots, to machetes, clothes, and kerosene lamps.

It was a very hot day. Many women and children carried umbrellas to protect themselves from the sun. Ranchers wore their cowboy hats and tucked their spurs into their belts. Some miners had their hard hats on. A lot of people were wearing brand new rubber boots, which seemed to be the biggest-selling item at the fair. In this part of the country it rains very often and the roads quickly turn to mud.

Ranchers on horseback entertained the crowd at the corral, their horses stepping to the rhythm of music played by a peasant band. Little girls wearing beautiful long white dresses and red flowers in their hair performed folkloric dances.

### Bull-riding contest

There was a bull-riding contest. The first bull smashed right through the wooden corral door, taking his rider with him. Others, trying to rescue the rider, got thrown off their horses in the confusion. The crowd could not stop laughing.

In the festive mood you could almost forget that Siuna is in the middle of a war zone. A soldier reminded us of this when he pointed to a mountain about 10 miles away: "The *contras* have come that close." He was talking about the mercenaries paid and armed by the U.S. government who kill workers and peasants and destroy their crops and herds here. We were to learn more about this war as the day went on.

José David Zúñiga, the political coordinator of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Special Zone I, which



Fair sponsored by National Union of Farmers and Ranchers in Atlantic Coast town of Siuna. Autonomy proposal for region will help overcome isolation and discrimination suffered in past.

Siuna is a part of, spoke at the rodeo and explained the measures the Nicaraguan government was taking to compensate the people of Siuna for the effects of the war.

### Impact of war

Because of the war agricultural production has decreased in the region. He said that about 1,000 people displaced by the war further north have moved into this area.

To help stimulate production, Zúñiga said the government has decided to offer peasants here a higher price for the rice they grow than that paid to peasants elsewhere. And to further compensate them, the goods shipped from Managua were being sold in the market at a 30 percent discount.

The biggest single measure was the government's presentation to local ranchers of 39 Brahman bulls to improve cattle raising. The ranchers will have five years to pay for the bulls.

The fair was in part a celebration of the bulls' arrival. They were brought into the corral for everyone to see.

### Autonomy proposal

The fair was also a celebration of the proposal to establish local government autonomy in this region of the country. A big sign put up by UNAG said: "Grand ranchers' fair: for peace and autonomy — Siuna '85." The autonomy proposal, which is being discussed all over the Atlantic Coast, is aimed at increasing the participation of Atlantic Coast Nicaraguans in the affairs of

Continued on next page

## Ana María assassins sentenced

BY PAT GROGAN

The assassins of Salvadoran revolutionary leader Commander Ana María were sentenced September 12 to 15 years in prison by a Nicaraguan court, according to *Barricada*, the daily newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

Commander Ana María (Mélida Anaya Montes) was second-in-command of the People's Liberation Forces (FPL), one of the five revolutionary groups that make up the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

She was brutally murdered April 6, 1983, in Nicaragua, by followers of Salvador Cayetano Carpio. It was he who gave the order for the assassination. Carpio was former commander-in-chief of the FPL. He committed suicide on April 12, 1983, when his guilt in the murder became known.

Ana María's murder was the culmination of a series of factional moves by Carpio within the FPL and the FMLN as a whole. He worked to block unified action of the groups within the FMLN and obstruct progress toward the fusion of the five groups into a united FMLN as the vanguard of the revolution — a step essential for victory.

The majority of the FPL — including Commander Ana María — voted in early 1983 to correct previous factional errors and to work to genuinely unify the activ-

ities of the five groups in the FMLN. Two leaders — Carpio and his close associate Rogelio Bazaglia Recinos — disagreed. When Bazaglia was arrested in Nicaragua for Ana María's murder, he admitted organizing the hit-squad at Carpio's order.

The majority of the FPL drew the lessons of this unbridled factionalism, made public Carpio's guilt and the history of the affair, and committed itself to the goal of a unified FMLN.

According to *Barricada*, those who were found guilty and sentenced to prison are Rogelio Bazaglia Recinos, Julio Soza Orellana, Andrés Vázquez Molina, and Walter Ernesto Elías.

Two others, Alejandro Romero Romero and María Argueta Hernández were acquitted because of insufficient evidence.

## Nicaragua 'contras' massacre 13

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A mine planted by CIA-trained terrorists killed 13 Nicaraguan civilians in Nueva Segovia province September 22. The victims, including several children, were riding in a pick-up truck that hit the mine.

The only survivors of the attack were a two-and-a-half-month-old baby and one adult.



ployment, much less paid pensions.

These gains don't mean life has been easy for Siuna miners. They have been living in the middle of a war zone since 1981, when the U.S. government sent the first *contra* squads into Nicaragua to try to overthrow the government. Shortly before we arrived here, these U.S.-paid mercenaries had attempted a major offensive in the region, aimed at seizing the town of Siuna. They failed, and by the time we arrived the Sandinista army was dealing heavy blows to their forces. Still, defense remains a constant preoccupation of the townspeople.

Siuna is also very isolated geographically, a valley in the midst of the mountains of Northern Zelaya. When U.S. businessmen ran the mine, Siuna was a company town. Food and other consumer goods were brought in from New Orleans and sold to the miners at high prices. Once the U.S. bosses were gone, Nicaragua's revolutionary government had to figure out how to supply the town.

#### Mercenaries try to block food

There's a road to Siuna from Matagalpa, a city on the Pacific side of the country. However, soldiers here told us that the CIA-trained mercenaries have recently carried out attacks along this road, making it more difficult to regularly supply Siuna. When goods are shipped in, sizeable army units are required to accompany the trucks. Products can also be sent by plane, but Nicaragua has very few aircraft available.

The town itself is still suffering from the effects of decades of domination by the U.S. mine operators. When the underground mine was closed down in 1968, it had been processing 100 pounds of ore a day. After the flood, there was no more gold being dug and no jobs for hundreds of miners.

It was not until the revolutionary government took power that something was done to try to reactivate mining here. The Sandinistas started up an open-pit mine adjacent to the underground mine to extract some of the gold reserves that were acces-



Outside Siuna gold mine, retired miner Alex Lightburn Allen tells of oppression under U.S. owners prior to revolution. Sandinista government is preparing to reopen mine and has already provided pensions and health care for miners, as well as signing contract with new union.

sible. This provided some jobs. But the open-pit mine processed far less than the underground mine, as little as 400 ounces of ore a day.

Finally, in January of this year, the government had to close the open-pit mine because of lack of electrical power in the area.

Two generators currently supply Siuna, but they are inadequate. Even without the mine machinery running, there isn't enough electricity. Every night that the local movie house shows a film, one section of town goes without lights.

Iván Lara Dinarte, the administrator of the Siuna mine, explained to us that the Nicaraguan government is working on a project to build four power plants in the area. The equipment has been purchased from Czechoslovakia. The hope is to have one of the plants finished by next month.

Among the first to get jobs working on construction of the new plants were the miners laid off last January. Those not hired for construction were given public works jobs in town, a far cry from the way U.S. mining companies take care of laid-off workers.

Once there is adequate power, work will begin on pumping out the water that has been sitting in the Siuna mine for 17 years. Then the mine will have to be rehabilitated. It is hoped that gold production can resume by November 1986, the time of the seventh anniversary of the nationalization of the mine.

#### Appeal to U.S. miners

The key obstacle to meeting these goals in the U.S.-sponsored war. It not only drains financial resources from projects like those here in Siuna, but human re-

sources as well. The mobilization of thousands of Nicaraguans for military defense makes it harder to come up with both skilled workers and the many technicians necessary to operate the new power plants.

The miners of Siuna need the support of their fellow miners in the United States, Iván Lara told us. "We would like the North American miners to know that any type of aid, any kind of solidarity they can offer us is important in this time of difficulty for our country."

#### Siuna ranchers' fair: 'for peace & autonomy'

##### Continued from previous page

the country as a whole. This includes decisions on the use of natural resources and aims at preserving and developing the languages, cultures, and customs of the Coast peoples.

Unlike the Pacific Coast, where the overwhelming majority of people are *mestizo* (of mixed European and Indian ancestry) on the Atlantic Coast there are Miskito, Sumo, and Rama Indians, Blacks, Garífonos, and mestizos. Siuna itself is majority mestizo, but some Indians and Blacks also live here.

The autonomy proposal will help overcome the isolation and special forms of race discrimination Nicaraguans in this part of the country have suffered historically. The U.S. government is trying to reimpose this oppression, militarily. Zúñiga told the crowd that the Sandinista People's Army had just broken up a plan by the U.S.-organized counterrevolutionaries to take over Siuna.

#### Contras pushed back

The FSLN leader said that in the last few days the Sandinista troops had killed 70 contras and captured quite a few others. They had rescued a group of Sumo Indians kidnapped by these terrorists, as well.

The mercenaries have done a lot of damage, however. In the province as a whole they have destroyed 25 trucks, murdered some 50 people, mostly civilians, and blown up four bridges. There are a thousand of these terrorists still in the area.

At the end of the day, troops of Nicaragua's Ministry of the Interior brought before us 11 contras captured in combat and six youths kidnapped by the contras. Among the contras were several ex-members of the the old U.S.-backed regime's National Guard. Seized with them was a quantity of guns and cocaine. A young woman from town emphasized to us that most of these contras did not come from this area, but from other parts of Nicaragua. They had been trained in Honduras.

Zúñiga praised the people of Siuna for the mobilization they had carried out to defend their town from the invaders. The successful fair in the middle of this mobilization, he said, "is one more victory for the revolution."

## Help fund the socialist press!

BY FRED FELDMAN

The campaign to raise a \$125,000 Socialist Publication Fund this fall promises to have broad appeal. The fund is off to a good start, standing at \$73,572 pledged and \$8,069 paid.

This campaign coincides with big developments in the movement to end all U.S. ties with South African apartheid, including the growing involvement of the

union movement in this struggle.

In addition, unionists are engaged in a number of hard-fought strikes, seeking to stave off takebacks and union-busting. There is a general increase in political interest and activity.

And there is growing receptivity to the socialist press and books.

Many more people are coming to know the *Militant* and the Spanish-language *Per-*

*spectiva Mundial* this fall, especially activists in the fight against apartheid in South Africa. Through the course of the current campaign to expand circulation of these publications, new partisans are being gained for all the socialist publications.

A growing number of people look to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, *Intercontinental Press*, and *Pathfinder Press* books for news and analysis of the world class struggle.

The *Pathfinder* book, *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*, has been warmly received by solidarity activists. It contains speeches by leaders of the Nicaragua revolution.

Many people will be glad to have the opportunity to make a contribution, especially as they learn how the fund will help the socialist publications reach still more working people.

There are many ways supporters of the fund can help reach the \$125,000 goal. Donations can be solicited from coworkers who read the *Militant* or *PM*, or who have read one or more *Pathfinder* books and pamphlets.

Supporters of the fund can also attend and help build rallies celebrating the socialist publications. Planned for nearly 40 cities this fall, these Socialist Publication Fund rallies will address the vital contributions that the socialist publications make to the struggles of workers and farmers around the world. Speakers from a wide range of movements and organizations will be featured, especially focusing on the fight against apartheid in South Africa and the U.S. war in Central America.

Become a participant in the efforts of the Socialist Publication Fund. Clip the accompanying coupon and send it with your contribution. Or make a pledge to be paid during the next several weeks.

In the September 6 issue of the *Militant*, we announced the launching of the Socialist Publication Fund with the goal of raising \$125,000 by November 15.

The purpose of the fund is to help finance publication of the *Militant*, our Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Intercontinental Press*, the Marxist quarterly *New International*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, *Pathfinder Press* books and pamphlets, and other important socialist publication projects.

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

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# Atlanta NAACP rally: apartheid must go

BY MACEO DIXON

ATLANTA — "We must continue our agitation until freedom comes in South Africa," said Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, to an overwhelmingly Black crowd of more than 1,000 demonstrators against apartheid here.

The September 28 march and rally was organized by the Atlanta NAACP. It was supported by a broad range of unions, community groups, political organizations, civil rights organizations, campus groups, and churches. NAACP chapters from across Georgia and many other Southeastern states sent participants to the protest action.

There was a sea of banners, signs, and chants against apartheid: "Stop the killing," "Break U.S. ties with apartheid," "Free Nelson Mandela," "Freedom yes — apartheid no," "Down with apartheid — blow by blow."

Atlanta's Mayor Andrew Young urged the protesters to "tell the business world it's not profitable to invest in apartheid. We want those in prison released, including Nelson Mandela and [leaders of] the UDF [United Democratic Front]."

Bringing greetings from the youth of South Africa was David Ndaba of the African National Congress (ANC). He said the youth are "putting their lives on the line fighting for freedom. They have said 300 years of oppression is enough."

"The ANC," he said, "wants to make South Africa ungovernable and unworkable." He concluded that "marching feet ended the U.S. war in Vietnam. And marching feet will end apartheid in South Africa."

Fulton County Commissioner Michael Lomax explained that "apartheid is slavery and you can't modify it, improve it, or alter it. You must destroy it. We want stronger sanctions against South Africa."

"We want you [the U.S. government] to apply sanctions until it hurts," said Hooks.

"We want sanctions so that whites living in luxury hotels and living off Blacks will be hurt by sanctions."

Young Socialist Alliance leader Laura Garza told the protesters, "On October 11 there will be a day of nationwide anti-apartheid protest. On 150 campuses many students will be demanding that their universities divest their monies from companies doing business in South Africa. They will also be demanding 'Free Nelson Mandela' and 'Free South Africa.'"

"We see the youth of South Africa as our

## Atlanta YSA hosts open house

ATLANTA — The Young Socialist Alliance held a lively open house right after the NAACP-sponsored anti-apartheid rally. Speaking at the open house were Sifiso Makhathini of the African National Congress (ANC); Dwayne Redding of the Georgia State University (GSU) student divestment committee; Michael Johnson, president of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Students Against Apartheid; and Laura Garza, national co-chairperson of the YSA.

Makhathini explained that, "We've been forced to provide labor. Our land was taken from us. So when we speak of people going through a crisis — workers are going through a crisis. Trade unions are now pushing forward a crisis of the South African government."

Redding said GSU students will be spearheading a march against apartheid in downtown Atlanta on October 11.

Johnson talked of the need for "direct action as being key to this movement." He said, "We need one voice from all the universities in this area. We must demand that they divest all funds from companies that do business in South Africa." The AUC activists will be holding a weekly lecture series on apartheid on the campus.

Garza said, "U.S. corporations don't go anywhere for benevolent reasons. They go to make money. No matter how much they give to set up a minority training program, their object is to make money."

The YSA also showed the video film "Adapt or Die," a documentary on the conditions of Black labor in South Africa.

brothers and sisters fighting for a new world. We are in solidarity with them, just as we are in solidarity with the youth of Nicaragua who are leading the revolutionary process in that country."

E.T. Kehr, southern area director of the Civil Rights Division for the AFL-CIO, gave the federation's "continued support to the NAACP and all liberal and progressive groups to end apartheid in South Africa. Our watchword should be 'Free Nelson Mandela!'"

Also speaking at the rally was Atlanta NAACP President Julian Bond; Richard Langford, sheriff of Fulton County; community activist Michael Samanga; Albert Love of SCLC; Marvin Arrington, Atlanta City Council president; Fulton County Commissioner Reginald Eaves; a representative from the office of U.S. Congressman Wyche Fowler; Black state legislators Tyrone Brooks and David Scott; Albert Davis, Atlanta Medical Association; and Tony Minor, NAACP youth director for voter education and registration.

Militant reporters asked a number of protesters why they were marching.

Gary Gordon of Knoxville, Tennessee, was a participant in the massive battle for school desegregation and against anti-Black violence in Boston in the mid-1970s. He was himself attacked by a racist white mob in Boston. So Gordon explained he will always fight racism and "apartheid is racism."

David Lyle is a Black member of Laborers International Union Local 438. He said he was there "to help support Blacks in South Africa. It's a bad situation there. If we don't show support then we're not human."

Phyllis Johnson from Spelman College



Militant/Jon Bixby

More than 1,000 people participated in NAACP-sponsored anti-apartheid rally September 28 in Atlanta.

said, "It is total injustice for the U.S. to let it go on. It shows what the U.S. thinks about Black people."

The NAACP held two community meetings to explain the purpose of the action. Over 50 people turned out at each. David Ndaba of the ANC was the featured speaker at one of these meetings.

On September 21 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1644 held a membership meeting. Guest speakers were C.T. Martin of the NAACP and Ndaba of the ANC.

On September 26 the NAACP held a press conference. Speakers were Richard Ray, president of the Atlanta Labor Coun-

cil, AFL-CIO; Claude Gilstrap, vice-president of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 10; Mary Lou Romaine, president of Atlanta Federation of Teachers; Dwayne Redding, leader of Georgia State University Committee on Apartheid Education; and Jondelle Johnson, executive director of the Atlanta NAACP.

Over 1,000 leaflets for the march were passed out inside the big General Motors plant in Doraville, Georgia. This plant is organized by UAW Local 10.

The teachers' union posted up leaflets for the march in most of the Atlanta public schools.

## South African unionist tours Detroit

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DETROIT — Tozamide Botha, administrative secretary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions and former employee of the Ford Motor Company of South Africa, spoke to 1,200 people during a two-day visit to Michigan September 20 and 21.

At a rally of 200 sponsored by the Free South Africa Movement September 20, he said the real criminals are "Botha's racist regime, those countries that support that regime and the multinational corporations."

"It is a case put before you by 25 million oppressed people who have no rights in their own country," he said.

Mel Ravitz, Detroit city councilman, read a resolution adopted by the City Council that called for stronger sanctions. It was presented to Botha, along with the "Spirit of Detroit" award, at a council session that morning.

Tamara Robinson, a high school student

just back from touring Nicaragua, was introduced. She said, "May South Africa become free, as I have seen Nicaragua to be."

Reverend Nyate welcomed people to Hartford Memorial Baptist Church.

Akua Budu of the Free South Africa Movement chaired the rally and Margaret Baylor of TransAfrica appealed for funds. Seven hundred dollars was collected.

Helen Meyers spoke for United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1200, which has been forced out on strike against General Dynamics. "No two-tier, from GD to South Africa" is one of the local's slogans, she said.

Horace Sheffield of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), introduced Botha. Sheffield is also a former Ford worker.

Botha spoke to 300 people at a luncheon cosponsored by the CBTU Women's Committee the next day. He said corporations doing business in South Africa are inter-

ested "not in Black people, but in their profit."

"People of this country should speak with one voice" for disinvestment, he said.

During his Michigan visit, Botha was interviewed on the "Latenight America" show on national television and spoke to anti-apartheid activists at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

He wound up his tour at a dinner to raise funds for the Free South Africa Movement sponsored by the Elks Golden Gate Lodge 693 held at UAW Local 157 in Inkster, just outside Detroit. About 700 people, mostly Black and many autoworkers, paid \$25 each to attend.

Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.), the featured speaker, urged consumer boycotts of companies like General Motors and Ford to force them to divest.

Botha brought greetings, saying that "With all their military might they cannot still our movement."

## 'IP' runs interview with ANC president

The struggle in South Africa today is "a revolt of the people," Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC), told interviewers from a West German magazine. And the goal of this struggle is that "the riches of the country shall belong to the people."

The interview is reprinted in the upcoming, October 21, issue of *Intercontinental Press*.

In response to sometimes sharp questioning by the interviewers from the bourgeois news magazine *Der Spiegel*, Tambo gives terse answers to a wide variety of questions.

He reaffirms the widespread demand within South Africa for the imposition of economic sanctions against the apartheid regime. He discusses the involvement of members of the South African Communist Party in the ANC. He explains the character of the ANC's armed struggle.

Tambo also answers some of the repeated propaganda themes of the big-business news media. "This

is not a confrontation of blacks against blacks," Tambo says. "It is a confrontation between opponents of apartheid and those who defend it."

