

Oct. 11 protests boost anti-apartheid movement

"Free South Africa! Divest now! Break economic links with apartheid!"

Thousands of people marched and rallied across the United States on October 11 and 12 to demand that the U.S. government, corporations, and universities break all ties with racist South Africa.

These actions gave an important boost to the growing anti-apartheid movement in this country. Trade unionists; students; antiwar activists; Black, Latino, and

EDITORIAL

women's rights fighters; elected officials; church figures; and prominent individuals joined together on scores of campuses and in cities large and small across the nation.

This issue of the *Militant* carries three pages of reports on local actions filed by correspondents in the field. Even with this extensive space devoted to October 11, we were just able to scratch the surface in reporting the number of anti-apartheid activities that occurred that weekend.

These actions were "the largest coordinated protest ever against U.S. investment in South Africa," Josh Nessen of the American Committee on Africa told the *New York Times*. The ACOA helped initiate the protests along with a number of student anti-apartheid groups.

Looking at the national picture, the turnout was impressive: 2,000 in Los Angeles; 1,000 each in New York, St. Louis, Berkeley, and Eugene, Oregon; and several hundreds more in dozens of other places.

Also impressive was the geographical spread of the protests. In Connecticut, Rhode Island, Nebraska, Maine, and West Virginia — as well as California, New York, Illinois, Texas, and elsewhere — opponents of Washington's ties to apartheid turned out.



Protest at Hunter College, N.Y., was one of scores across the country.

The demonstrations occurred as the white minority apartheid regime is confronted by the greatest political challenge ever from South Africa's Black majority. The government's response has been to shoot down hundreds and jail thousands of opponents of racist rule.

On October 15 South Africa's President Pieter Botha reiterated his intention to proceed with the hanging of poet and apartheid foe Benjamin Moloise. If the execution goes ahead, Moloise will join the more than 750 others whom the regime has murdered since this latest upsurge began.

The October 11 actions reflected the growing identification among U.S. working people and students with the freedom struggle in South Africa.

The October 11 National Anti-apartheid Protest Day was part of a broader international day of solidarity with political pris-

oners in South Africa and South Africa's colony of Namibia. Freedom for political prisoners, especially African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, was an important demand of the actions.

The ANC is leading the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and fighting for a nonracial, democratic society, where there is one person, one vote. ANC representatives spoke at several of the actions.

In Morgantown, West Virginia, for example, an ANC speaker shared the platform with officials of the United Mine Workers of America. In New York, District 65 of the United Auto Workers and the ANC both had speakers.

The fact that officials of important U.S. industrial unions in several cities spoke together with leaders of what is the oldest liberation organization on the African continent is an indication of the potential to fur-

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U.S. uses hijacking to attack PLO

BY FRED FELDMAN

When four U.S. jet fighters forced an Egyptian airliner to land at a U.S. base on the island of Sicily in Italy October 11, they were carrying out an act of U.S. government piracy against Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The U.S. pilots were authorized to fire missiles across the nose of the Egyptian plane if the pilot refused to be forced down. U.S. officials in contact with the combat planes could have ordered the civilian airliner shot down if its crew had resisted.

The plane carried 17 Egyptians, two officials of the PLO, and four Palestinians accused of hijacking the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro* and killing passenger Leon Klinghoffer.

The four were being flown out of Egypt after being turned over to the PLO by the Egyptian government. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, along with PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat, played a role in negotiating the surrender of the hijackers and the release of the passengers.

Harmful to Palestinian cause

The hijacking was denounced from the start by the PLO as harmful to the Palestinian cause. "It is our policy that we are against any kind of terrorism because we suffer from Israeli-organized terrorism," Arafat said.

Since the hijackers claimed to be acting

in the interests of the Palestinian people, the PLO — which is recognized by most of the world as representing the Palestinian people — took the responsibility to investigate and judge their actions.

The Reagan administration opposed turning the four over to the PLO because this would imply recognizing it. Moreover, Washington wanted to frame up the PLO for the hijacking and the death of Klinghoffer.

With the capture of the Egyptian plane,

Reagan and the media put their chauvinist campaign in high gear. "We Bag the Bums" and "Getting Even" were typical headlines. According to the media, the bullying of Egypt and the Palestinians made people in this country "stand tall."

Sparks outrage

Washington's actions sparked outrage in Egypt. President Mubarak called the interception "piracy" and demanded that Presi-

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Palestinian supporter assassinated in Calif.

BY JEANNIE FRANKEL

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Alex M. Odeh, regional director of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (AAADC), was assassinated by a bomb here October 11.

Odeh had appeared the evening before on a local television program (Channel 7) and defended the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and its leader Yassir Arafat.