The current, October 7, *IP* includes an eyewitness report from the Philippines by Deb Shnookal on the Marcos dictatorship's growing repression against human rights activists.

*Intercontinental Press* is a biweekly that carries more articles, documents, and special features on world politics — from Europe to Oceania and from the Middle East to Central America — than we have room for in the *Militant*. Subscribe now.

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### INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS

Africa Asia Europe Oceania the Americas

October 7, 1985

#### Mitterrand Defies Protests, Vows More Nuclear Tests

French government now denies it said Mitterrand was to seek approval of French nuclear testing in Pacific

NAMIBIA  
SWAPO Advances Despite  
South African Terror

FIDEL CASTRO  
'Collecting Debt  
Is Impossible'



## Support is growing for Oct. 11 protest St. Louis

BY TONY DUTROW

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Labor Committee Against Apartheid was formed at a September 24 meeting of labor leaders. Over 20 unions have joined the committee and agreed to endorse and strongly support the October 12 anti-apartheid demonstration and campus protests organized for October 11.

United Auto Workers officials agreed to help the April Mobilization Coalition put out 1,000 posters and thousands of leaflets for the protest, and to make the resources of their office available to the coalition.

A special labor leaflet has been made for the rally and march. "It is morally right for labor to march to oppose South African apartheid and to end racism at home, oppose U.S. government and corporate support for the white South African regime, and to free Winnie and Nelson Mandela and the over 2,000 trade unionists and all other political prisoners," the leaflet begins. Each union is putting its own insignia on the leaflet and distributing them to its membership. The UAW has run off 20,000 copies of the leaflet for distribution at area plants and taken 200 posters to put up. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union requested 30 posters to place in area garment shops.

Ora Malone, from the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, said she was "overjoyed to see labor take an active role in the October 12 protest because I've personally been involved in opposing apartheid for more than 20 years and I've always asked for more labor support in this struggle; now we're getting that support."

Coalition members made a point of attending a September 26 divestment hearing at the University of Missouri at St. Louis (UMSL). The hearings were scheduled in response to last spring's campus protest demanding that the university divest from all companies doing business in South Africa.

Hilary Shelton, a national board member of the U.S. Students Association and the National Organization of Black University and College Students, was elected vice-president of the student association at UMSL while leading the spring divestment movement. At the hearing, Shelton said that the university system should stop "coining profits from the slave system in South Africa."

Testifying at the hearing for the St. Louis April Mobilization Coa-

lition, Marea Himelgrin said that "the coalition gives its full support to the students at UMSL who are demanding that the university divest."

A number of extreme right-wingers from the White Citizens Council gave testimony urging UMSL not to divest from South Africa. One member of the council said that he was a trade unionist and that his views reflected those of working people in the U.S.

Leonard Robinson, the international representative to the greater St. Louis UAW CAP (Community Action) Council denounced this racist in his testimony and said, "No real trade unionists in the United States would get up and support apartheid."

Five distribution centers have been set up for coalition posters and flyers. Two are at area union offices — the American Postal Workers and UAW Region 5 — as well as the UMSL Student Association office, the St. Louis Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, and the Catholic Archdiocese Human Rights Office.

## Phoenix

BY ANDY ENGLISH

PHOENIX — Eighty people chanting "P.D. out of South Africa," and "Free South Africa — divest now," participated in a spirited picket line in front of the Phelps-Dodge copper corporation building in downtown Phoenix.

Phelps-Dodge corporation operates copper, silver, and lead mines in South Africa and South African-occupied Namibia.

The September 20 picket called for cutting all U.S. economic ties to South Africa.

Phelps-Dodge's South African investments are its single largest foreign investment. In 1981 these investments produced about 31 percent of the company's worldwide earnings. Black miners working for P.D. in South Africa earn as little as 55¢ an hour.

This company is greatly hated by workers in Arizona for its brutal effort to break the copper miners' unions in Ajo, Morenci, and Douglas. Copper miners have been on strike against P.D. since July 1, 1983.

The picket line was organized by the Arizona Coalition Against Apartheid and the Arizona State University Students Against Apartheid.

Pickets included members of both groups, plus trade unionists from the United Steel Workers of America, International Association of Machinists, and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. Many of the pickets were striking copper miners.

The Arizona Coalition Against Apartheid, Students Against Apartheid, and the Arizona AFL-CIO will be holding a rally at the

state capitol on October 11 for divestment of state pension funds from South Africa.

## Cleveland

BY SUSAN LAMONT

CLEVELAND — 300 people marched in solidarity with the women of South Africa to commemorate the August 1956 demonstration in Pretoria by 20,000 Black women against the hated pass laws.

The September 21 march and rally was called by the Free South Africa Coalition, with support from many organizations in the city.

Wearing "Free South Africa" T-shirts, black "Nelson Mandela" ribbons, and red ribbons to symbolize support for the freedom struggle, the demonstrators assembled with banners and placards at Cleveland State University. They then marched through downtown Cleveland, filled with Saturday shoppers, chanting "Freedom yes, apartheid no!"

The spirited marchers met with shouts of approval and raised fists of solidarity all along the way. One demonstrator carried a sign that said, "Honk if you oppose apartheid," to which drivers responded by honking their horns along the march route.

Arriving in Public Square, the demonstrators deposited their mock "pass books" in a coffin.

Judge Sara Harper, president of the NAACP, then introduced several prominent women from the Cleveland area who read short biographies of Black South African women who have been martyred, imprisoned, or banned in the struggle against apartheid.

Other speakers were State Representative Jane Campbell; Dee Zondo, a Black South African woman now living in the United States; and Mylon Waite of the Interchurch Council and head of the Free South Africa Coalition.

She closed the program by inviting everyone present to get involved in the coalition and to participate in the upcoming October 11 city wide rally against apartheid.

## Washington, D.C.

BY MIKE FITZSIMMONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Free South Africa Movement's daily protest at the South African embassy has received an enthusiastic response from labor, civil rights groups, religious organizations, students, and peace and solidarity activists who have helped organize protests at the embassy over the past 10 months.

There are plans for a larger than usual picket at the South African embassy on October 9, to support the general strike in South Africa

called by the South African clergy.

The Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (SCAR) is planning to assemble students throughout the Washington area at 2 p.m. on October 11 at Lafayette Park. They will demand divestment from U.S. corporations doing business in South Africa and freedom for South African political prisoners.

Officials of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and the United Food and Commercial Workers union national offices have pledged to make every Friday a "Labor Day" on the picket line at the South African embassy. They are encouraging union members to help organize their own locals' participation in these days.

Central America solidarity activists have planned October 3 as "Central America Solidarity Day" at the embassy. Along with the American Committee on Africa, other organizations, including the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Nicaragua Network, and SCAR, are planning local participation in the "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua" tour that will stop in Washington, D.C., on October 23-25. The tour will feature youth and student leaders from South Africa, Namibia, and Nicaragua. The Free South Africa Movement is planning mass demonstrations November 21 at the South African embassy in Washington, D.C., and at other locations around the country. For more information, call TransAfrica at (202) 547-2550.

## Los Angeles

BY SUE SKINNER

LOS ANGELES — On Saturday, October 12, the Free South Africa Movement (FSAM) here is sponsoring a march and rally against apartheid.

Demonstrators will assemble at 11 a.m. at Jackie Robinson Stadium and march through the Black community to a rally at Leimert Park.

They will demand:

- Free Nelson Mandela and all South Africa's political prisoners!
- No U.S. support to the South African regime!
- Total economic sanctions against the racist South African government!

Tens of thousands of leaflets have already been distributed by teams of FSAM supporters.

A large leafleting team was organized to leaflet a crowd of 18,000 who came to hear Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

The march has been endorsed by several well-known figures, including State Assemblywoman Maxine Waters; actor Ed Asner; United Farm Workers union President César Chávez; and City

Councilpersons Robert Farrell and Pat Russell.

Several important organizations in the Black community are supporting the October 12 protest. Among these are the NAACP, Black Women's Forum, Brotherhood Crusade, and the Ward AME Church.

Recently, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor voted to back the demonstration. A number of trade unions and labor officials have announced their support for the march and rally. These include: Jack Foley, District 1 director of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union; Dave Arian, president of the southern California district council of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, southwest district council of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Service Employees International Union, Local 660; United Electrical Workers union District 10; John Calman, president of Local 830 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; and International Association of Machinists District 720.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Casa El Salvador-Farabundo Marti, Orange County Coalition for Peace and Justice, and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador are also supporting the march.

A special bilingual leaflet demanding "Embargo South Africa, not Nicaragua" is being prepared to help build an antiwar contingent.

A broad layer of political organizations is also building the October event.

Since August, the FSAM has organized its weekly meetings to build for October 12. Plans are underway for a major press conference, sales of Free South Africa Movement T-shirts, and weekly Saturday post-up teams until the event.

FSAM meetings are held every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Ward AME Church, 1177 W. 25th St., Los Angeles. For more information, phone: (213) 747-1367.

## SWAPO leader tour

Andimba Toivo ja Toivo, secretary general of the South West Africa People's Organization, which is leading the struggle to free Namibia from the colonial rule of South Africa, will be touring North America. He will be in San Francisco, October 2-5; Seattle, October 5-7; Chicago, October 7-9; Detroit, October 9-10; and Toronto, October 10-14.

For more information call Gerald Horne at the National Conference of Black Lawyers, (212) 864-4000.

# Racist South African regime steps up terror

Continued from front page

that day.

The United Democratic Front called on "all South Africans, irrespective of their religious affiliation, to observe the day in a manner which is fitting."

The move by Barclays Bank highlighted continued differences within South Africa's ruling capitalist class over how to contain the Black upsurge.

Ninety-one prominent capitalists and corporation executives published full-page advertisements in South African newspapers September 29 calling for "abolishing statutory race discrimination wherever it exists, negotiating with acknowledged Black leaders about power sharing, granting full South African citizenship to all our

peoples, and restoring and entrenching the rule of law."

The ad did not call for a system of "one person, one vote" as demanded by the anti-apartheid movement.

The whole South African ruling class — including the critics of current policy — opposes this democratic demand.

Like Botha, they favor white minority rule in South Africa — a system that guarantees their monopoly of the country's wealth and makes it possible to super-exploit Black labor.

Gavin W.H. Relly, chairman of the Anglo-American Corp. and one of the businessmen who met with leaders of the outlawed African National Congress in Zambia recently, made his position clear in

an article appearing in the September 24 *Washington Post*.

He called for efforts "to continue to modify the present system."

Relly warned that granting the Black demand for immediate universal suffrage in a unitary South Africa "would have a devastating effect on the country and the subcontinent."

At a meeting of supporters of the ruling National Party in Port Elizabeth September 30, President Pieter Botha proposed some changes in apartheid. He barred a system of "one person, one vote" and insisted on continued racist segregation of housing, education, and "culture in the general meaning of the word."

He said the system of "homelands," where millions of Blacks have been forced

to live when not employed by a white boss elsewhere in South Africa, would continue.

He proposed a political system divided into what he called "units" — including the Black townships and the "homelands" — under the control of the white minority government.

While Blacks would have a vote on some matters, he suggested, they would participate in the national government only as members of the President's Council, an appointed advisory body with few powers. White rule would be preserved.

This, Botha had the gall to claim, would assure "that one group is not placed in a position where it can dominate other groups."

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# Growing support for FLOC organizing drive

BY JOSEFINA OTERO

DETROIT — The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) is gaining ground in its drive to organize tomato and cucumber farms that supply the Campbell company in the Ohio-Michigan area.

In September, workers at seven cucumber farms voted 60 percent in favor of being represented by FLOC.

Voting was conducted at 19 other cucumber farms and 11 tomato growers. Results of these are yet to be announced. At the cucumber farms, which supply Vlasic Foods, a Campbell subsidiary, the voting results are in dispute. FLOC has charged unfair labor practices at 11 tomato farms.

The voting is being conducted by a commission established last spring by FLOC and Campbell. Campbell agreed to do this as a result of the pressure of a six-year boycott FLOC has conducted against it. FLOC has been fighting to win decent wages and working conditions for the heavily exploited migrant workers who harvest the crops for the Campbell contractors.

While Campbell agreed to the representation elections, it has by no means given up its determination to keep the union out if it possibly can, and by whatever dirty tricks it is able to use.

The fact that FLOC is gaining ground among the farm workers was registered at its third constitutional convention, held in Toledo in early August. There were 238 delegates to the convention, double the number of the previous one, held in 1982.

The delegates voted unanimously to affiliate with the United Farm Workers (UFW), AFL-CIO.

That decision is still to be acted on by the

UFW. It has not been established if FLOC will be accepted as an organizing committee of the union, as FLOC President Baldeemar Velasquez indicated he favors.

UFW president César Chávez was a principal speaker at the FLOC convention and voiced his solidarity with its struggle.

Velasquez reported to the convention that 1,700 farm workers had signed FLOC authorization cards for representation elections.

The 1982 convention had been dedicated to women farm workers, and a resolution had been adopted calling for the full involvement of women workers at all levels of the union. Gains have been registered on this. For example, Velasquez reported that this summer eight women helped lead the organizing drive and were responsible for a good number of those signed up.

Two women were among those elected to FLOC's executive board.

A number of resolutions were approved by the convention.

These included a denunciation of South African apartheid and a call for U.S. people to put pressure on Washington to end its aggression in Central America.

An organizing resolution called for efforts to organize farm workers in Texas, Florida, and Illinois. A number of the delegates to the convention were migrant workers from these areas.

The convention also endorsed the boycott of table grapes aimed at forcing California growers to again recognize the UFW.

Representatives of several unions and church groups attended the FLOC convention, including Henry Nicholas, president of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Workers.

## Labor Dept. denies toilet facilities for field workers

BY HARRY RING

Unshaken and unshamed by a 13-year court fight on the issue, the government of the United States is hanging tough in its refusal to order that toilets, drinking water, and washing facilities be provided to this country's farm workers.

Secretary of Labor William Brock indicated September 11 he would delay at least 18 more months on issuing a federal standard that would require farm employers hiring more than 11 workers to provide such facilities within a quarter-mile of every 20 workers.

The cost of such a plan would run between 55 and 73 cents a day per employee.

Back in 1973, farm workers went to court demanding that the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) be required to establish sanitation standards in the fields. The issue has been in court ever since, with the Department of Labor, of which OSHA is a part, siding with the growers all the way.

The present Labor Department decision to stall another 18 months is in response to one of several court orders requiring that such regulations be adopted.

With cheap cynicism, the Labor Department has argued that federal sanitation standards might interfere with standards already in effect in 13 states. But some of these states don't even bother to allocate funds for enforcement of these alleged standards.

According to a study compiled for OSHA itself, one-third of U.S. farm workers have no access to field toilets, a fifth of them are denied washing facilities, and more than half have no drinking water while at work.

A study by the Farmworker Justice Fund, a Washington lobbying group, was released this past April.

It reported:

"Because most farm workers are not provided toilets in the field, they must relieve themselves wherever they can. As a result, many of our nation's farms serve as open toilets and our country's farm workers must face the indignity, inconvenience and pain of doing without.

"The lack of toilets in the fields forces many workers, especially women, to retain urine in their bladders for several painful hours. This prolonged retention causes an abnormally high incidence of urinary tract infections: pregnant women face increased risks of pregnancy complications and miscarriage."

The committee also pointed to the fact that the absence of hand washing facilities multiplies the danger of the deadly pesticides field hands are forced to work with.

Consequently, the report adds, "farm workers suffer from the highest rate of toxic chemical injuries of any group of workers in the United States."

These include: "burning, itching, nausea and vomiting, tiredness, weakness and dizziness."

"They also suffer unnecessary deaths and face increased risk of cancer, birth defects, and genetic abnormalities."

Last July, the World Resources Institute issued a report in Washington that found that up to 300,000 U.S. farm workers suffer toxic poisoning each year as a result of inadequate and unenforced pesticide regulations.

Additional suffering is incurred as well. At a hearing last year on the issue of sanitary facilities in the fields, testimony was given by Dr. Eugene Gangarosa of the Emory University School of Medicine. The doctor said that because of the absence of toilets and washing facilities, farm workers in this country suffer levels of parasitic disease rarely found in developed countries.

The Farmworker Justice Fund said that the number of field workers who suffer parasitic illness is similar to the rate in impoverished Central American countries.

The growers' view of the problem was summed up to a reporter by Elasta Smith of Newton Grove, N.C. He hires 50 migrant and local workers to pick cucumbers, potatoes, and tobacco on 300 acres originally worked by slaves.

Snorted Smith, "You don't need toilets. Let them go in the woods. Let them go behind the bushes. That's what we always did. . . . That's what my ancestors always did."



August 1985 convention of Farm Labor Organizing Committee voted to affiliate with United Farm Workers union.

## Arizona strike protests deaths of farm workers

BY BARRY FATLAND AND DAVID PAUL

WHITEWING RANCH, Dateland, Ariz. — Eduardo, 18, crossed the Mexican border into the United States with a friend. Each carried two gallons of water, four cans of food, and the clothes on their back.

Thus equipped, they braved 50 miles of desert to reach the Whitewing Ranch here in southwest Arizona. They came for promised jobs.

In the sun-scorched desert they came across the remains of four less fortunate than themselves.

"The smell was so bad that we could hardly stand it," Eduardo told the *Militant*.

The four desert-blackened bodies were among at least 60 found in the past five years. Workers at Whitewing and their union, the Arizona Farm Workers, insist the real figure may be as high as 300.

The shocking story of these deaths, and those responsible, broke into the media here and nationally as the result of a courageous seven-day strike by the undocumented Mexican workers at this citrus ranch.

Most of those who died in the desert were making the dangerous crossing because they had been promised jobs at the Whitewing Ranch, but no transportation. Mexican workers were regularly recruited in San Luis, just across the border, by a ranch foreman. This has been going on for at least eight years.

The strike was called to protest the deaths and also the conditions that the ranch workers here are subjected to.

The union is demanding that the Valley National Bank, which owns the ranch, compensate the families of those who died trying to get here.

On the eve of the strike, the ranch was sealed off by armed guards, but the union won a court order opening it up.

We talked to strikers in their "living quarters," a bleak compound surrounded by a chain-link fence. On a rise near the compound three sheriff's deputies watched every move.

The strikers were quick to point out that their action had begun September 16, Mexican Independence Day.

Several pulled out their pay stubs to show how they were being cheated.

The average net wage, they said, was about \$3 a day. They are charged \$8 a day for food and housing.

We asked them what they were given to eat. Several answered at once, "Eggs. Eggs and tortillas. It's always the same." Their evening meal is "soup" — a watery broth with a few vegetables in it.

They said that while they are supposedly paid by the hour, it's really piece rate. The boss adjusts the hours on the check to reflect the piece rate.

They're paid \$24 for picking a bin of lemons. It takes about 20 sacks of 100 pounds each to fill a bin — 2,000 pounds of lemons.

"If we don't fill a bin in two days," a worker explained, "we can be fired. If someone is fired, they don't get paid at all."

They're charged for everything they use.

Gloves are \$7.50 a pair. A tattered piece of foam rubber to sleep on is \$18. Some sleep on the cement floor or in the orchards because there aren't enough mattresses.

At the start of the season some bedding was missing. The workers were assessed \$5 each to pay for it.

Sometimes sonic booms from a nearby air force range break windows in their barracks. The cost of the windows is deducted from their pay.

If they complain about anything, they're fired. When they are, immigration cops — *la migra* — will be waiting at the gate.

Workers poisoned by pesticides are refused medical care. They're told, "Go to Yuma," which is 75 miles away, or, "Go to San Luis," back across the desert where they came from.

One worker with an eye infection left and came back 20 days later, still untreated. He returned to get his check to pay for the eye care.

On September 23, at 5:15 p.m., the workers left the ranch under orders from a Yuma judge who declared their strike "illegal."

A leader of the Arizona Farm Workers said the strikers would be brought to Phoenix to build public support for their cause. The union plans to organize protests and distribute information at the branches of the Valley National Bank, the biggest of its kind in the Rocky Mountain states.

The bank claims that it cannot meet the workers' demands because it is only the "temporary" owner of the ranch, having acquired it as the result of a loan default in 1983.

In addition to the strike issues, the Arizona Farm Workers will emphasize the extensive financial dealings by Valley National with the hated Phelps Dodge Corp., which has kept Arizona copper workers on strike for over two years.

Aid for the striking farm workers can be sent to Whitewing Ranch Workers Committee, c/o Arizona Farm Workers, Box 819, El Mirage, Ariz. 85335.

## Canadian auto workers vote to authorize Chrysler strike

Members of the Canadian United Auto Workers union voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike if the union fails to reach agreement on a new contract when the current one expires on October 15.

Of Chrysler's 10,000 Canadian production workers, 97.6 percent in Canada voted in favor of strike authorization at union meetings held the last weekend in September. Of 450 office workers, 95.5 percent were also in favor. Negotiations for a new contract began last August.

Chrysler's contract with United Auto Workers (UAW) union in the United States also expires on October 15. But for the first time in decades the Canadian and U.S. auto workers will negotiate separately. The Canadian auto workers disaffiliated from the international UAW last February.



# International Socialist Review

Supplement to the Militant October 1985

## ANC President Oliver Tambo: 'Let us act together'

The African National Congress (ANC), the liberation movement of South Africa, held its Second National Consultative Conference in Zambia June 16-23 (the first such conference was in 1969).

Attended by 250 delegates, coming both from within South Africa and from countries around the world, the conference reaffirmed the ANC's broad strategy of overthrowing the apartheid regime through mass political action and armed struggle.

The conference also, for the first time, opened all the ANC's bodies, including its underground cells within South Africa and its top leadership organs, to South Africans of all races. Previously they had been formally restricted to Africans, though Indians, Coloureds (those of mixed ancestry), and whites were able to be members of the ANC's exile organizations and carried out support activities within South Africa.

The following is the transcript of the press conference given by ANC President Oliver Tambo in Lusaka, Zambia, on June 25, 1985. It is taken from the August issue of *Sechaba*, official organ of the African National Congress.

*Question. The ANC lays great emphasis on unity. How do you see the question of unity with such groups as PAC [Pan Africanist Congress] and other small groupings inside South Africa?*

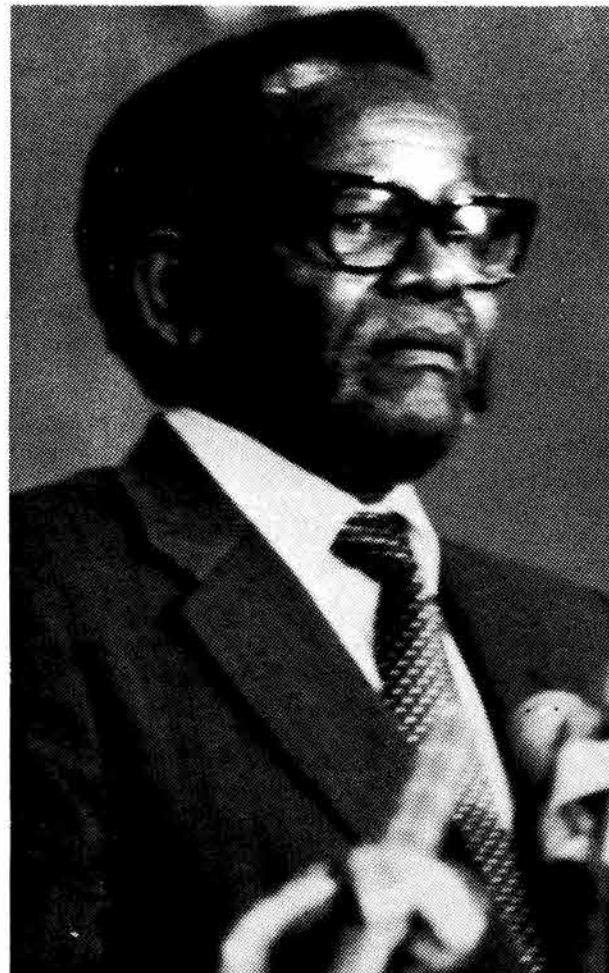
*Answer.* The ANC has always encouraged the unity of our people inside the country. We have campaigned ceaselessly for united action. We've called on our people in the various organizational formations, in different political units, to fight on their own fronts; but also to address the common enemy, and to do so in unity with everybody else. That covers all political organizations, all ideological trends. It addresses the workers, the South African people as a whole who are opposed to the racist system of education. That is why the ANC was pleased, to say the least, when the UDF<sup>1</sup> was formed, because that created a platform exactly for united action.

Now and again there are slight differences, but by and large the ANC pursues the position that whatever we differ about, let us be united in defeating and destroying the apartheid regime. Some organizations, for example, don't quite accept every word that the Freedom Charter<sup>2</sup> says. We accept that. We continue to try to convince them that the Freedom Charter poses the alternative to the apartheid system; that there is no other answer. But, even when they differ with any article in the Freedom Charter — they still believe that the regime should be overthrown. On that basis we say — let us act together.

*Q. Your statement says that the Conference resolved the struggle must escalate. In the light of the SADF [South African Defense Force] aggression in Botswana, will the ANC be able to secure itself from such attacks?*

A. When we decided on armed struggle we accepted its consequences. It was a declaration of a readiness to sacrifice. On the other hand, when the regime persists in its apartheid system in the first instance, and also in killing our people, subjecting them to a succession of massacres, it also must accept the consequences of its actions. We have declared war on apartheid. The regime has declared war on all opponents of apartheid. But we declared war because apartheid was war against the people anyway.

From 1948 when the Nationalist Party came into power it pursued policies which were a declaration of war on the people, on the international community. This has been particularly manifest during the last decade when the leaders of our region have complained of an undeclared war against their countries. So, the region is unavoidably in a state of continuing war of one degree or



Oliver Tambo

Militant/Ernest Harsch

another, and it will be in that state of war until the war is ended. The war will end when the Nazis of our region are defeated by our people and the international community, which knows about Nazism.

*Q. The regime has been making changes to some of the laws that govern the system — the Immorality Act, Transport, etc. Do you think that the changes taking place in South Africa will have an effect on the freedom struggle vis-à-vis the scaling down of the freedom struggle?*

A. Apartheid expresses itself in many ways. Small ways, big ways. There is something fundamental about apartheid; there is something superficial. Not so long ago we were not allowed to go into the same lift.

When I say we, I mean Blacks — non-whites, as we were called. That restriction was removed. That was many years ago. Since then the struggle has waged on — apartheid has continued killing, it has even crossed its own borders and killed freely in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, in Zimbabwe, Namibia, An-

gola, Seychelles, and in this country — it has continued despite the removal of that restriction, because the removal of the restriction of going into a lift was not what we were fighting about. We are not asking to be allowed to go into a lift with anybody. And the same thing applies to trains; now you can go into any compartment. That has nothing to do with what we are fighting about.

But if anything, this is a demonstration that the regime cannot rule in the same old way and is trying to appear different by ruling in a slightly different way, which is superficial and unrelated to the apartheid system, which remains as vicious, as murderous, as aggressive as it ever was — as defiant of international opinion as it ever was, proceeding to install puppets in Namibia in the face of the opposition of the international community. That has not changed.

These are manifestations that the regime cannot stand still any more. But it is not moving in any substantial way. We have to ensure that it moves. It's beginning to have doubts about the permanence of the system after all. It is hoping to perpetuate it nonetheless. It must be convinced that it cannot succeed and the struggle must develop and escalate to convince the regime that there will never be an end to this struggle until the system is abolished and a new system rises to take its place.

*Q. Do you see a difference between the terms non-racial and multi-racial? You use the term non-racial.*

A. There must be a difference, that is why we say non-racial and not multi-racial if we wanted to. There is a difference. We mean non-racial, rather than multi-racial. We mean non-racial — there is no racism. Multi-racial does not address the question of racism. Non-racial does. There will be no racism of any kind and therefore no discrimination that proceeds from the fact that people happen to be members of different races. That is what we understand by non-racial.

*Q. In the escalating struggle, how do you see the question of sanctions?*

A. The South African regime is illegitimate in relation to the majority of the people in South Africa. It has imposed itself on them. It is White minority rule that is imposed on the majority of the people. Therefore the regime is illegitimate and we want this to be recognized with all its consequences. If anything, the declaration of the regime as illegitimate is a justification for action to be taken to allow the people of South Africa to have a legitimate government of their own choosing. So it goes back to the question of the removal, the abolishing, the destruction, of the apartheid regime and hence the isolation of that regime and all the measures that constitute pressures on the regime — sanctions, disinvestment, cultural, other economic pressures, and other acts of isolating the regime. The regime has imposed itself as a kind of colonial power over us, but that is not enough.

It is also criminal and is perpetuating a crime against humanity. We are making the point here again that power in South Africa must be held by the people of South Africa as a whole, not by a White minority, not even by a Black majority but by a majority of the people of South Africa as a whole. Such a government will be legitimate; it will derive its mandate and authority from the people.

*Q. There have been reports in the run-up to the Conference, some allegedly well-sourced, which say that the ANC Conference might reconsider the movement's hesitancy in the past about hitting militarily what are termed soft targets. Did the Conference arrive at any closer definition of what it would regard as a legitimate military target?*

A. I will summarize the position taken by the Conference in these terms: that the struggle must be intensified at all costs. Over the past 9 to 10 months at least — at the very least — there have been many soft targets hit by the enemy. Nearly 500 people have now died in that period. That works out at about 50 a month, massacred, shot down, killed secretly. All those were very, very soft targets. But they belong to this sphere of the intensification of the struggle because when people were killed they

Continued on next page

1. The United Democratic Front, formed in 1983, is a broad coalition of some 600 community groups, women's organizations, students associations, trade unions, and other anti-apartheid organizations. The combined membership of its components is nearly 2 million.

2. The Freedom Charter is a program of democratic demands for the abolition of the apartheid system, drawn up at a Congress of the People in Kliptown, South Africa, in June 1955. It has been adopted by the ANC as its program.



# Tambo: Africans willingly sacrifice as part of struggle

Continued from previous page

did not run away, they kept on at all costs, and went back into battle at all costs. In the process some innocent people were killed, some White, some Black. What we have seen in the Eastern Cape and places like that is what escalation means for everybody. The distinction between "soft" and "hard" is going to disappear in an intensified confrontation, in an escalating conflict. And when the regime sends its army across the borders to kill people in Botswana, including nationals of that country, and nationals of other countries, they are hitting soft targets — very soft, and not even in their own country.

That is not the end of the story. Exactly because of that the regime must be removed, at all costs. Therefore the struggle must be intensified, at all costs. The question of soft targets was quite out of place during World War II, to mention a big war. Ours will be a small one, but we are fighting the same kind of system. It was Hitler who attacked, it is the apartheid system here which attacked, and we are fighting that system, our own version of Nazism. I think the distinction between hard and soft targets is being erased by the development of the conflict. I am not saying that our Conference used the word soft targets. I am saying that the Conference recognized that we are in it. It is happening every day. It happened two days before we started our conference — a massacre in Gaborone [Botswana]. We did not complain that soft targets were being hit, because they have been hitting them, as I say, all the time. What we did was to re-commit ourselves to intensify our struggle until that kind of massacre, until the system which makes massacres and conflicts necessary, is abolished by mankind, and we stand ready to make the sacrifices necessary to achieve that objective. We call upon the African people everywhere to stand ready to play their role. We call on Africa and the international community to come to our aid and also play their part in getting rid of a system which is abhorrent to themselves. The struggle will be escalated.

**Q.** I've two questions. One, the excuse that has been given about not imposing sanctions against South Africa is that some of the Africans from the neighboring states, about 1.5 million, who work in South Africa, would suffer, including some of the Blacks in South Africa itself. What does the ANC have to say about this? The other question, Mr. President, is on the new members of the ANC National Executive Committee — one White, two coloureds and two Indians — you talked about. Do they hold any specific positions in the movement?

**A.** Well, for a long time now, of course, we have heard this question of the Africans in South Africa being the first to suffer; the African states in our region being the first to suffer, if sanctions are imposed on South Africa. Let us assume that this was true, as indeed it is. So what do we do — do we fold our arms! The Africans are afraid to suffer so they surrender to the apartheid system and to their enslavement! The African states are afraid to suffer and so they must continue to have this aggressive, dominating regime in their midst! No. We accept that we will sacrifice. It's part of the struggle. It's not suffering. Suffering arises from feelings of pity, fear. These people who are involved in the struggle — the workers who get dismissed every day because they have gone on strike continue to go on strike, notwithstanding, until they have got what they want — know what sacrifice means. It's the only way to do it. It's not a genuine proposition. It's used by those who are in fact likely to suffer most. That is, those who are getting the best out of the status quo, out of the system — they will suffer.

But typically they push us forward and say no, it's the slave who will suffer if we end slavery. No. The countries of Southern Africa have made their position clear. They are not going to ask for sanctions, but they will not oppose sanctions. They won't go to the United Nations and argue against sanctions because they agree that although it will cause problems for them, it is a correct strategy. And we are talking about countries which know suffering, which have lost thousands of their fellow men, women, and children in struggle, in an armed struggle, which was a correct strategy to gain freedom. There is no country in this region which can say I'm afraid to sacrifice for freedom, because every country has witnessed how thousands of people were murdered — thousands in Mozambique, in Zimbabwe, hundreds in this country, thousands in Angola — all fighting for liberation. No country here can say we are afraid to sacrifice, we are afraid because our economies will be put into difficulties. It's more than economies which have been put into difficulties. Lives have been lost in struggle and it was a struggle basically against that kind of system that we are facing today.

Of course South Africa now and again gets representatives of these countries to say we'll be affected. But they are not saying there must be no sanctions, that the apartheid regime must stay put. Some of our own people are campaigning around, virtually defending the system,



"We have campaigned ceaselessly for united action. That covers all political organizations, all ideological trends. It addresses workers and South African people as a whole. That is why ANC was pleased when United Democratic Front (UDF) was formed because that created a platform for united action."

saying don't hurt Pretoria, no disinvestment. They are not speaking in the interests of the liberation of our country. They are speaking in their own interests.

The second question: No, the National Executive Committee was only elected at this Conference. There are only three people who are elected to definite positions, that is the President, well, I hold that position; the Treasurer General, Thomas Nkobi, was elected to a position; the Secretary General, Alfred Nzo, was also elected to a position. The rest will be assigned their portfolios, if you like, or tasks in due course. So far they don't hold any positions. We have been a movement that has been united in our actions. Some of those who have been newly elected, not just the White ones, but the Africans as well, have been holding positions of one kind or another. They will be assigned afresh, either to different positions or to the same position. So far no decision has been taken.

**Q.** On your strategy of fighting: So far the ANC has been attacking only buildings and . . . and offices, but avoiding attacks on the Whites themselves. Do you intend to change this strategy and start attacking the Whites . . . ?

**A.** That's not quite the correct presentation of our position. We have not been avoiding hitting Whites as Whites. There was no policy of hitting buildings instead of Whites. This is not the distinction that we have been making. If we have made any distinction it has been to avoid hitting people. But what I have said here is that in the course of intensification of the struggle the distinction between soft and hard targets — buildings and people — will naturally disappear. In the intensified situation, in the intensified conflict, in the course of escalation, that is not going to be avoidable. It has already happened. Amongst the 500 people I'm mentioning, there are many Whites who have been affected.

## How CIA used ACLU to restrict liberties

Continued from ISR/4

ational files that had been released by the CIA under the FOIA.

Opponents of the bill began to let their voices be heard. In addition to the *Nation* and a range of left publications, these included the Newspaper Guild, the Society of Professional Journalists, and the Radio-Television News Directors Association.

A spokesperson for the Association of American Historians testified against the bill.

The opponents of the measure were surprised at who they found on the other side of the debate. ACLU leaders like Ira Glasser — rather than devoting themselves to defending those whose rights had been violated — had

turned their finely honed lawyerly skills to providing arguments for the CIA bill.

Dissent from the position of the top ACLU officials developed within the organization itself, but the policy was not changed.

When the CIA got wind of the internal ACLU dispute it circulated a memo assuring, "We understand from Mark Lynch that there is no danger of the national office withdrawing its support during the remainder of this Congress."

### ACLU's false premise

Why did the ACLU tops fall into the terrible trap of supporting the antidemocratic CIA bill?

One reason is their acceptance of the totally false premise that such agencies as the CIA and FBI really do have a legitimate function, one that is in the interest of workers and farmers.

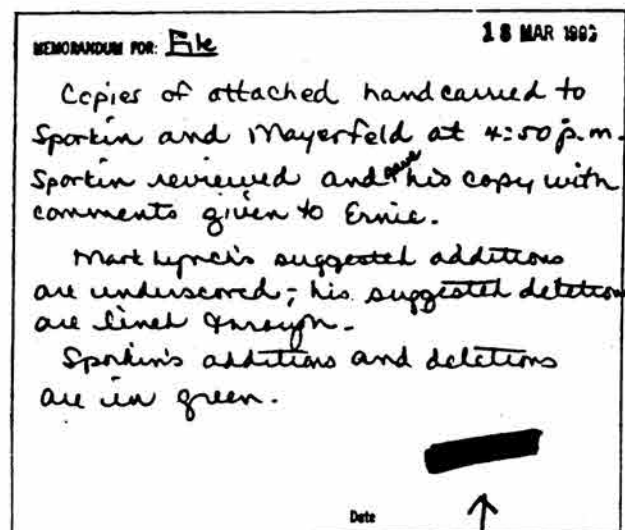
But the very way these secret police outfits function belies this. Their purpose is the same as that of the government as a whole: to preserve and protect the interests of the tiny clique of capitalists who rule this country.

This is why the CIA and other government police agencies work overtime to keep their activities secret from working people. They are involved in directing their dirty tricks against our interests.

The ACLU officials go further off because they lack the will and the confidence to help mobilize the mass of working people and other supporters of civil liberties in this country in a fight to defend their democratic rights.

Because they essentially reject that course, in a time like the present when there is a major offensive against the labor movement and against democratic rights, the ACLU tops increasingly turn to what they sagely see as the "practical" alternative: cutting deals with such agencies as the CIA in the utopian hope that by doing so, a bit less will be lost.

But the laws of politics prevail — give them a finger and they bite off your arm. The CIA memos on how they won virtual exemption from the Freedom of Information Act confirms this.



Internal memo of CIA was attached to proposed congressional bill to limit FOIA. It indicates collaboration of ACLU with this CIA scheme. The Sporkin and Mayerfeld referred to are CIA lawyers; Mark Lynch is an ACLU official.



# KAL Flight 007: U.S. cover-up unravels

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Recently, new information has come to light that flatly contradicts the Reagan administration's official version about what Korean Air Lines (KAL) Flight 007 was doing when it was shot down over the Soviet Union.

At that time the U.S. government charged the Soviet Union with carrying out a cold-blooded and murderous act. Washington said this was a reflection on the Soviet system.

In fact this international anti-Soviet, anticommunist propaganda campaign was tied to a cover-up of the U.S. government's actual role.

In a major article appearing in the August 17-24 *Nation* magazine entitled "New Pieces in the Puzzle of Flight 007," David Pearson and John Keppel state, "New information . . . shows that the crew of the Korean airliner could not have accidentally or unknowingly flown its dangerous course over the Soviet Union's Kamchatka Peninsula and Sakhalin Island. . . . It also strongly suggests that the Reagan Administration . . . has covered up vital evidence about the downing."