"I think the media mistakenly linked the incident with the PLO," he said of the recent hijacking. "As far as I know Arafat did an excellent job and we commend Arafat for his positive role in solving the issue. The media ought to give the PLO and Arafat recognition, inform the public about the PLO as a political organization,

and Arafat in particular as the chairman of the PLO who is a man of peace."

The bomb that killed Odeh was rigged to go off as he opened his office door. It destroyed the second floor offices of the committee, which are in a three-story building. The bomb injured seven people.

No group claimed responsibility for the bombing. The ultrarightist Jewish Defense League hailed the murder.

"Odeh appeared on television to whitewash the PLO murder of Klinghoffer," said JDL chairman Irv Rubin. "No Jew or American should shed one tear for the destruction of a PLO front in Santa Ana or anywhere else in the world."

Santa Ana police, the FBI, and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are investigating the bombing. A spokesman

Socialist: 'Vote yes on antinukes referendum'

BY OLGA RODRIGUEZ AND DIANE WANG

NEW YORK — "Vote Yes on the nuclear free harbor referendum," urged Andrea González and Mark Satinoff of the Socialist Workers Party.

González is the party's candidate for mayor of New York and Satinoff is the candidate for governor of New Jersey.

They declared their support for the referendum at an October 16 press conference at the SWP New York campaign headquarters.

The referendum is on the November 5 New York ballot. If approved, it would amend the city charter to prohibit the Board of Estimate, keeper of the city's purse-strings, from assisting in any way the development of any military facility that would carry or store nuclear weapons. A majority "yes" vote would be binding on the city.

The referendum is aimed at opposing a Pentagon plan, supported by top city officials, to build a \$100 million Navy base at Stapleton in Staten Island as homeport for the *USS Iowa* and six support ships designed to carry Tomahawk nuclear weapons.

Democratic Mayor Edward Koch, running for reelection, is leading a demagogic, flag-waving campaign against the referendum. Attacking opponents of the nuclear port, he asserted New Yorkers would not want to be like the "disgusting" New Zealanders who opposed U.S. nuclear ships docking in their ports.

New Yorkers, Koch insisted, must "do their part."

In response, Andrea González declared: "We 'do our part' by opposing this base. We 'do our part' by standing shoulder-to-shoulder with those in New Zealand, Europe, and around the world, who have mobilized in opposition to the deployment of U.S. nuclear and conventional arsenals and military bases around the globe.

"We don't want their weapons, or troops, here — or anywhere else," the socialist nominee declared.

Supporters of the referendum organized by Mobilization for Survival collected more than 100,000 signatures — three times the number of signatures required to place the referendum on the ballot.

"This is the first time in nearly 20 years that a referendum has been put on the ballot by petitioning," González pointed out. "The city government doesn't make it easy to get a referendum on the ballot. The fact that the organizers of the referendum were so successful in their effort reflects the real

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for the FBI, John Hoos, claims there is no evidence linking the bombing with Odeh's appearance on the news broadcast. The investigation, he says, will determine if a terrorist group is involved in the murder.

This is the second bombing incident aimed at the AAADC in two months. The first occurred at the Boston offices of the committee on August 16. The Santa Ana office has received continual threats, says James Abourezk, national chairman of the committee.

He revealed that the Santa Ana headquarters, opened four years ago, has received more threats than any other office of the committee except New York. He stated that while all the threats were reported to the FBI, the agency has failed to investigate them.

Airport workers like anti-apartheid articles

BY ALICIA MEREL

NEWARK — Socialists have been selling our press at the Newark airport for the past eight months. In the terminal where we sell, the largest employer is Eastern Airlines. Many of the workers

wage scale in their last contract. A number of the workers we see are new hires, on the lower level of the two tiers. We also sell to pilots, airport maintenance workers, skycaps, stewardesses, and others.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

we reach are members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), which organizes the ground maintenance and cleaning crews at Eastern and other airlines. IAM-organized workers in these jobs have accepted a two-tier

We sell in several locations, the most consistent being in the airport parking garage where a coffee wagon parks. Many workers come out to buy coffee at the beginning of their shift or on break. For some workers, 6:30 a.m. is their lunch

break. We also sell at a bus stop where city buses, as well as employee shuttle buses to and from the parking lot, pick up passengers. People are on foot, not in cars, and it is easy to show them the paper and begin a conversation. A relatively high percentage of those we talk to walk away with some information or a leaflet, even if they don't buy the paper.

During the time we have been selling, we have consistently sold 1-3 papers each week. But as we have found in other places, many workers have become more conscious and anxious for information as the struggle in South Africa and the response in this country have heated up. Three weeks ago, the team sold eight, and last week we

sold 16 papers. Most were sold on our coverage of South Africa. But others were sold because we talked to workers who were interested in the FBI terrorist attack on Puerto Rico, as well as in our continuing coverage of union struggles like the General Dynamics strike and the farm workers' organizing drive. One woman bought the paper to read about the Massey coal strike because she came from a mining family in West Virginia.