Pearson and Keppel contend that:

1. KAL 007 changed its flight course, altitude, and speed as it entered and flew over Sakhalin Island in Soviet territory without reporting the change to the Tokyo air traffic controllers as required by international aviation procedures;

2. Controllers did get a report toward the end of the flight of an altitude change that never took place; and

3. Shortly after leaving Anchorage, Alaska, KAL 007 made an unreported turn north toward Soviet territory.

In a major statement in the August 17-24 *Nation*, the editors raise some big questions about the U.S. government's motives in this whole affair. "Was our government risking lives for the intelligence bonanza that might come its way if the airliner activated Soviet radar and other facilities that U.S. listening posts monitor?" asked the *Nation*.

In September *New York Times* columnist Tom Wicker in his "In the Nation" column expressed his doubts about the U.S. government's explanations of the airline downing. "On the second anniversary of the shooting down of Korean Air Lines Flight 007 on Sept. 1, 1983," he wrote, "it seemed clearer than ever that the truth of this terrible event, in which 269 lives were lost, has not been told. Facts keep turning up that won't fit the generally accepted version or that raise serious and unanswered questions about it."

## U.S. anticommunist campaign

Wicker's statements are all the more interesting since at the time KAL 007 was shot down, the *New York Times* was leading the pack in conducting a massive anti-Soviet, anticommunist propaganda campaign around this incident.

The day after the aircraft downing, the *Times* rushed into print with its Sept. 2, 1983, editorial entitled "Murder in the Air" where they state:

"There is no conceivable excuse for any nation shooting down a harmless airliner. After tracking the South Korean intruder for more than two hours, and then observing him at close range, Soviet air defenders had to know the identity of their target — which means someone in the Soviet chain of command is guilty of cold-blooded mass murder."

Reagan jumped into the act expressing "revulsion" at this "appalling and wanton deed." "I speak," he said, "for all Americans and for people everywhere who cherish civilized values in protesting the Soviet attack on an unarmed civilian passenger plane."

"What can we think of a regime that so broadly trumpets its vision of peace and global disarmament and yet so callously and quickly commits a terrorist act to sacrifice the lives of innocent human beings?" charged Reagan.

## Pushed at United Nations

The then U.S. representative to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick, attempted to internationalize Reagan's anticommunist crusade at the UN's Security Council. On September 6 Kirkpatrick charged the Soviet Union with committing "a brutal, decisive act meant to instill fear and hesitation in all who observed this ruthless violence."

"We are dealing here not with pilot error but with decisions and priorities characteristic of a system," stated Kirkpatrick. "We are reminded once again that the Soviet Union is a state based on the dual principles of callousness and mendacity, dedicated to the rule of force."

The Democrats as well as Republicans in Congress fell right in line behind Reagan's campaign. House and Senate intelligence committees conducted their own rather superficial inquiries and concluded that KAL 007 was not involved in any spying missions.

previous, unauthorized flying altitude of 32,000 feet.

While all this was going on, Tokyo air traffic controllers received a calm-voiced radio transmission request, presumably from Flight 007, to climb to 35,000 feet. This request was granted and the pilots reported that they had reached this altitude. However, these radar data records prove that the ascent never occurred.

Within hours after the plane was shot down, U.S. satellites and the numerous U.S. radar and electronic stations in Japan verified the Japan Defense Agency's radar data as being accurate.

U.S. knowledge of KAL 007 activities prior to its downing was initially admitted in a statement by U.S. deputy representative to the UN Charles Lichtenstein in a comment directed toward the Soviet representative at a Sept. 2, 1983, Security Council meeting. Lichtenstein stated, "We followed you following the flight." When later asked to comment further on this statement, Lichtenstein refused citing "security" considerations.

## Conducted thorough study

During the past few months, Pearson and Keppel have been conducting a thorough study of the eight reels of tapes they received of U.S. and Japanese air traffic control communications with KAL 007. This investigation has raised many new questions about 007's last radio transmissions. The pilots, for example, did not follow basic emergency procedures to assist ground crews in recovery efforts when the plane was forced to descend. Pearson and Keppel raise the disquieting possibility that KAL 007 was actually in communication not with the Tokyo air traffic controllers but with some party of unknown identity after the missile attack.

Another valuable source of information has been the civil lawsuit filed against the U.S. government and Korean Air Lines by relatives of passengers who died on the flight. Through the course of this case, the government was forced to admit that they had destroyed an Alaskan radar station's air force tape recordings that had tracked 007's flight path. This is all the more suspicious since tapes having to do with aviation disasters are always saved.

Recently, a veteran air traffic controller, Raymond Yeager, filed an affidavit in this case asserting that a government tape from an Alaskan air traffic control station contains the words "we should warn him [the Korean pilot]." This indicates that U.S. air traffic controllers knew that KAL Flight 007 was off course. The U.S. government, with assistance from FBI sound specialists, has filed a counter-brief vigorously denying that this statement exists. Meanwhile, the Federal Aviation Agency has adopted a strict policy of forbidding its 50,000 employees from publicly discussing the KAL 007 incident.

In August 1984 on West German TV, attorney Melvin Belli, who represents several relatives in this lawsuit, discussed a conversation he had in Seoul, Korea, with widows of the pilot and copilot of KAL 007. "They told me that the captain and the copilot were paid to intentionally take this shortcut over Russian territory," stated Belli. "These widows said that KAL paid its pilots special bonuses for flying over Russian territory. The widows furthermore stated that the pilots had become so afraid of these flights that they wanted to discontinue them."

These revelations make increasingly clear that the full story about what KAL 007 was up to and why has yet to be told. One thing is for sure. Washington's anti-Soviet, pro-war campaign that was unleashed around this incident is based on a massive government-organized cover-up that continues to this day.

It was the *Militant* that took the lead at the time in answering the false charges being made by the big-business media and the Democratic and Republican politicians. The *Militant* focused on explaining the real issues behind this anticommunist campaign. What was said then holds up well today.

A Sept. 23, 1983, editorial entitled "Anti-Soviet lies cloak war moves" states: "One fact stands out above all others after two weeks of Reagan's pronouncements on the downing of the South Korean jet: the U.S. government is using its anti-Soviet propaganda campaign to advance Washington's war drive. How? By pouring on the time-worn charge that the 'evil empire' of communism is the main threat to peace and freedom in the world today."

"To defend ourselves against this scourge, the story goes, we need U.S. troops combating 'communist aggression' in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Lebanon. We must build the MX. We must station Pershing 2 and cruise nuclear missiles in Europe. And we must further jack up the already massive military budget."

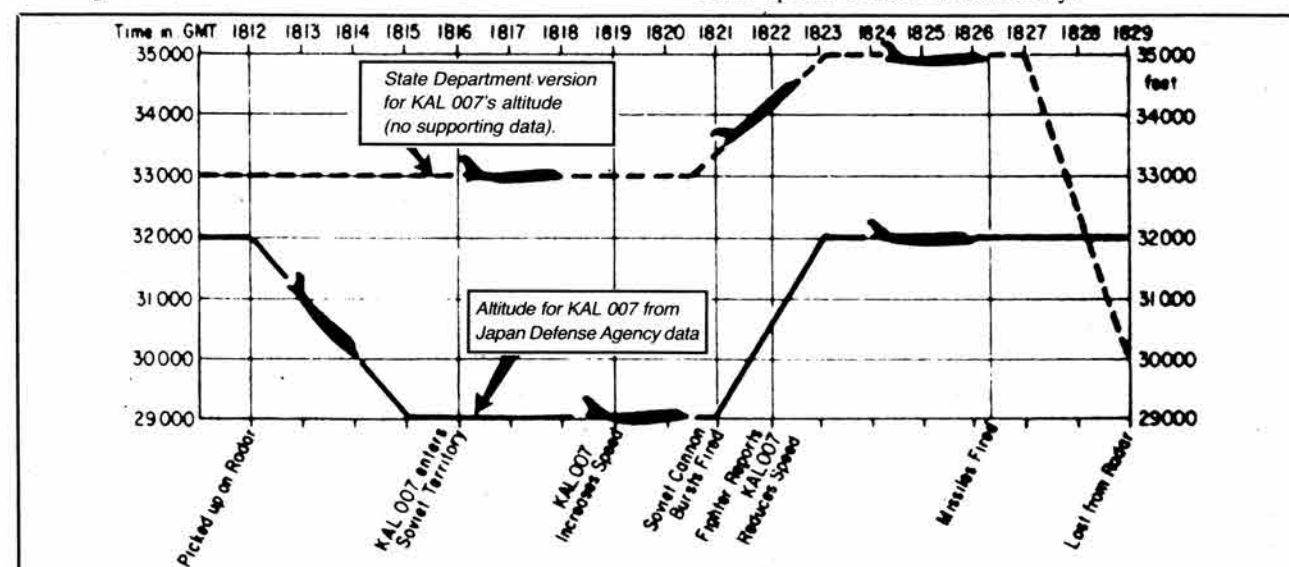
In December 1983 the International Civil Aviation Organization released its official report of this incident. It completely backed the Reagan administration's version of the facts. It concluded that the airliner innocently strayed off course, inadvertently flew over Soviet territory, and was shot down by Soviet air defenses. It accepted the U.S. government claim that it knew nothing about this incident until after the plane was shot out of the sky.

## Government's story unravels

Within weeks the administration's story began to unravel. The U.S. government was forced to admit that a U.S. Air Force spy plane, an RC-135, was flying close to the KAL flight and crossed paths with it thus allowing the two planes to be confused on radar. The Soviets thought that they had shot down a spy plane, not a commercial jetliner.

Today, more and more facts expose the administration's story as a bald-faced lie.

After a year and a half of secrecy the Japanese government finally released radar data from the Japanese Defense Agency that contradicts the U.S. government's story. The data shows that just prior to KAL 007 entering Soviet territory over Sakhalin Island it descended from 32,000 to 29,000 feet. The plane's assigned altitude was 33,000 feet. Flight 007 increased its speed as a Soviet interceptor aircraft closed in. After the Soviet pilot fired warning shots, the KAL 007 climbed 3,000 feet to its



Recently released information of Japan Defense Agency indicates KAL 007 took evasive action over Sakhalin Island after being intercepted by Soviet air defenses.



# How CIA used ACLU to limit Information Act

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

It was clear that something very curious was happening. What else could be the meaning of such headlines as the one which appeared in the *New York Times* in May 1984: "CIA and ACLU Support Curbs on Information."

The *Times* story was about a congressional bill to further restrict public access to secret CIA dossiers, a measure that a few months later was enacted into law. The bill was initiated by the CIA and supported by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Confidential CIA files, since released under the Freedom of Information Act, confirm that the spy agency effectively utilized the venerable civil liberties organization to win passage of a measure that further infringes on the democratic rights that the ACLU was established to defend.

The new law narrows the application of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in order to further curb an already very limited public access to CIA files.

The new statute places the CIA's "operational" files — possibly the majority of all its files, and certainly the most significant — out of reach.

And it severely restricts the ability to obtain CIA files through the courts.

## How bill became law

The great effort devoted by the CIA to winning ACLU support for this legislation is indeed a curious story.

It was no secret that the CIA and ACLU had discussed the bill before it was submitted to Congress. Such things are not unusual in the world of Washington lobbying, of which the ACLU is very much a part.

What was not known until recently was the extent of the CIA's conviction that it needed the ACLU to get this reactionary proposition onto the books.

That story became available when a Washington attorney received a thick stack of internal CIA memos in response to an FOIA request.

The essential accuracy of the memos has been vouched for by an ACLU leader who was in the middle of the affair. *International Socialist Review* has obtained a complete set of these memos.

Issued by CIA officials assigned to overseeing legislative concerns, the memos record their progress in preparing a new bill and paving the way for passing it.

Reading the memos, you learn that the CIA put a top priority on reaching an agreement with the ACLU on the legislation. It saw the ACLU's cooperation as essential in heading off opposition to the bill and greasing its way through Congress.

Defenders of what the ACLU officials did have argued they were simply trying to reach a compromise with the CIA in order to prevent an even worse law from getting through. But the fact is that what the ACLU really did was help get a very bad bill through and, in the process, demobilize and demoralize opponents of the measure concerned with democratic rights.

## Reagan targets FOIA

When Reagan assumed office in January 1981 it was his announced intention to eliminate all FOIA access to CIA files.

But there were disagreements in ruling circles over how to proceed with this.

One proposal to exempt the CIA from the FOIA remained stalled in Congress until April 1983. That's when Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) introduced a new version of the bill. With some revisions, this is the measure that passed in 1984.

We now know from the CIA memos that preparations for presenting the successful bill were already under way in June 1982.

In a letter from CIA Deputy General Counsel Ernest Mayerfeld to ACLU attorney Mark Lynch, Mayerfeld writes: "At the meeting in your office on 28 of June . . . we tentatively agreed [on] compromise legislation to provide desired legislative changes in the Freedom of Information Act."

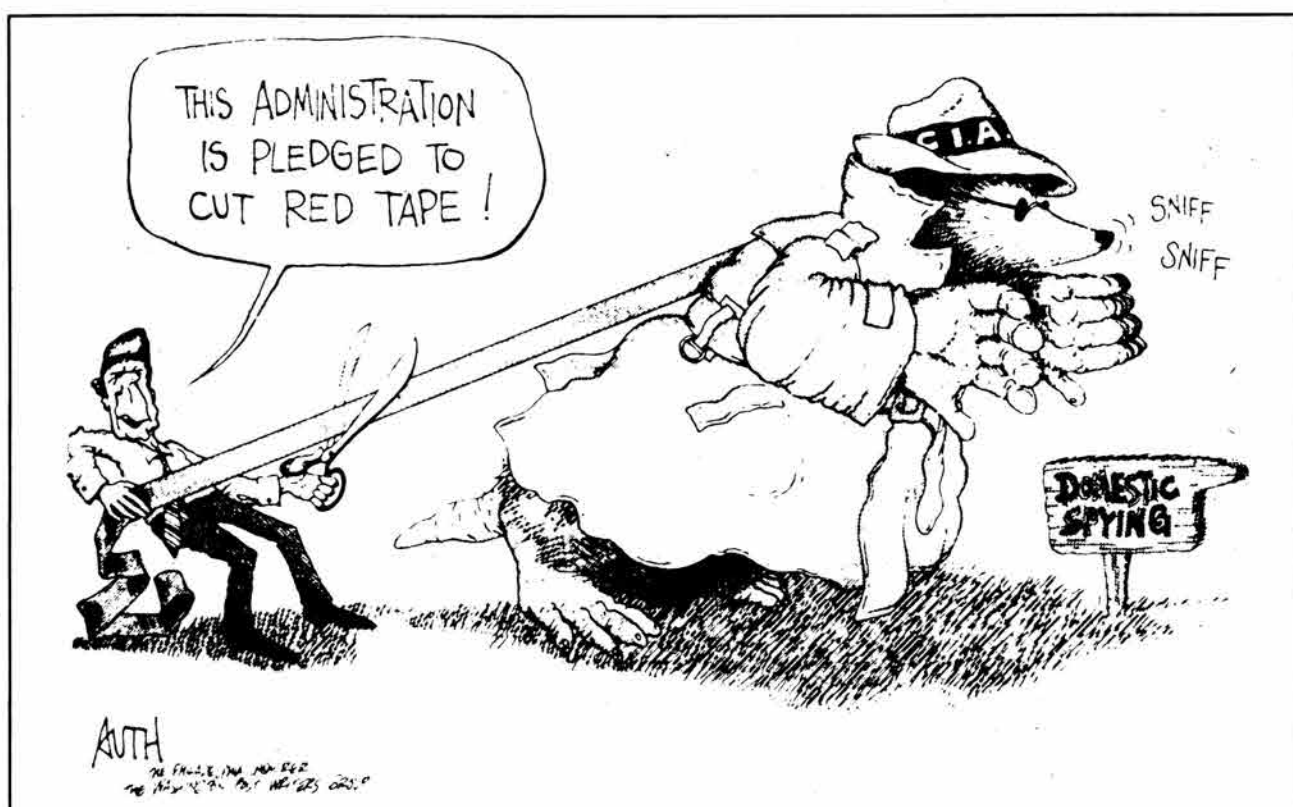
Attached to the memo is a summary of agreed-on points. Point number one is a proposal to "remove from the reach of the FOIA only those files which record the process of intelligence collection."

This was the key provision of the new bill. Instead of putting all CIA files out of reach, it substituted a ban on "operational files" — those which are said to "record the process of intelligence collection."

The memos show how, over the following months, the CIA went through a process of carefully revising the bill, checking with ACLU's Lynch time and again, in an effort to gain the organization's full cooperation.

Finally, on April 8, 1983, CIA's Mayerfeld dispatched a memo to the acting director of Central Intelligence saying, "attached is a draft bill ready to be introduced. Mark Lynch, on behalf of the ACLU, says he is in total agreement with the bill," with some minor exceptions.

Mayerfeld added that Goldwater was ready to introduce the bill the following week.



Cartoon by Auth. American Civil Liberties Union gave government helping hand in illegal spying by supporting CIA bill that restricts Freedom of Information Act.

A year and a half of Senate debate followed on the draft legislation.

When opponents of the measure got ready to take it on, they were confronted by the CIA and its allies in Congress — and the ACLU as well.

## Adopted in 1966

Before examining that debate, let's take a look at what the Freedom of Information Act represents.

Originally passed in 1966, the FOIA permits the public to request internal documents from federal agencies. In 1974 it was amended to include the CIA. This was at the height of the politically explosive Watergate revelations.

The Watergate scandals were triggered during Republican President Nixon's administration. Embroiled in the traditional rivalries among capitalist politicians, Nixon employed the methods the ruling class has routinely used against unionists, Black activists, socialists, and many others.

These methods embrace a variety of illegal dirty tricks — break-ins, wiretaps, theft.

In fact, Nixon's Watergate burglars were drawn from the ranks of the FBI (G. Gordon Liddy) and the CIA (E. Howard Hunt) where they learned their trade.

As the dirt came out, a consensus developed in ruling-class circles. A certain house-cleaning would be required.

This was at a time of big exposés that really shocked the people of this country. FBI secret files gave a glimpse of how the political police function. They revealed a sordid record of crimes — attempts to destroy dissenting organizations through infiltration, provocation, smear, and frame-up. Getting those branded "subversive" fired from jobs and otherwise victimized.

While less was permitted to come out on the CIA, we did learn of assassination plots, including one against Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Although the CIA was barred by its 1947 charter from spying within U.S. borders, the documents about "Operation Chaos" showed that between 1967 and 1973 it had compiled files on 10,000 individuals and 100 groups in the country.

## Moves to close lid

Even though lifted only ever so slightly, the lid on this Pandora's box didn't stay open for long. Soon there were moves to slam it tight. These moves were concealed by the fanfare going on about reforming the secret police agencies. This included a widely touted new charter for the FBI that supposedly would bar dirty tricks.

Meanwhile, although some significant information was obtained under the FOIA, the statute never really delivered what many expected or had hoped for.

Likely as not, after a long wait, the requested papers you finally got would be mostly blanked out. But even this was not helpful to the government. If nothing else, the blank pages confirmed that files were being kept on a whole lot of people and the gaping deletions confirmed that there was a lot still hidden.

While Reagan insisted on exempting the CIA from the FOIA, when the issue reached the Senate most politicians agreed it would be too crude to leave the CIA totally immune from public inquiry.

In the July 14, 1983, *Washington Post*, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) explained that the FOIA has been "impor-

tant in rebuilding the American people's faith in their government."

"We have finally begun to restore some confidence in the intelligence agencies," Leahy wrote. "The worst thing would be for the CIA to gain a complete exemption from the FOIA."

As a compromise, the "operational files" angle was developed. The CIA argued, with lawyer-like skill, that exempting "operational files" would free its "highly trained" agents from wasting time searching these files. And since the information in these files was so confidential, nothing would be released anyway. Therefore nothing would be lost.

So, we were told, we'd have a tradeoff. The CIA wouldn't have to search so many files and those trying to get them wouldn't have to wait for years.

In mid-November 1983, the bill cleared the Senate and went to the House.

## Debate in 'Nation'

Meanwhile, a public dispute about the bill and the ACLU's relation to it broke out in the *Nation* magazine.

In September 1983 writer Angus Mackenzie charged the CIA and ACLU had made a deal. The two "have become strange bedfellows in the latest effort to exempt the agency" from the FOIA, he wrote.

In the same issue ACLU figures Morton Halpern and Allan Adler hotly denied any deal had been made.

But then the following June ACLU Executive Director Ira Glasser wrote a vigorous defense of the bill.

Asserting that after revisions the bill "represented a modest victory," Glasser said it had the ACLU's full support and stood "a good chance of passing."

Buying the we-don't-answer-requests-because-we-spend-too-much-time-looking-through-operational-files-argument, Glasser claimed the measure represented a step forward because it would speed the response to inquiries.

Really. We are expected to believe that an underfinanced and understaffed CIA lacks the qualified agents needed for this demanding work — even while it maintains a massive complex of offices in Langley, Virginia, covers the world with a far-flung network of spies, thieves, assassins, phony companies, etc. Plus the most sophisticated technology money can buy.

With the onerous burden of plodding through operational files lifted, we were told, the CIA would gain a little breathing space and finally be able to free up the resources to begin answering FOIA requests more promptly — although nobody promised they would abide by the totally inoperative 10-day time limit the law requires.

(And it should be noted that with the new law now in effect, no improvement in the response time has been registered.)

In his defense of the bill Glasser flatly denied it would impose any new restrictions on availability of files. The argument came down to the assertion that since the CIA wasn't releasing this material anyway, the ban wouldn't make any difference. (Why the CIA would press for an exemption that really doesn't mean much has yet to be explained.)

Rebutting Glasser, critics of the ACLU produced oper-

Continued on ISR/2



# P-9 strikers' car caravan builds solidarity

BY KAREN STOCKERT  
AND PEGGY WINTER

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — A car caravan of 200 striking Hormel workers from Austin, Minnesota, arrived here September 18 to win support for their strike and to demonstrate their solidarity with 2,700 striking Morrell workers. The Hormel strikers are members of Local P-9, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), and the Morrell strikers are members of UFCW Local 304A.

P-9 members' first action in Sioux Falls was to demonstrate at the local branch of First Bank, which is a financial backer of the Hormel meatpacking company. It is also an investor in South Africa. They carried banners saying, "1985 unions unite," and marched around the bank chanting, "They say give back — we say fight back." Passing cars gave demonstrators a warm response with plenty of thumbs-up signs and honking horns.

But P-9 members were greeted by silence when they later visited the picket line at the John Morrell packing plant. The members of Local 304A were forced to strike on September 1 when Morrell demanded wage cuts down to \$8 an hour, weaker seniority rights, and cuts in health benefits and working conditions. They were confused by reports that Hormel strikers had refused a wage increase that would give them \$10 an hour and knew little about the union-weakening cutbacks demanded by Hormel.

That morning, for example, a local paper, the *Argus Leader*, ran a front-page headline saying, "Union to Austin strikers: stay away." The big business daily reported that Local 304A's business agent, Tom Gross, opposed Local P-9's visit and had asked it not to join the picket line at Morrell. "Our people are on the street for the same thing they have been offered," he said.

P-9 members responded by marching by in single file across the street from the picket line while giving the thumbs-up sign in solidarity with the pickets. They then broke up into small groups and visited neighborhoods throughout Sioux Falls, circulating literature that told the truth about their strike.

That evening, when the P-9ers regrouped at their campground just outside town, they sat around discussing the day's events, assessing the local media coverage, and above all figuring out how to break the ice with the Morrell workers and get a dialogue going.

"That experience at the picket line was miserable," said one P-9er. "It made me feel like turning right around and going back to Austin, if we couldn't even communicate with the Morrell workers."

"Don't worry," said one of the P-9ers who had already been with the caravan to a number of cities, "a few of them will make their way out to us before we leave here." Someone put up a sign at the entrance to the camp: "Welcome, Morrell workers."

## Justice Dept. pushes new death penalty law

The U.S. Justice Department is using highly publicized, but unproven, espionage charges against former Navy officer John A. Walker and three other naval personnel as a pretext for asking that Congress approve the death penalty for certain federal crimes.

A 1972 Supreme Court ruling, in effect, threw out existing federal and state death penalty statutes. Later the courts approved many rewritten state death penalty statutes, making it possible for state governments to resume executions.

Now the Senate Judiciary Committee is writing a federal death penalty statute.

Stephen S. Trott, who heads the Justice Department's criminal division, told the Judiciary Committee September 25: "During this last year, we have seen appalling incidents of espionage cases in which it has been alleged, and in some cases already proven, that military officers and others... have sold our country's secrets to foreign powers."

Trott recommended that the death penalty proposal include allowing the execution of persons convicted of espionage and of assassinating the president.



Striking members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 from Austin, Minnesota, demonstrate in front of Morrell meatpacking plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. They showed solidarity with striking members of Local 304A, on strike at Morrell since September 1.

About seven that evening, a couple of Morrell workers drove up to the campsite. A crowd of P-9ers swarmed around them, and they immediately plunged into discussion. P-9 members explained how Hormel was demanding concessions on wages, seniority rights, speed-up, working conditions and a new two-tier wage system. They told about the company proposing that new hires receive only \$7.50 an hour with no benefits, while demanding the right to fire them at will. P-9ers added that it was these demands and not refusal of the \$10 an hour wage offer that forced them on strike on August 17.

"If we settle for Hormel's proposal," one said, "we'll be letting them drag us back to 1930 — and you Morrell workers will end up with the consequences on your shoulders, too."

The Morrell workers agreed, but said "you've got to realize — before we talked to you we just didn't know what P-9 was up against, we thought you were just a bunch of spoiled brats who wouldn't work for \$10 an hour."

Then, a dozen young Morrell workers on motorcycles rolled into the camp, and the P-9 workers burst into cheers. From this point on, for the next four or five hours, the atmosphere was electric as Morrell workers filtered into the camp by ones and twos, a total of about 40 in all. Workers bent close to the small campground lamps so they could read the summary of the Hormel contract proposal together, and discuss it line by line. They compared notes on the worsening conditions in their plants. They had intense discussions about the source of

the problem on the picket line earlier in the day. All the Morrell workers stressed that they had simply been in the dark about the real issues involved in the Hormel strike, and that they were convinced the Morrell workers would be in complete solidarity, once they learned the facts. It was past midnight by the time the Morrell workers left the camp.

The P-9ers were up at 5:30 the next morning, and by 6 a.m. were at the plant gate of Lytton Microwave, a plant organized by the United Electrical Workers union, which has a work force of 1,500. After leafletting the incoming first-shift workers at Lytton, the P-9ers moved on to leaflet outside the gates of the Citibank Corporation complex, with a work force of 2,000.

As the P-9ers returned to the campsite to be dispatched for more neighborhood canvassing, they ran into a couple of Morrell workers in a pick-up truck, who were bringing in coffee and doughnuts to show their support. Before the caravan left town, Local P-9 President Jim Guyette and other P-9ers went over to the Labor Temple where Morrell workers were picking up their weekly strike benefit checks, to take advantage of the opportunity for further discussion with the Morrell workers.

As the Hormel workers got ready to return to Austin, one of them said, "Win or lose, this strike has changed my life. Working on the line doesn't leave you with time or energy to think about much but making it through the week. Now we're meeting workers all over the Midwest. We're figuring things out, shaking things up, inspiring people and getting inspired."

## Attack on ballot rights in Atlanta

BY KEN MILINER

ATLANTA — The Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, Sara Jean Johnston, was ruled off the ballot here by city officials.

The pretext used was a lack of "valid" signatures on her nominating petitions. Johnston turned in over 5,000 signatures, well over the 2 percent or 3,823 required by the city's undemocratic election laws. City Clerk Larry Dingle claims the socialist was 2,043 short of the signatures required.

The ruling took place during an unprecedented number of challenges to candidates "qualifying" for ballot status.

Three out of five mayoral candidates running against incumbent Democrat Andrew Young were kept off the ballot.

The only contender against the current city council president, Marvin Arrington, was ruled off the ballot on a technicality.

A candidate for school board was ruled off the ballot because she is a teacher.

Candidates filing for ballot status were subjected to stepped-up harassment and surveillance by city officials.

Candidates faced criminal background checks, snooping into employment, utility, and voter registration records.

Johnston's neighbors, apartment manager, and mail carrier were interrogated under the guise of checking out residency requirements.

To help undercut any potential fight-back against these serious attacks on democratic rights, city administrators and local media used a smokescreen. They publicly focused their attacks and ballot challenges on a slate of candidates for city and school board recruited by the National Democratic Policy Committee, headed by Lyndon LaRouche.

LaRouche's right-wing outfit had convinced many elderly Blacks to run for office on a vague "anti-drug" platform.

When the challenges were over and the dust had settled, however, eight candidates had been disqualified. (Only one was from the LaRouche slate.)

"The real target of this concerted campaign to further restrict access to the ballot was the workers' candidate and those who stand in opposition to the two capitalist parties," said Johnston.

"Our disqualification is a conscious act on the part of big-business politicians to maintain their political stranglehold over the ballot," said Johnston.

"What has happened in Atlanta," said Johnston, "is another example of why the

only fair and democratic election law is no election law. The Socialist Workers campaign demands free access to the ballot by all who wish to run."

Johnston announced plans on September 18 to run a write-in campaign, "to continue to give a voice to the needs and interests of the working people of this city."

"We won't be silenced," said Johnston. We will continue to campaign against the U.S. government's drive toward war in Central America, and for workers and farmers here to mobilize in opposition to these policies.

"We will continue to campaign in opposition to the union-busting being carried out against the city's transit workers and other unions. We will continue to defend a woman's right to abortion and campaign against the terrorist bombings of abortion

clinics that have taken place here.

"We still don't have justice for Eddie Kirkland, a Black man killed at the hands of Atlanta's police," said Johnston. "We will continue to speak out against the cover-up that is being carried out by the city administration surrounding his death and the many other victims of cop murder and brutality that have taken place in recent months."

"As we fight racist attacks here," said Johnston, "we will continue to mobilize to defend our brothers and sisters in their struggle to free South Africa."

Atlanta Socialist Workers campaign supporters are busy getting out the word about Johnston's write-in campaign to unionists, Black rights activists, and other working people in the last weeks before the October 8 election.

## Striking Milw. steelworkers refuse to give concessions

BY BILL BREIHAN

MILWAUKEE — Refusing company demands for wage and benefit concessions, 500 steelworkers walked off the job at the Bucyrus-Erie Co. in South Milwaukee.

On August 30 the members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1343 voted 398-150 to reject what the company said was its final offer on a new contract. Within hours the company backed off and placed a new final offer on the table. This reduced list of takebacks won the backing of the International union and the local bargaining committee. But the membership was unwilling to accept the company's pleas of poverty, and voted a second time in less than a week to strike. The vote was 301-209.

Bucyrus-Erie (B-E) is a multinational corporation that holds over 60 percent of the world market in strip mining cranes and draglines. In the first half of 1985 it made \$2 million in profits. Unlike some of its domestic competitors, it remained profitable throughout the economic downturn of the early 1980s. But the company still insisted on a 7 percent wage cut, complete elimination of the cost-of-living clause, a two-tier wage scale, and severe cuts in benefits.

Workers at B-E narrowly approved a concessions contract in 1982. Many in the

union viewed this as a way to save jobs. But soon after approval of the contract the company closed four plants nationwide and laid off over 60 percent of the work force at the South Milwaukee facility.

Mass picketing began September 5 when the workers downed their tools. Production has come to a halt. No workers have crossed the picket lines and the company has made no attempt to bring in strikebreakers.

Workers at B-E have drawn much inspiration from the successful strike of the Teamsters Union in Milwaukee last summer. The Teamsters beat back the takeback demands of the Godfrey Co. and won a bitter six-week strike. Labor solidarity and community support were central to that victory. The company was finally forced to give in.

The resistance put up by striking steelworkers at the Wheeling-Pittsburg Corp. and striking meatcutters at Hormel in Minnesota is something that is also much discussed on the picket lines at B-E. Strikers here feel that the labor movement is beginning to stand up and fight back against corporate union-busting.

Bill Breihan is a machine operator and striking member of USWA Local 1343.



# French government faces nuclear 'Watergate' crisis

## Admits bombing 'Rainbow Warrior'

BY WILL REISSNER

The slowly ticking time bomb triggered by the July 10 sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior* in a New Zealand harbor has now exploded in French President François Mitterrand's face.

On September 22, the French government finally admitted that its agents had blown up the vessel.

The *Rainbow Warrior*, flagship of the Greenpeace ecological and antinuclear organization, had been scheduled to lead a flotilla of the ships to protest renewed French nuclear-weapons testing on the Pacific islands of Mururoa and Fangataufa. Before it could sail, two explosions sent it to the bottom of Auckland harbor, killing a Portuguese photographer on board.

As the French government's cover-up of its involvement in the sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior* began to unravel, it provided a glimpse of the lengths to which Mitterrand's Socialist Party administration is prepared to go to defend the interests of French imperialism around the world.

Reflecting the outrage among New Zealand's people, Prime Minister David Lange described the French operation as "a sordid act of international, state-backed terrorism."

Since taking office in 1981, Mitterrand has been an ardent backer of the independent French nuclear strike force and has boosted the strength of the French rapid deployment force, which is designed to intervene around the globe in defense of the interests of the French ruling families.

When Defense Minister Charles Hernu, a long-time Mitterrand associate, was forced to resign on September 20 following revelations that he had ordered the operation, his successor, Paul Quilès, gave him a stirring send off.

"I want to pay homage," said Quilès, "to a vibrant man, my friend Charles Hernu."

For four years he has devoted all his efforts to safeguarding our national independence, and to supporting France and her armies in every part of the globe."

### Tests will continue

The *Rainbow Warrior* operation also casts light on the arrogance of the French rulers. They have dismissed the huge opposition throughout the Pacific to French nuclear testing in the region, and have pledged to continue the tests.

They have set up a nuclear testing facility halfway around the world, placing it in the middle of an area inhabited by nearly 5 million residents of Melanesia, 1.2 million of Polynesia, and 225,000 of Micronesia, as well as 15 million people in Australia and 3 million in New Zealand.

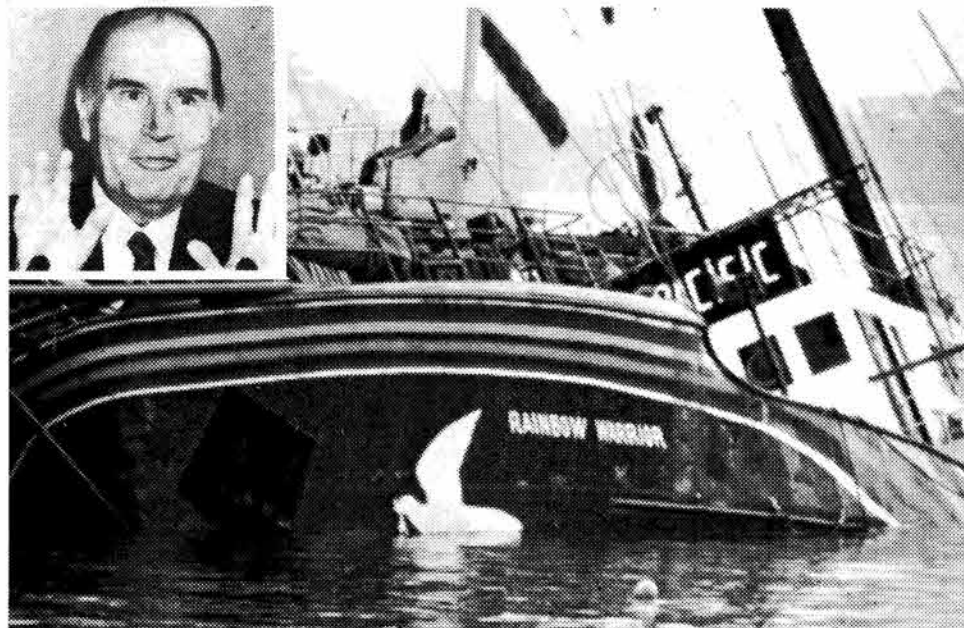
Even the arrest of two French agents in New Zealand and their forthcoming trial for murder did not slow down the Mitterrand government's commitment to move forward with the nuclear testing.

On August 18, Mitterrand stated that France will use "force if necessary" to block any further maritime protests of its nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Last May, the French military detonated their largest nuclear weapon ever in waters around Mururoa and Fangataufa.

As a result of underground blasts, the Mururoa Atoll is ridden with cracks and holes, posing the danger of radioactive waste leaking into the ocean. One fissure, below sea level, is said to be more than a half-mile long and up to two feet wide. Since the below ground test began there in 1975, parts of the atoll have sunk by five feet.

In a direct and calculated slap in the face of South Pacific governments that had protested the French nuclear testing program, Mitterrand paid a special visit to the test range at Mururoa on September 14.



**Rainbow Warrior**, flagship of antinuclear group Greenpeace, was sunk to block protest of French nuclear testing in Pacific. French President Mitterrand (inset) has vowed to continue tests.

While on the atoll, the French chief executive used the occasion to reiterate his government's determination to exert its military influence in the Pacific. He announced that work would soon begin on construction of a major French military base on its island colony of New Caledonia.

The Melanesian inhabitants of New Caledonia, the Kanak people, are now waging a determined struggle to gain their independence from France. But the September 12 *Journal Officiel* reported that France will invest 400 million francs (46 million dollars) to build a base capable of servicing French nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers.

In a televised address to the French people upon his return from Mururoa, Mitterrand asserted that the 3,000 workers at the Mururoa nuclear test facility were "conscious of playing a decisive part in the defense of France."

The French president added that he would not be swayed by international protests. "France, as a power present in the Pacific, intends to decide, on its own, questions that touch its national interests."

Portraying his country as the victim of misunderstanding, Mitterrand stated that France "intends only to see its rights respected."

In the same televised address, Mitterrand invited representatives of the South Pacific countries to visit the nuclear test site to see for themselves how "danger-free" it is.

### Message for Mitterrand

Responses to his offer were not long in coming. Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said, "I have one message and one message alone for President Mitterrand. . . . Take his tests back to France and have those absolutely safe tests in metropolitan France."

The prime minister of Western Samoa, Tofilau Eti, also turned down the French invitation.

Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, prime minister of Fiji, issued a "total, complete, and absolute condemnation of [France's] indifference regarding the protests of the Pacific countries and, we think, even their safety."

New Zealand's Prime Minister Lange described Mitterrand's visit to Mururoa as "an obscene gesture" aimed at opponents of French nuclear testing. He added that Mitterrand's trip was "a hit-and-run mission to say that France is a Pacific power, France is a nuclear power."

The New Zealand leader also rejected the invitation to visit Mururoa. "I don't want to look into a bomb crater," Lange commented. "I want to see President Mitterrand."

Raymond Lilley, a commentator for Radio New Zealand, described the response of New Zealanders to Mitterrand's lightning visit to the atoll. People resent this French assertion of "their almighty right to traipse around the South Pacific as they wish, blowing off neutron bloody bomb tests and so on."

The full story of what happened at the dockside in New Zealand has still not been made public. But revelations leaked by military and intelligence officials to the Paris daily *Le Monde*, published in a front-page article in its September 18 edition, provide the general outlines of the operation.

Acting on orders from high officials in

the French government, the General Directorate for External Security (DGSE) dispatched secret agents and commandos halfway around the world to send the *Rainbow Warrior* to the bottom.

The operation began in late April, when DGSE Lieutenant Christine Cabon arrived in New Zealand with orders to infiltrate the antinuclear movement. Her mission was to find out when the *Rainbow Warrior* was expected to arrive, and to prepare for additional sabotage teams.

Three other groups of agents carried out the actual attack on the ship.

### Frogmen

The first group, including three noncommissioned officers from the French combat frogmen's school in Corsica, rented a yacht in New Caledonia and sailed to New Zealand. Their mission was to smuggle into the country dinghies, a motor, diving equipment, and explosives needed for the attack on the *Rainbow Warrior*. Much of this equipment had been purchased in other European countries to hide the links to France.

Having delivered its deadly cargo, the yacht left New Zealand one day before the attack on the Greenpeace ship.

A second team — Alain Mafart, formerly second in command at the frogmen's training center, and Capt. Dominique Prieur of the DGSE — posing as Swiss tourists, took charge of the equipment delivered by the yacht, made the logistical arrangements for the attack itself, and were to stay behind to cover the tracks of the actual saboteurs.

The third team, which has never been identified but was apparently made up of two frogmen, blew up the vessel. According to intelligence sources quoted in the September 18 *Le Monde*, they left on commercial planes right after the attack, with one flying to Australia and the other to New Caledonia.

The two "Swiss tourists," however, remained behind to get rid of any incriminating evidence. The French government's responsibility for the sinking may never have been revealed had it not been for several mistakes made by the "Swiss tourists."

Members of the yacht club, worried about a rash of burglaries, had watched the couple rowing around the harbor and reported to the police the license number of the rented vehicle in which they left.

The link between the sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior* and the French government was made when the couple returned the rented vehicle rather than abandoning it. When Auckland police questioned the "Swiss tourists," it was discovered that their passports were forgeries.

Given the right to make one telephone call, the "Swiss tourists" dialed the emergency number of the DGSE in Paris, seeking help. The New Zealand police, meanwhile, were listening in on another extension.

With the arrest of Mafart and Prieur, the involvement of the French government became obvious. Yet Paris continued trying to stonewall.

The Mitterrand government appointed a special investigator, Bernard Tricot, who came to the stunning conclusion that although French agents had indeed been gathering information about Greenpeace's plans to protest French nuclear-weapons testing, it was unlikely they had anything

Continued on Page 16

## Do you know someone who reads Spanish? 'PM' campaigns against debt

Mexico today faces a double disaster. The devastation caused by the recent earthquake took a heavy human and economic toll. This came on top of the crisis of Mexico's foreign debt, which amounts to \$96 billion. In the last five years, Mexico has paid out more than \$52 billion to international bankers just to cover the interest on this debt.

Argentina's debt to foreign bankers today stands at a towering \$48 billion and will soon jump to \$53 billion. Just to make the interest payments Argentina will have to squeeze \$5.5 billion a year from its depressed economy. Argentine President Raúl Alfonsín has signed agreements with capitalist bankers for new loans after imposing wage freezes and other austerity measures on Argentina's working people.

In an interview for the current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial*, an Argentine trade union leader discusses plans for the upcoming continental protest against the foreign debt set for October 23.

This *PM* also covers the crisis afflicting Mexico, as well as the solidarity extended to it by Cuba. The Cuban government is leading a campaign to cancel the foreign debt suffocating Mexico and the rest of the semi-colonial world; *Perspectiva Mundial* is part of the campaign, too.



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# Racist campaign in L.A. targets Farrakhan

BY ELIZABETH STONE  
AND GREG JACKSON

LOS ANGELES — A predominantly Black audience of 18,000 heard Louis Farrakhan speak here September 14. They came in defiance of a racist campaign against Farrakhan and the Black community.

Farrakhan is the leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI), a Black organization.

The capitalist media, Republican and Democratic party politicians, and leaders of major Jewish organizations spearheaded the attack. These forces said they were fighting anti-Semitism. But that was a lie.

They smeared Farrakhan as an anti-Semite who praised Hitler and preached violence.

Before the meeting leaders of several Jewish organizations presented Black politicians with the text of a full-page advertisement. Intense pressure was put on Democratic Mayor Thomas Bradley and other Blacks to sign the advertisement. It was later printed in the *Los Angeles Times*.

The advertisement denounced Farrakhan for "racism" and "bigotry" and called him "Qaddafi's ambassador of hate." Muammar el-Qaddafi, the Libyan leader, provided a loan of \$5 million to help the NOI launch People Organized and Working for Economic Rebirth (POWER). POWER seeks to foster Black-owned businesses.

Most Blacks refused to sign. Bradley announced he would make no statement until after Farrakhan spoke.

A resolution was introduced in the California State Assembly condemning Farrakhan for "racism, anti-Americanism, and anti-Semitism."

The city council passed a resolution against him. Black City Councilman Robert Farrell was the only council member who did not support it.

On September 11 Republican Governor Deukmejian called Farrakhan "a divisive demagogue whose message is evil." According to Deukmejian, Farrakhan "slandered the very country that protects his right to speak."

Members of the Jewish Defense League, a racist organization, held an all-night picket at Bradley's home and at the home of the manager of the Forum where the meeting was to be held. They demanded that the meeting be cancelled. Under the pressure, the manager of the Forum announced that no meetings of a political nature would be allowed there in the future.

Anyone who heard Farrakhan speak learned firsthand how the capitalist media's lie machine can distort and falsify someone's views.

He spoke on his proposals to set up more Black businesses, on the racist character of U.S. society, and on his religious views. He supported the freedom struggle in South Africa and criticized U.S. foreign policy.

"We will not go to Nicaragua," he said. "We will not go to Africa to fight to keep [South Africa's President Pieter] Botha in power. We will not go to the Middle East to fight to keep Israel there. We will not go to Europe, unless America herself is attacked. You will not use Black bodies any more to die to keep rich white people oppressing Black people."

Farrakhan also spoke against anti-Semitism. He received a standing ovation when he said, "America, you were wrong out of your own feeling of guilt, allowing the holocaust of Jews to take place in Germany."

"When President Roosevelt knew that the Jews were suffering and burning in ovens," he said, "he turned the other way. And when the pope knew that the Jews were burning in the ovens, he turned the

other way. There were no Blacks involved in killing Jews."

Farrakhan also received applause when he denounced the establishment of Israel on lands stolen from the Palestinian people. "You, America, support the state of Israel with billions of the taxpayers' dollars," he said. "You don't ask the American people. You do what you want to do. And because I have the courage to speak out against it, now I'm an 'anti-Semite.'"

Outside the meeting a small group of Nazis demonstrated against him in full uniform, along with contingents of Guardian Angels and the Jewish Defense League.

After the meeting, the slander campaign continued unabated. Bradley attacked Farrakhan for what he called "dangerous currents of anti-Semitism."

At a news conference, Farrakhan challenged Bradley to "come before the Black people and clearly point out those anti-Semitic statements." Farrakhan also thanked the many Blacks who solidified with him against the attacks, including the mayor of the predominantly Black and

Latino city of Compton.

The big turnout at the meeting led the attackers to come out in the open with statements criticizing the Black community.

"We mourn the lack of Black fortitude in the face of bigotry," said Rabbi Isaiah Zelden of Stephen S. Wise Temple.

Rabbi Marvin Heir of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said the most frightening thing to him about Farrakhan's speech was that "so many people could be so easily misled. So many people rise in thunderous applause to such a demagogue. It recalls the 'Seig Heil' shouts from the Nazi storm troopers."

The real issue in the Farrakhan controversy, however, was not anti-Semitism. That was a frame-up from start to finish. At issue was the right of Blacks to speak their minds on any question, including the right to solidarize with the Palestinians against the injustices done them by Israel.

The attack on Farrakhan was generally seen by the Black community as an attempt by others, particularly the leaders of Jewish groups and by the big-business media, to dictate to Blacks.



Louis Farrakhan

## Socialist backs bilingual education

Continued from front page

preme Court ruled in 1974 that all non-English-speaking students below high school age have the right to be taught in their own language — to learn basic subjects from bilingual teachers.

In the New York City public schools, for example, 86,000 students are now in bilingual education programs.

"The 1974 decision is what the U.S. government wants to scrap," González said.

Bennett proposed that the federal education department draw up new regulations emphasizing that children be taught English, rather than English and their own language.

The principle that children from other countries be offered study in their own language as well as English was breached last year when Congress voted that 4 percent of education funds could be devoted to "alternate" methods of instruction. Bennett now favors making that 4 percent 100 percent, with the local school boards deciding what kind of education it will be.

"Who does he think he's kidding?" González said. "Everyone knows that the only alternative to bilingual education is the one in which children are 'submerged' in English. That is, children are stuck in an English-speaking class even if they don't understand a word of what's going on."

"This is exactly the kind of education we had before the Bilingual Education Act. We sat in classes, 'submerged' in English, and we learned nothing."

Responding to Bennett's claim that putting the focus on learning English as rapidly as possible is the better educational method, González said that this argument has been refuted by the facts.

For instance, at an August meeting of the American Psychological Association, Dr. Kenji Hakuta, a Yale psycholinguist, presented research showing that children who grow up knowing two languages have a better grasp of language in general and greater learning skills.

A panel of psychologists who have studied bilingual education urged the gathering to promote such education.

But, González said, "as far as Bennett and the other enemies of bilingual education are concerned, which kind of education is better is not really the point. They just don't like to say in public what their

real objection to bilingual education is.

"They know there is a large, and growing, Spanish-speaking population in this country, mainly Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Central American. Today it's estimated that there are four million children in this country who don't speak English, or speak it as a second language. Three-quarters of these are Latinos."

"Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Salvadorans, other Central Americans, we have a common language — Spanish. And we suffer a common racist oppression."

"The ruling-class hostility to bilingual education, which Bennett expresses, is like their hostility to bilingual ballots. They want to do a job on our language, and on our cultures, on our identity, because they want to keep us as second-class citizens in this country. People who will take the hardest jobs and the lowest wages and keep our mouths shut — in English or Spanish."

"The attack on the right of our children

to learn their language, their culture, their heritage is a means toward denying them all their rights — economic rights, social rights, political rights. We must say no to this."

"The labor movement should join together with Puerto Rican, Chicano, Latino, Black, and other groups to defend bilingual education. A rollback in bilingual education would be a blow to the rights of all working people."

González said she was gratified that a number of Latino educators have spoken out sharply against Bennett's racist proposition.

She said she fully agreed with Nathan Quiñones, chancellor of New York schools.

Replying to Bennett, Quiñones, who is Puerto Rican, said, "It is not a subversive activity in this country to learn a language other than English."

## Teachers score victories

Continued from front page

dren, as well as statewide teacher solidarity, that was responsible for the STA's victory. Many parents demonstrated at the school board demanding that they meet the STA's demands. Polls showed a big majority of Seattle residents favoring the teachers' side of the dispute.

Numerous rallies were held by STA members during the 25-day strike, some as large as 2,500. The very evening a tentative agreement was reached in Olympia, a statewide teachers' rally of 1,000 was being held at Gas Works park in Seattle. The STA, unlike most National Education Association affiliates, includes office personnel, substitutes, and aides in its membership. The strength coming from this broad organization of school employees also helped win the strike.

The successful Seattle teachers' strike was one of a number throughout the country. As of mid-September, teachers were out in six states in school districts encompassing 109,000 students. These were in Washington, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Illinois, and Ohio.

Over the past decade there have been many strikes at the start of the fall school term. In most cases these were in response to attempts to hold back and cut back on wages and working conditions.

In the present round of strikes, announced terms of settlements indicate that through these fights some ground has been gained.

In Pawtucket, Rhode Island, teachers ended a 13-day "no contract, no work" strike by ratifying a new three-year contract, including a total increase of 19.5 percent over the life of the agreement. The 600 teachers involved had defied a union-busting back-to-work court order and stood

firm as 53 of their ranks were jailed.

The faculty at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, ended a five-day walkout September 5 after the school agreed to a new contract, including wage hikes reportedly totaling 24.5 percent over three years. A total of 29 percent had been sought by the teachers' bargaining agent, the American Association of University Professors.

In Chicago, a walkout that shut down the city's school system for several days ended with the union accepting a 6 percent raise for the current school year and another 3 percent next fall. This is contingent on an added funding appropriation by the state legislature. The 28,000 teachers involved are members of the Chicago Teachers Union, an NEA affiliate.

Detroit school officials averted a walkout of 11,500 teachers with an end-of-August agreement granting a 10 percent pay hike this year, with two more increases in the second year of 4 percent and 3 percent. This represented a solid advance since teachers there were saddled for three years with a wage-freeze, giveback agreement.

In New York, an agreement stemming from binding arbitration gave the 75,000-member United Federation of Teachers an average increase totaling 20 percent over three years. Under the new contract, the starting salaries will rise in stages from \$14,557 to \$20,000 by September 1986, an increase of 38 percent.

The union's newspaper characterized the arbitration result as "sweet and bitter."

It noted that the pay increase did not accomplish the union's aim of winning parity with teachers in New York suburbs, and that some conditions of work were chipped away at by the arbitrators.

As of October 1, there were 12 strikes by 3,500 teachers in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Ohio.

## Racist regime steps up terror

Continued from Page 7

Botha gave no timetable for implementing these modifications in the apartheid system. He said the government was also "studying" proposals to change the repressive pass and influx laws, adding that he might submit measures to the cabinet on these issues sometime in the next few months.

The United Democratic Front responded

with a statement noting Botha's "total contempt for the feelings and aspirations of our people."

"Once again," the Front stated, "he has reiterated that the basic demand of our people, that is, one-person, one-vote in a unitary South Africa, is not negotiable. We must remind Botha that this demand is universally accepted by the entire civilized world."



## ALABAMA

### Birmingham

**South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolt.** Class series on South Africa. Sundays at 2 p.m., Oct 6-Oct 27. 205 18th St. S. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

## ARIZONA

### Phoenix

**Farm Workers on Strike.** Speakers: representative, Arizona Farm Workers union; three workers on strike against Whitewing Ranch. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 5, 7 p.m. 3750 West McDowell, #3. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

**Nicaragua: A Popular Democratic Revolution.** Slideshow presentation by Steve Doncaster and Don Noggle, recently returned from Nicaragua. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 12, 7 p.m. 3750 West McDowell, #3. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**March and Rally Against Apartheid.** Sat., Oct. 12. Assemble 11 a.m. at Jackie Robinson Stadium; march to Leimert Park, 43rd and Crenshaw Blvd. Rally 1 p.m. Ausp: Free South Africa Movement. For more information call (213) 747-1367.

**Spear of the Nation.** A film about South Africa. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 12. Open house, 6:30 p.m.; film, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

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## Oakland

**National Anti-apartheid Protest Days.** March and rally, Sat., Oct. 12, 11 a.m. Assemble at Oakland City Hall Plaza and march to Lake Merritt for 12 noon rally. Ausp: Bay Area National Anti-apartheid Protest Days Committee. For more information call (415) 436-7130.

## COLORADO

### Denver

**Militant Bookstore Open House.** Sat., Oct. 12, 1 p.m. 25 W 3 Ave. Ausp: Militant Bookstore. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

## KENTUCKY

### Louisville

**Hands off South Africa!** Fall campaign kickoff. Speakers: Mark Emanation, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Louisville. Sat., Oct. 5. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 809 E. Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**Solidarity with Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steelworkers.** Speakers: Joe Kleidon, member, United Steelworkers of America Local 2609. Sat., Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

**U.S. Escalates War Against Nicaragua.** Eyewitness account. Speakers: panel of activists recently returned from Nicaragua. Sat., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Boston

**Defend Abortion Rights!** A panel of abortion-rights activists. Sun., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

**Socialist Campaign Rally.** Hear Kip Hedges, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Boston City Council at-large. Sat., Oct. 12. Reception: 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m.; party to follow. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor. Ausp: SWP Campaign Committee. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

**Evening of Music and Solidarity with Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua.** Speakers: Central American union leaders. Sat., Oct. 19, 7 p.m. Longwood Theatre, 364 Longwood Ave. Ausp: Central America Solidarity Association Labor Committee. For more information call (617) 492-8705.

## MICHIGAN

### Detroit

**Corporate Blackmail: GM Tax Breaks Threaten Our Communities.** Speaker: Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 5, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

## NEW YORK

### Manhattan

**Vietnam and Kampuchea.** A forum and discussion. Speakers: Chan Bun Han, Kampuchean national, member of Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos. Visited Kampuchea in 1981 and '84; Karen Gellen, *Guardian* newspaper foreign editor, re-

cently returned from Vietnam; Clarence Fitch, coordinator, NY-NJ Vietnam Veterans Against the War; Don Luce, director Asia Resource Center. Sun., Oct. 6, 3 p.m. Washington Square Methodist Church, 135 W 4 St. Donation: \$4. Ausp: CSVNKL, *Guardian*. For more information call (718) 624-8173.

**Performance by Macate Theater Group from Nicaragua.** Sat., Oct. 12, 7 p.m. Columbia University Teachers College, 120 St. at Broadway. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Casa Nicaragua and Columbia Students in Solidarity with Nicaragua. For more information call (212) 316-0870.

**Central American Refugees and Sanctuary.** Debate by religious figures, scholars, government officials, and lawyers. Fri., Oct. 18, 1-5 p.m. NYC Bar Association, 42 W 44. Ausp: Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. For more information call (212) 921-2160.

**Legs Against Arms: Walk-a-thon for Medical Aid to Central America.** Speakers, rally, music, and food. Sat., Oct. 19, 10 a.m. (rain-date: Sun., Oct 20). J. Hood Wright Park, 175 St. and Fort Washington Ave. Ausp: New York Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, others. For more information call (212) 242-1040.

**Defend Women's Rights: the Fight for Pay Equity.** A panel discussion with Margarita Aguilar, president, American Federation of Teachers Local 3882; Noreen Connell, New York State president of National Organization for Women; Pat Grogan, staff writer for *Militant* newspaper, National Committee member, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

## OHIO

### Cincinnati

**Defend Abortion: A Woman's Right to Choose.** Speakers: Peggy Mow, Socialist Workers Party; Shirley Rossir, Women's Equity Action League. Sun., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

### Cleveland

**The Fight for Freedom: South Africa to Central America, U.S. Youth Join the Battle!** Speaker: Mark Curtis, National Executive Committee, Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

### Toledo

**The Fight For Freedom: South Africa to Central America.** Speaker: Mark Curtis, Na-

tional Executive Committee, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Oct. 5, 7 p.m. 1701 W Bancroft. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

**Cuba: Cancel the Foreign Debt!** Video showing of *Cuba and Fidel* followed by presentation by Joe Callahan, member, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 13, 7 p.m. 1701 W Bancroft. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

**Wheeling-Pittsburgh Strike.** Speaker: Robert Flournoy, staff representative and civil rights coordinator, United Steelworkers of America District 29. On strike against Wheeling-Pitt. Sun., Oct. 20, 7 p.m. 1701 W Bancroft. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

## OREGON

### Portland

**South Africa: Generations of Resistance.** Film documentary on major Black resistance campaigns. Sat., Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 287-7416.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**Farm Workers Fight for Union Contracts.** Speaker: Angel Dominguez, organizer for CATA, a farm workers support committee. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Reagan's War on Women's Rights.** Speakers: Loretta Ross, International Council of African Women and National Black United Front; Ricki Grunberg, member, National Organization for Women, D.C. chapter; Deborah Lazar, member, Coalition of Labor Union Women, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 362 and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 6, 7 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

**What's behind the AIDS Hysteria Campaign.** Speakers: representative, AIDS Education Fund of Whitman-Walker Clinic; Derrick Hicks, Cochair Langston Hughes/Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club; Bruce Marcus, editor, Pathfinder Press, member, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat. Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

# French nuclear 'Watergate' crisis

Continued from Page 14

to do with the sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior*!

New Zealand's Prime Minister Lange blasted the August 26 Tricot report as "so transparent it could not be called a whitewash."

Yet this remained the Mitterrand government's line until the September 18 article in *Le Monde* reported the existence of the third team of frogmen who actually placed the explosives.

In an attempt to control the damage to the government caused by what Parisian newspapers now call the "French Watergate," Mitterrand accepted the September 20 resignation of Defense Minister Henru and fired the head of the DGSE, Adm. Pierre Lacoste.

And on September 22, for the first time, the French government admitted what the

whole world already knew: that French agents had indeed sunk the *Rainbow Warrior*, and had done so on orders from Paris.

"It was agents of the DGSE that sank the boat," Prime Minister Laurent Fabius acknowledged. "They acted under orders." But Fabius refused to state who had given those orders.

The French prime minister also refused to name the agents who had carried out the attack, stating that "it would be unacceptable to expose military personnel who were only obeying orders and who have at times carried out very dangerous missions for the country in the past."

Fabius' tardy admission of French responsibility for the sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior* and the death of the crew member, more than two months after the fact, is unlikely to lay the "French Watergate" affair to rest.

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

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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.

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**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.



**Touchy** — The president of Johnson & Johnson quit as head of a Rutgers University fund-raising



**Harry Ring**

campaign when the school decided to sell its stocks in companies doing business in South Africa. Johnson & Johnson has a \$42 million operation there.

**Foolproof** — Two days before its slated restart, fire struck at Unit 1 of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant. It was the second electrical fire in less than three weeks. Both involved the system that's supposed to shut down the reactor in an emergency.

**Capitalism, it's wonderful** — The Canadian Fisheries Minister quit under fire after approving, over the objection of his own inspectors, a million cans of rancid Star-Kist tuna. Despite his approval, the stuff was rejected by the Canadian army. Star-Kist then tried, also unsuccessfully, to palm it off on Ethiopian famine relief.

Which, no doubt, would have meant a neat tax deduction.

**That's Nikolai Marx** — The French delegate to the UN had the Soviet and French foreign ministers over for a breakfast prepared by his chef. The ever knowledgeable *New York Times* reported, "The chef is French, despite his name: Constant Marx — no relation to the Russian who shared the same last name."

**Oeuf McMuffin?** — That breakfast for the Soviet emissary was planned to "reflect that this is a French home in America," said the spouse of the French UN rep.

The menu: fresh squeezed orange juice with a dash of French champagne, omelette with strawberry confiture, scrambled eggs and bacon, miniature brioches and croissants, and an international fruit salad.

**Interfering with the war effort?** — The Reagan administration will appeal a court decision requiring it to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions blown across the Canadian border, creating acid rain there. An EPA spokesperson questioned whether the courts should be sticking their noses into what he deemed to be "largely a foreign affairs matter."

**They do it all for you** — Several coffin-nail manufacturers are moving toward a pack of 25 instead of the standard 20. Which means heavier smokers can puff up to 50 a day and still feel they're holding to two packs. A Philip Morris pusher assures, "The idea that we put in 25 to make people feel less guilty is absurd."

**Thought for the week** — "There's nothing sacred about the institution of public schools. In fact it is an aberration of our free-market system that we have them." — Ronald Pisaturo, operator of a "for profit" high school.

## Calif. packing-plant strikers turn down pay cuts

BY GREG NELSON AND LINDA JOYCE

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — "We're not going to work that low. We're already poor, what do we have to lose?" This is the way picket leader George Perez Fernandez described the mood of the 2,000 packing-plant workers on strike here since September 9.

A month ago Teamsters Local 912, which organizes the strikers, began negotiating with R.A. Shaw, Inc., and Watsonville Canning Company. The workers had already swallowed an unnegotiated 40 cents across-the-board wage cut. But the two companies, which set the pace for all local canning and packing firms, wanted much more. They wanted another 35 percent in wage cuts, from an average of \$7 an hour to an average of \$5 an hour. They wanted new hires to get \$4.25 an hour with no provisions for advancement, to slash benefits, and pay straight time for any overtime worked. If any packer establishes lower pay rates anywhere in the state, the bosses want the right to match the lower rate, without negotiation. All this they demanded in the name of "maintaining competitiveness."

The picket lines have been spirited, with lots of activity. "We've had a damn good response," said Perez Fernandez. "It's our first strike ever, and it's been peaceful and strong. This is a union town. They're trying to break our spirit and lower the wages for the whole industry."

The strikers, 80 percent women, pack 50 percent of the frozen vegetables produced in the United States. Watsonville is the "salad bowl of the nation" and in the next few weeks the big broccoli harvest is due, providing a major test for the strike. Traditionally a struck packer will get other area firms to handle its share of the crop, but Local 912 has commitments from the workers at all the other packing plants to walk out in solidarity if that happens.

The courts ruled September 20 that no one associated with strikers can walk closer than 100 yards of the factory and pickets are limited to four per gate. This means that many of the streets of Watsonville are off bounds to its citizens, except for scabs. On September 20, police arrested 17 Watsonville high school students and one teacher, Delia Mendez, who had come with banners and signs to support the striking workers at the plant.

Virtually the whole community, a large percentage of which is Chicano, is supporting the strikers. There has been an outpouring of solidarity, and many groups and grocery stores are providing food.

Says Leonor Ruiz, 25, one of the strikers, "We are remaining united and we are going to fight until we win. We aren't afraid of their threats. The contract is very important for us — we want a just contract."

Solidarity messages can be sent to: Teamsters Local 912, 163 West Lake Avenue, Watsonville, California 95076.



Militant/Linda Joyce

Members of Teamsters Local 912 picket at Watsonville, California, packing plant. Eighty percent of strikers are women.

## Third World debt slaves are allies of U.S. farmers

BY BILL BREIHAN

INDEPENDENCE, Wis. — Farm protest leader Merle Hansen told a meeting here that U.S. farmers must look to the oppressed Third World nations as fellow debt slaves and allies in the fight for economic justice.

Hansen, a Nebraska rancher and president of the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA), addressed 60 members of the Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance (WFUA) who gathered in this small farming community September 14 for their second annual conference. The all-day conference discussed and approved a program of action for the coming year.

Hansen noted that the prices farmers receive for their commodities dropped in August of this year to a level lower than during the worst period of the 1930s Depression. Farmers today, he said, are getting only 50 percent of parity. Prices for farm commodities no longer cover production costs and the rate at which small farmers are being driven from agriculture is accelerating.

Hansen drew a parallel between the massive \$215 billion U.S. farm debt and the now unpayable debt owed by semicolonial countries to U.S. banks and international lending institutions. The goal of the multinational corporations, he pointed out, is to "buy cheap and sell dear." Neither U.S. farmers nor Third World nations, both producers of raw materials, are receiving a fair price for their commodities. Both have been placed in economic bondage by the big banks and multinational corporations, Hansen said.

A special point on the agenda of the conference was a slide show and talk given by a leader of WFUA on his recent trip to Mexico, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. He contrasted the poverty and injustice suffered by the farmers of Mexico and Central America with the progress being made in Nicaragua in the area of land reform and economic aid to the small farmer. At the end of the conference a resolution in support of the Nicaraguan revolution was approved unanimously by the gathering.

WFUA, an affiliate of the North American Farm Alliance, was formed by a small group of northwest Wisconsin farmers in 1983. It has since expanded its activity and set up chapters throughout the state.

The conference resolved to continue its support to Groundswell, a coalition of farm organizations which is currently promoting the Farm Policy Reform Act of 1985. This proposal, which is supported by other farm organizations, calls for providing relief to economically distressed small farmers by expanding credit, restructuring debt, and increasing price supports for farm commodities.

The conference approved a series of amendments to that act addressing the economic problems faced by Wisconsin dairy farmers. Other amendments were approved that specifically offer help to Black farmers. These amendments came out of an important conference of Black and white farmers held last August in Alabama. Four leaders of WFUA attended that conference along with a dozen other Midwest farm leaders.

## S. African unionist pledges solidarity to packing strike

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Tozamile Botha, administrative secretary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, was to have visited the picket lines today in Watsonville, California. When illness prevented him from physically appearing in support of the strike, he sent a support statement. It read, in part:

"Your struggle is an inspiration, and as you know, people in struggle gain strength from each other. In my country, South Africa, we are facing a powerful and ruthless enemy that is determined never to allow the majority of the people the most basic democratic and economic rights. They have jailed our leaders, killed and beaten the people indiscriminately, and unleashed death squads to silently eliminate opposition. Strikes, rallies, even funerals, are met with bullets.

"In the face of these attacks, and despite them, the people are winning, because a

people that refuses to be oppressed cannot be stopped.

"The people have shown the army, police, and their paid informants that they will not be turned back. Even the support of the Reagan administration and the U.S. multi-national corporations cannot prevent the downfall of apartheid. We will win. Our time has come.

"To the working people of Watsonville who are fighting for their unions, I pledge our friendship, solidarity and support. The heroic fighters of South Africa salute the heroic fighters of Watsonville."

Five of the strikers came to the "Labor united against apartheid" rally that evening in San Jose, to appear on the platform with Tozamile Botha, where they received a standing ovation and spoke about their strike. A solidarity rally is planned for them Sunday, October 6, at noon, in the Watsonville plaza.

## 78,000 at concert for Farm Aid

Ken Crego, a 31-year-old farmer from Quin, Missouri, drove 350 miles to the Farm Aid concert in Champaign, Illinois, with a caravan of other farmers. He said the concert would help highlight the cause of farmers.

Some 78,000 people attended the September 22 Farm Aid concert organized by country and western singer Willie Nelson. The benefit was organized to raise funds and build solidarity with working farmers who are facing the worst crisis since the 1930s Depression. The concert raised about \$10 million in contributions.

Some 60 country and western, rock, and blues musicians performed at the benefit. They included Kenny Rogers, B.B. King, Loretta Lynn, the Beach Boys, Bob Dylan, and Merle Haggard.

Haggard said he was organizing a special 15-car Farm Aid train that will go from Bakersfield, California, to RFK Stadium in

Washington, D.C., next April for a second Farm Aid concert. The train will make stops along the way to help publicize the farmers' plight. The United Transportation Union's past president, Charles Luna, was appointed to represent the union on the train.

Folk singer Arlo Guthrie said he was supporting Farm Aid because "my grandfather lost a lot of farms during the depression. The concert is a wonderful thing because it gets the nation to stand up and say, 'We're behind the farmers.'"

Concert organizers said the funds would go for such projects as setting up a hotline, giving legal assistance to farmers facing foreclosure, and publicizing farmers' problems.

The first \$100,000 raised at the concert has been distributed to help feed hungry farm families in 17 states.



## U.S. hails Israeli terrorism

The blood of scores of Palestinians and Tunisians is on the hands of the rulers of Israel and the United States.

The October 1 Israeli bombing and missile attack against Tunis, the capital of the North African country of Tunisia, killed more than 50 and injured over 100. Many Tunisians as well as Palestinians were killed and wounded.

The main target of the Israeli raid was a headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). One objective was to kill PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and other PLO leaders.

The U.S. government hailed the attack as "a legitimate response and an expression of self-defense."

When Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba expressed outrage at this stand, the White House said the raid was deplorable but "understandable."

Washington has posed as a friend of Tunisia, offering to support the government against supposed threats from Libya. At the time of the Israeli bombing, the U.S. Sixth Fleet was reportedly off the Tunisian coast. The fleet, which monitors military movements in the region, gave no warning to Tunis about the approach of Israeli warplanes.

As PLO spokesperson Ibrahim Souss pointed out, responsibility for the bloodshed lies "not only with the Israeli leaders but also with Washington, which arms and protects Israeli aggression."

The Israeli regime claimed that the brutal attack on the Tunisian and Palestinian peoples was retaliation for the killing of three Israelis in Cyprus, which the Israeli rulers attribute to the PLO.

The PLO has denied responsibility, and the government of Cyprus said it had no evidence that the PLO was involved.

While sticking to the claim of "retaliation," Israeli war minister Yitzhak Rabin also noted: "We decided the time was right to deliver a blow to the headquarters. . . ."

The U.S.-supported Israeli attack sought to behead the Palestinian struggle for self-determination. The October 3 *New York Times* explained: "Mr. Arafat is still 'Mr. Palestine,' the keeper of the Palestinian seals of legitimacy, and as long as he is alive, he is an obstacle to any

Israeli attempt to forge a separate peace with [Jordan's] King Hussein or the Palestinians under their control. . . ."

Ovadia Sofer, Israeli ambassador to France, indicated there would be continued efforts to exterminate the PLO leadership. "The PLO cannot hide," he boasted. "The arms of Israel will reach them even in Tunisia."

The Israeli slaughter in Tunisia was, as the Tunisian foreign minister called it, an act of "state terrorism." As such it has been condemned around the world.

UN Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar denounced the raid as "a violation of the territorial integrity of a member state."

Clovis Maksoud, permanent representative of the League of Arab States to the UN, said Washington's support for the attack on Tunisia was "shocking to the Arab world as a whole."

The Egyptian government called it a "heinous criminal action" and suspended discussions with the Israeli government on a border question.

Khalil al-Wazir, a PLO leader, said the PLO would not give up the struggle "to liberate Palestinian lands from Israeli occupation."

Washington supports Israeli aggression because it counts on the Israeli regime to act as a cop for imperialist interests in the Middle East, just as Washington counts on the racist regime in South Africa to play a similar role in southern Africa.

Washington wants the Israeli regime to terrorize Arab governments like the one in Tunisia that offer refuge or other solidarity with Palestinian fighters, just as it gives covert support to the South African regime's aggression against the governments of Angola and Mozambique that support the freedom struggles in Namibia and South Africa.

Washington's support to the racist apartheid regime is under heavy fire. The voices of progressive-minded people ought to be heard as well in protest against Washington's backing of the murderous outrage by the Israeli rulers against the Tunisian and Palestinian peoples.

Washington should be told to stop bank-rolling and arming the Israeli aggressors and to get its ships and planes out of the Middle East.

## Maurice Bishop: 'Imperialism is not invincible'

Two years after his murder on Oct. 19, 1983, Maurice Bishop's views on anticolonialism remain important learning tools for all anti-imperialist fighters.

Bishop was the central leader of the New Jewel Movement that led the Grenadan people to power in March 1979. His murder was organized by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, who led a clique of army, government, and party officials. This clique had overthrown the revolutionary government a week earlier. Their betrayal of the revolution opened the door to a subsequent U.S. invasion on Oct. 25, 1983.

The following excerpts are from a speech Bishop gave to the Sixth Summit Conference of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries held in Havana, Cuba on Sept. 6, 1979. It appears in the book *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, which can be ordered from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Price \$6.95 (include 75¢ for postage and handling).

As Grenada enters the Nonaligned Movement, we do so as one of the smallest nations within this great movement. Indeed we enter as a small island of only 133 square miles and with a population of just over 100,000 people. Like almost all our Caribbean friends here today, we have a population that is overwhelmingly African in its descent, the product of that most gross and open form

## OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

of exploitation — slavery. And for us, like many of the countries here today, this was only the beginning of our process of exploitation. Hence from slavery we moved to the colonial experience under the hand of European colonialism, an ordeal that saw us conquered, hounded, and exploited by France, and finally England — an ordeal that left us with only one secondary school built by the colonialists after 300 years of colonial rule.

Our revolution is a people's revolution and as such the cornerstone of our revolution is the development of our people and hand in hand with this aim is the establishment of the people's rights — rights that include the right to social and economic justice, the right to work, the right to equal pay for men and women, and the right to democratic participation in the affairs of our nation.

With these national aims, we also share a firm commitment to the establishment of an international community based on the principles of opposition to colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism (including Zionism), fascism, and imperialism.

All of these fundamental principles of the movement have had a most dramatic impact on the development of our own revolution in Grenada. Indeed, the underlying principles of the Nonaligned Movement have had a significant process of which we in Grenada are merely a small part.

The colonialists have spent several centuries dividing our region, as all other regions of the world. They have spent centuries developing the fine art of dividing peoples of the same area. The French, English, Spanish, and Dutch came. They carved up the area, taught us different languages and cultures, and then turned around and got us to hate each other. They told us that those who speak English must regard those who speak Spanish and Dutch as enemies and vice versa. They told us that those who developed one particular cultural background must despise and hate those with a different cultural background. They created regional boundaries and established different borderlines and even ensured that some countries had no right of access to the sea, thus giving birth to territorial disputes in our region.

But one of the historic tasks of the Nonaligned Movement in the late seventies must be to help to break down and destroy all these artificial boundaries — language, culture, or physical partitioning — created by colonialism. We must begin to find a solution that would create one people and one region. And Grenada strongly pledges to struggle as hard and seriously as we can to build one Latin American movement.

So, Comrade President, all around we see evidence that the world is changing. A new world is truly being built and now, more than ever, the Nonaligned Movement has to address itself to the economic aspect of the struggles against imperialist domination. It needs to be reiterated that, important as political, racial, and cultural liberation are, they need to be buttressed by higher and higher levels of economic liberation. For although the world is changing, the present distribution of economic power and living standards still remain manifestly unjust. This derives from the long history of imperialist expansion and control of the Third World. We seek to change this order and substitute for it the new international economic order. And we give our wholehearted support to the efforts of progressive and Third World countries that are fighting for a new world based on social and economic justice for the poor of the world.

## Protests mount on Latin debt

The opening of the 40th session of the United Nations was marked by growing protest from Latin American governments against the ravages of debt crises imposed on their countries by the banks of the major imperialist powers, principally the United States.

The Latin American representatives demanded adjustment of the ever-spiraling interest payments they face. And they demanded an easing of the unrelenting pressure to impose more and more austerity on their people. That is, the demand to slash even further the living standards of already impoverished workers and peasants in order to ensure the bankers prompt delivery of their pound of flesh.

The protests focused mainly on the International Monetary Fund, the principal agency for exercising this brutal pressure.

"Brazil will not pay its foreign debt with recession, not with unemployment, nor with hunger," declared José Sarney, recently elected president of Brazil.

"We are faced with a dramatic choice; it is either debt or democracy," added Alan García Pérez, president of Peru.

"Our nations need urgent solutions," insisted Argentina's foreign minister, Dante Caputo.

And from earthquake-devastated Mexico, confronted with unrelieved demands for more austerity, Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepúlveda declared, "The foreign debt problem of Latin America and other developing countries cannot be definitively resolved through re-scheduling that grants only temporary relief to the debtor countries. . . ."

Combined with the financial plunder, the semicolonial countries have been battered by the power of the imperialist monopolies to dictate ever more onerous terms of trade.

Month by month the interest on the loans escalates at a dizzying pace. At the same time, the capacity of the debtors to pay is crippled by the fact that the prices of their exports are continually driven down while the prices of their imports go ever higher.

On the eve of its devastating earthquake, Mexico was instructed by the International Monetary Fund that, despite sharp cutbacks, it had fallen out of compliance with austerity targets and therefore \$900 million in pending loans would be suspended.

Perhaps to avoid the international stench it would create, that suspension may be eased a bit. But, in the aftermath of the earthquake, the bill collector was still at the door. Mexico faced an October interest payment of more than \$800 million.

"The ball is back in Mexico's court," one banker cryptically declared.

Economically, Mexico has been one of the stronger Latin American countries. Yet it, too, is being ruined by imperialist trade and financial domination.

Until less than a decade ago, 12 and one-half pesos were worth one dollar. Since then, the purchasing power

of the peso has plummeted to the point where it takes 400 pesos to buy one dollar.

What that means in terms of human deprivation is that the Mexican people are paying foreign bankers \$800 million U.S. dollars a month in interest alone — \$800 million a month!

Thus far, the governments of the semicolonial countries have largely yielded to the unrelenting demands for more austerity. But they have found that even with the extreme belt-tightening, their debt situation has only grown worse.

In 1982, Brazil had a foreign debt of \$85 billion. Despite the cuts in living standards, that \$85 billion debt is now \$104 billion.

Mexico's debt in 1982 was \$87 billion. Today it's starting at a debt of \$96 billion.

The present total debt of Latin American and Caribbean countries is \$370 billion. That's more than what all of the semicolonial countries of the world owed in 1979.

In August, Havana hosted a Meeting on the Foreign Debt of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Fidel Castro made a major speech there in which he again insisted on the total impossibility of paying that ever-expanding debt.

In his opening remarks, the Cuban president took note that the capitalist media has persistently charged that he has seized on the issue of the debt crisis to promote his own image and to reap political capital.

Reviewing the record, Castro pointed out that he first addressed this problem 14 years ago. He was then on a visit to Chile soon after the government of Salvador Allende was elected.

At that time Latin America's debt was around \$35 billion, less than a tenth of what it is today.

Noting some of the debt figures, Castro said at the time:

"I don't know what each country's debt is. But what I wonder is how they're going to pay the United States, how they're going to meet the foreign debt with this powerful country, how they're going to meet the dividends, how they're going to maintain a minimum subsistence level, and how they're going to advance in terms of development."

"It's really a very serious problem of today, of tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow."

History has surely confirmed that prognosis. And the present situation confirms that the solution put forward by Castro is the only practical, realistic one: The debt must be cancelled.

Prior to the August Havana debt conference, a similar meeting composed of Latin American and Caribbean trade unionists was held there in July. The participants, representing a majority of the organized workers of Latin America and the Caribbean, called for a regionwide Day of Action Against the Foreign Debt on October 23.

Such actions can help solidify the growing opposition to the debt.



# Death penalty: a weapon of U.S. ruling class

On September 11 at 12:27 a.m. the profit system — capitalism — gave us one more reminder of its reactionary and barbaric nature when the State of Texas executed Charles Rumbaugh, Jr., by lethal injection.

This is the first time in 21 years that anyone has been executed for something that was done before that person reached the age of 18. Thirty-three other prisoners in a similar status await the same fate.

In this case the legal murder of Rumbaugh by the State of Texas marks another step in the expansion of the use of

they will use whatever barbaric method is at hand to protect their profits and defend their class rule.

Recently, I received a letter from a prisoner in Huntsville, Texas. He attached a statement from a young white victim of capitalist justice — Charles Rumbaugh, Jr., written just days before his execution.

Excerpts from the letter and statement follow.

## A letter from a prisoner

On September 11 Charles Rumbaugh was put to death by the State of Texas. You must be aware already of Amnesty International's protestation against his execution as a violation of international law.

Two weeks before his execution Rumbaugh released to the press an eloquent denunciation of the death penalty. His statement was generally ignored and was grossly misrepresented when it was reported. In accordance with his wishes I have enclosed with this letter a copy of his statement. I hope that you will read it and that the *Militant* will present it more faithfully to a larger audience than he was able to reach.

With the release of this provocative statement, Rumbaugh rendered himself a more visible — hence more vulnerable — target of the reactionary local media and the demagogic "law and order" politicians who would make the final decisions that would result in his death. But he felt an obligation to other prisoners of the death penalty to speak out against its violence and hypocrisy. He perceived that the increasing desensitization of the public to state-sponsored violence in all its manifestations demands a more forceful opposition. The *Militant's* consistently enlightened reportage of the struggle against

the death penalty recommends it for the dissemination of Rumbaugh's statement.

A prisoner  
Huntsville, Texas

## Rumbaugh's statement

I am currently scheduled to be executed before sunrise on the morning of Sept. 11, 1985. This is my third scheduled execution date and I therefore believe it is highly probable it will be carried out this time.

Because of the offense I committed, my background, my rebellious character, and my alleged remorselessness, society — through its judicial system — has condemned me to die. Just as I realize and acknowledge that I can proffer no excuse for my actions in causing the death of a human being, so must I state my clear and emphatic belief that neither can society proffer any righteously acceptable or defensible excuse for the imposition of the death penalty.

Just as the State of Texas has indicted me for the offense of capital murder, so do I indict each and every adult citizen of the State of Texas for the premeditated murders of nine men thus far and, further, for conspiring to murder over 200 others who are now incarcerated under sentence of death. (The only exception to this indictment are those persons of conscience who recognize the hypocrisy inherent in capital punishment, recognize "legalized" murder for what it really is and actively work in opposition to it.)

I leave you with one last thought: My life has taught me that violence does indeed beget violence, and capital punishment only perpetuates the vicious cycle and contributes to the list of victims of violence.



## BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Rashaad Ali

capital punishment against the exploited and oppressed. This time it was directed at youth.

Capital punishment is an instrument of race and class domination by the capitalist rulers of this country as they seek to terrorize the oppressed and downtrodden.

It has been a special part of the superoppression that Blacks face, as every statistic on the death penalty clearly shows. According to the Justice Department, Blacks are 42 percent of those on death row.

Millionaires just don't receive the death penalty.

The racist U.S. rulers use public executions — with 1,540 prisoners currently on death row — as a brutal form of intimidation against working people. They are telling us — Black, Latino, and other workers — that

# Black communities in Britain resist cop brutality

## Continued from back page

The Birmingham Black Sisters Organization issued a statement rejecting "the official term 'riot,' as it implies that the people picked up are criminals and caused the present situation instead of being the victims. The main blame," they continued, "lies with the state for their systematic impoverishment and isolation of our people. It also lies with the police... [who] do not hide their role of suppression, surveillance, and control of our black community."

Community groups have called for a public inquiry into the causes of the rebellion.

They are demanding justice for the 257 youth "who were picked up by Birmingham police for being young." Of the young

people arrested, 173 were Black and Caribbean, 38 Indian, and 46 white.

The government and the press have been spewing out racist filth in connection with the rebellions.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham called the rebellion "absolute thuggery gone mad on drugs."

Enoch Powell, right-wing member of the British Parliament representing the Ulster Unionists Party of Northern Ireland, said that what happened in Handsworth proved that allowing Blacks and Asians to remain in British cities would inevitably lead to a country "unimaginably racked by dissension and violent disorder, not recognizable as the same nation it has been, or perhaps, not a nation at all." He proposed

offering Blacks and Asians money to get out of the country.

Community leaders pointed out that most of the young people Powell referred to were born in Britain and knew no other home. They also pointed out that not just Blacks and other "foreigners," but many young working-class whites joined in the rebellions against the intolerable conditions they face.

When Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary in Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government, came to the Handsworth district during the rebellion, he was met with bricks and bottles.

Hurd accused the young people of being just out "for goods and property" — simple thieves. "There is no one starving in Hand-

sworth," he said. "There is no one in despair."

The official estimate of unemployment in Handsworth is 55 to 60 percent.

Fifty-seven thousand people live in the Handsworth area, the majority Blacks and Asians. Of 16,000 homes, 15,000 have neither a bath nor a toilet. Most nonwhites leaving school are unable to find any work at all for two years.

A similarly bleak situation exists in the Brixton area of London. Three-quarters of the young Black men in Brixton are without work.

It was in Brixton that the wave of rebellions led by Black youth erupted in the summer of 1981 and spread to a dozen other cities.

## LETTERS

### Legal murders

I think it is really a farce and quite hilarious to term this judicial network a system of justice for all.

All the legal murders being committed every day, across this glorious country, by local and state law enforcement agencies, are aimed primarily and directly at brothers and sisters of African and Spanish descent, to intimidate and suppress them thoroughly.

The movement that was building momentum and put meaning to the term Black pride, eventually was destabilized and crushed by the same people who terrorize Black and Brown communities.

The point is, when a physically fit cop can't or is unwilling to subdue an old woman of 64 years or older without terminating her life needlessly, something is without a doubt wrong, and something should be done. Must we take desperate positions, life for life solutions?

Because it is apparent that justice for them means just-us against you people. They aren't doing time for murder, we are, because we fight back.

Look around, good old fashioned policing is in. Recruiting slogans should read "If you're a good old boy who enjoys beating, clubbing and choke holding all coloreds and low income nobodies (modern day twist, just hang 'em in the cell afterwards) you could be a law enforcer — oh yeah, we drop bombs on 'em too. Only sincere sadists need apply,

register today, you hear!" Because that's the story.

Winston Alexander, Jr.  
Represa, California

### Ballot access law

I am writing in response to Andrea Gonzalez' statements, mentioned in the issue of September 13, on ballot-access laws. She said, "The only democratic ballot law is no law. There should be free access to the ballot by all who wish to run. Anything else inevitably discriminates in favor of the big-business politicians who want to hang on to their power."

I generally agree, but I want to mention some aspects of ballot-access law which are restrictive, in a sense, yet which enhance democratic rights. One type of restriction, which I support, is a law which protects a political party's name from usage by outsiders. Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and New Mexico all have such laws. They do not involve any petitions or fees. Instead, they provide that any new political party should submit a list of its officers to the elections officials. Then, no one can get on the ballot under that political party's name unless the officers named earlier agree that the candidate really does represent that party.

These laws have come into existence in some cases because third political parties sued to obtain this

type of protection for the party name. For example, in 1982 the Citizens and Libertarian parties sued Colorado to force the state to have this procedure, and won. Similarly, in 1980 John Anderson sued Connecticut to obtain this procedure.

Richard Winger  
San Francisco, California

### 'Exotic Palm'

The current American military operation ("Exotic Palm") in the Caribbean is one more instance of our government's refusal to respect the sovereignty of Third World peoples.

As an American citizen I was deeply ashamed of my government's invasion of Grenada in 1983 — an act that displayed all the courage of an eighth-grade bully assaulting a five-year-old. I am dismayed that my government continues to spend my tax dollars to prevent Caribbean people from choosing socialist governments in the future.

President Reagan refers to the Caribbean region as "the Caribbean Basin" and "America's backyard." As WLIB-AM listeners have noted in on-air calls, a basin is something to spit in, and a backyard is a place for garbage cans. Caribbean countries are *not* parts of anyone's basin or backyard; they are sovereign nations with the right to decide their own destiny.

In the 18th century Americans fought a revolution to achieve national independence and deter-

mine our own form of government. In the 20th century it is time for America to respect the independence and self-determination of other countries.

R.B. Wilk  
Bloomfield, New Jersey

### Socialist books

One of the things I most value in the socialist books I buy from Pathfinder is the insight I gain on current issues — even when what I'm reading at the moment has been in print for 80 years!

An example is a piece by V.I. Lenin written years before the Russian revolutions entitled "Backward Europe and Advanced Asia." If one substitutes "Africa" for "Asia" one finds a powerful comment on today's African situation. I quote with the substitution, and a parenthetical insertion I couldn't resist:

"But all young Africa, that is, the hundreds of millions African working people, has a reliable ally in the proletariat of all civilized countries. No force on earth can prevent its victory, which will liberate both the peoples of Europe [and the United States] and the peoples of Africa."

Some might resist this little exercise. They might object to the substitution and parenthetical insertion on some technicality. But if one considers what has happened in Asia since Lenin wrote this, one will see the value of it.

The full text, and much more, is available from Pathfinder in

*Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International. Documents: 1907-1916 The Preparatory Years.*

Jack D. Bressee  
Newport News, Virginia

### My first issue

I am transmitting this letter to inform you that I have received my first issue of the *Militant*, and especially to confer my appreciation of the paper. I also would like you to know that there are more than several of my friends with whom I shared the paper.

I am an avid reader of the *Militant*. Why? Basically because it's the *only* literature that I've read so far that speaks the truth. So please continue to send me the *Militant*.  
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.**



## Farm Workers rally for union rights

### California marches commemorate 20th anniversary of Delano grape strikes

BY LINDA JOYCE

DELANO, Calif. — More than 1,000 farm workers commemorated the historic Delano grape strikes of 20 years ago with marches and rallies here the weekend of September 7-8.

The demonstrations were the culmination of a United Farm Workers (UFW) campaign of 30 marches and rallies held all over California this spring and summer for decent contracts and fair and free union elections.

Delano is the heart of the grape and cotton growing industry of California. It is in Kern County, one of the nation's top agribusiness communities.

Proceeding from several farming communities, UFW members and supporters marched for four hours, single file, dramatically lining the freeway for hundreds of yards as truck drivers and motorists honked and waved their support.

The Delano area is situated in the San Joaquin Valley, where wages are among the lowest in California — ranging from subminimum wage to a high of about \$5 an hour.

Elsewhere in California, the Salinas Valley for example, a UFW stronghold, farm workers receive up to \$7.50 an hour.

Here the growers use nonunion contractors. They pay less than minimum wage.

One farm worker told the *Militant* that she got \$10 a day for picking almonds, and the contractors charged \$5 for transportation to and from the fields.

Many of the workers are undocumented, and the growers and contractors prey on this, threatening them with deportation if they challenge these abuses.

Delano was the birthplace of the UFW. It was 20 years ago that Filipino workers, and a week later, Mexican and Chicano workers, united 3,000 strong to begin their historic strike. Their five-year battle, supported by a nationwide grape boycott, culminated in 1970 with the first union contracts in the grape vineyards. It is this struggle that farm workers remember, with many of the original participants still active in the union.

At the time of the union victory, 90 percent of the grapes were picked under union contract. Now only some 3 percent are UFW organized.

Because the union is not as strong, the growers were able to use intimidation tactics to try to sabotage the anniversary demonstrations.

"There would be double or triple the number of marchers out here this weekend if it weren't for the strong-arm tactics of the growers," Guillermo Hernandez, a youthful farm worker, explained.

All during the marches, "labor consultants," highly paid employees of union-busting law firms, drove by and tried to film the marchers.

A growers' goon charged his truck through the line at one intersection, narrowly missing injuring someone.

But such tactics, or even the threats of firing or deportation, could not stop the two days of impressive marches and rallies, or dampen the militancy of the ranks.

"Viva la huelga!" rang out all along the march as supporters on the sidelines shouted the UFW's battlecry. One Black youth raised his fist as the marchers passed by and shouted, "Viva la Raza!"

The demonstration launched a new UFW campaign against the alarming increase of death, disease, and birth defects due to pesticide poisoning.

Farm worker Juan Casillas, 32, died on August 5 after laboring in a freshly sprayed tomato field near San Diego. No medical help was sought and Casillas died before the grower drove his body across the border and dumped it in Tijuana.

Many of the farm workers on the march provided evidence of pesticide and chemi-

cal-caused disabilities. Nine children have cancer in the tiny community of McFarland, where the water supply has been found to be contaminated.

Everyone in the march saw the need to organize and gain contracts in Kern County and elsewhere. Roque Gonzalez was suspended from his job at Pandol & Sons Co., a grape, orange, and kiwi fruit grower, for three months because he helped on a union organizing drive.

"It's an injustice to the farm workers because we provide food for all," he said as we marched.

"You can see what the United States is like really. It's known as the richest country in the world, but look at the farm workers here. We must organize to get contracts!"

"We united against injustices on the job," said Nelly Pruneda, a young rose worker. "Many of our *compañeros* are undocumented. They want to be with us but are afraid. Outside of work we meet together to talk about our situation on the job."

This worker was demoted for union organizing. She also commented on the upsurge of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa: "We aren't Black, but we understand racism by the treatment we get. The fight in South Africa and here is the same."

The demonstration culminated with 1,500 farm workers and their supporters marching through Delano to a rally and fiesta in a large downtown park.



Militant/Diana Cantú

United Farm Workers demonstration in Delano, California, launched campaign against use of pesticides, which cause death, disease, and birth defects.

Delores Huerta, first vice-president of the UFW, and César Chávez, president, both leveled their fire against the big growers and Republican Governor Deukmejian for gutting farm worker contracts and rights under the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, established in 1975.

Chávez said the table grape boycott would be used to force the growers to sign

decent contracts and put pressure on the state government to enforce the labor laws covering agricultural laborers.

He declared war on the growers and chemical companies because of the pesticides. "I'm announcing the formation of a nationwide alliance of farm workers and consumers against the poisoning of food," he said.

## Kanak freedom fighter tours Chicago

BY PAT WRIGHT

CHICAGO — Speaking at the national headquarters of the Nation of Islam here, Susanna Ounei was repeatedly interrupted by applause as she described the resistance of the Kanak people of the South Pacific island of New Caledonia to French colonial rule.

Ounei is a leader of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), which heads the struggle of the Kanak people for independence from France. She was on tour in Chicago September 18-22.

"We have two governments in New Caledonia — one Kanaky, one French," Ounei told the crowd at the "Final Call" headquarters. (The Kanak Provisional Government was established Dec. 1, 1984.) "Two governments like that, on one island, are too much. One of them has to go, and I think it is the French," she said.

"They [the French colonial rulers] call our island the 'planet of the apes,' but these 'apes' are determined to get back our land," she said.

Ounei was invited back to the "Final Call" on the last day of her tour to meet Minister Louis Farrakhan at the Nation of Islam's weekly program. She was introduced and applauded by the 400 people in attendance.

Ounei was also the featured speaker at a forum organized by the Puerto Rican Cultural Center.

Before singing the Puerto Rican national anthem, the activists invited Ounei to sing the Kanaky anthem. She said there wasn't one yet, but sang a Kanak freedom song she and other political prisoners learned in jail. A collection at the meeting raised \$85 for the Kanak cause.

Ounei spoke at a Coalition for Philippine Solidarity Symposium held to mark the 13th anniversary of the imposition of martial law in the Philippines. Ounei was in the Philippines for three weeks last year. During her visit, Alexander Orcullo was killed. Orcullo was the editor of the *Mindanao Weekly* and general secretary of the Coalition for the Realization of Democracy

(CORD).

"It was just like that," Ounei said, making the motion of shooting a rifle with her fingers. She explained how the Filipino military gunned down people protesting the murder of their leader.

Ounei said that when she left the Philippines and arrived in Nouméa, the capital of New Caledonia, "It was the same thing. I thought I'd missed my plane and was still in the Philippines."

At the regular Saturday morning rally at Operation PUSH, Ounei told the crowd of 300 people, "It is a pleasure for me to be here with those who are fighting racism and apartheid, because we are fighting the same problems at home in New Caledonia."

Ounei joined Joe Maobi and Elizabeth

Sibeko of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) of South Africa on the platform of a meeting organized by the National Black United Front (NBUF). Over \$400 was raised for the FLNKS and PAC. Before the meeting, women from NBUF who participated in the recent United Nations-sponsored Nairobi (Kenya) Women's Conference organized a reception for Ounei.

The Militant Forum also hosted Ounei as a featured speaker, where 60 people attended.

During her tour in Chicago, she was interviewed by the *Chicago Defender*, a daily Black newspaper. The Black Hebrew Israelites also invited Ounei to lunch to discuss their ideas and extend their solidarity to the Kanak struggle.

## Britain's Black communities rebel against cop brutality

BY PAT GROGAN

After British police broke into the home of a Black woman on September 28 and shot her, the mostly Black Brixton section of London exploded in anger. It was the second rebellion in a mostly Black neighborhood in Britain in a little over two weeks.

Police have made 149 arrests in the rebellion that began when 200 young people marched on the Brixton police station protesting the shooting of Cherry Groce, a mother of six. Police broke down her door just after dawn and shot her in the spine while she slept. They were looking for her 19-year-old son, who was not at home.

In August, cops shot a five-year-old white child dead in his bed in Birmingham. They broke into the family's apartment looking for the boy's father in connection with a robbery.

Reports of police brutality in working-class neighborhoods — against both Black and white workers — are becoming more

and more common. During the British miners' strike, unprecedented police violence was unleashed against striking workers.

But the blows fall hardest on Blacks, Asians, and other victims of racism.

There are 2 million Blacks and Asians in Britain, making up 4 percent of the population. They are mostly concentrated in the major cities and face frequent police abuse. The fact that the police force is nearly all-white — of 27,000 cops in greater London, for example, all but 260 are white — makes the cops especially hated.

It was an incident of police brutality that set off a major rebellion in mid-September in the Handsworth neighborhood of Birmingham, one of Britain's major industrial cities.

Fourteen hundred police battled the Black, Asian, and white youth who had rebelled against unemployment, poverty, and police brutality. Community leaders protested this massive use of police.

Continued on Page 19