A Black worker said he understood how bad the apartheid system was because of a personal experience. He explained his shock when he was a marine stationed in the South during the 1950s and experienced the Jim Crow segregation

system directly for the first time. The same worker was also interested in discussing Louis Farrakhan's meeting in New York.

An airline manager saw us and said we would have to leave if we didn't have a permit. He then sent two policemen out on a complaint that we were "bothering people." In answer to their questions we explained that we were campaigning for a free South Africa. We showed them the statement by Mark Satinoff, SWP candidate for governor of New Jersey, titled "Free South Africa" and we explained that we had the right to pass these out in public places, along with our campaign newspapers. After asking a lot more questions, the cops finally left.

ILA halts work to protest slaying of picket

BY CHARLIE ROSENBERG

BALTIMORE — Longshoreman Jackson Taylor, aged 59, a member of International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Local 3, was struck and killed by a police car near an ILA picket line at Baltimore's Port Covington on October 9. Taylor and about 100 other ILA members were picketing a Cypriot ship that was being unloaded by nonunion dock workers, shortly before he was killed.

The longshoremen were protesting the use of 400 laborers who were being paid \$5 an hour to do work traditionally performed by union members at a rate of \$17 an hour.

This attempt to use nonunion dock workers was the first such incident in the port's history. Baltimore Launch and Marine Ser-

vices Manager John Sorensen claimed that the ship's cargo could not be unloaded profitably if union members were used.

Longshoremen first set up an informational picket line at the company's offices and then later at the Port Covington dock where Baltimore Launch and Marine Services made preparations to unload the ship.

After the killing, Baltimore Launch, which has rejected the use of union labor because of its cost, called off the unloading. The ship is still anchored off Annapolis, with its cargo aboard.

To honor Taylor, longshoremen in 300 of the nation's ports halted work for half an hour. In the Port of Baltimore, members of ILA Local 333 did not begin work until 1:00 p.m., following a memorial mass for

Taylor.

Thomas Gleason, ILA International president, attended the funeral. He said union members would rally around Taylor's death in an effort to keep nonunion workers off union piers.

"I can sympathize with the nonunion man in need of jobs," said ILA Local 333 President Edward Howell, "but we built this port and we are not going to see our members lose work because of some union busting."

"Naturally we will be back on the picket

lines if this happens again. We can't allow nonunion people to take away our work. We've got too many men who aren't working themselves."

"If it takes five more deaths, that's what it will have to be," said Pete Abbott, a longshoreman. But he added, "It doesn't seem like a man has to die to prove a point."

"We are fighting for our lives, for our families, for our livelihood, and for our jobs," said Ray Ceci, another longshoreman.

Grenada protest hits frame-up of jailed trade union leader

About a hundred members of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) held a demonstration September 22 in St. George's, Grenada. They were demanding the release of trade union leader Chester Humphrey who faces extradition to the United States to be tried on trumped-up criminal charges.

Kendrick Radix, a leader of MBPM, addressed the rally. Radix was a founding leader of the New Jewel Movement (NJM), which led the overthrow of Grenadian dictator Eric Gairy in March 1979. He served in the People's Revolutionary Government headed by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, the central leader of the NJM.

In October 1983 Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard led a coup that overthrew the revolutionary government. Bishop and other leaders of the Grenada revolution were subsequently murdered, opening the way for the October 25, 1983, U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada.

Humphrey was vice-president of the

Technical and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) and an executive board member of the Trade Union Council. Following the U.S. invasion, he was imprisoned without charges by U.S. authorities and held until May 1984. Shortly after his release he was rearrested, this time to face extradition hearings on trumped-up gun-running charges in the United States that date back to early 1979, prior to the revolutionary victory.

Last March the chief justice of Grenada ordered Humphrey's extradition to the United States. If the order is not reversed by the Caribbean court of appeals, Humphrey will be turned over to U.S. authorities and put on trial in the United States. The frame-up of Humphrey has been widely recognized by progressive unionists and other opponents of the U.S. occupation in Grenada as an effort to prevent Humphrey from organizing resistance in the TAWU to the takeover of the union by right-wing officials working with the U.S.-installed government.



Baltimore longshoreman Jack Taylor lies dying shortly after being run down by cop car that drove through International Longshoremen's Association picket line.

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Sales campaign is ahead of schedule!

BY HARRY RING

There were many more anti-apartheid demonstrations across the country October 11-12 than our sales army could possibly cover. But at those we were at, our press got a wonderful response.

These were some of the outstanding successes:

- CINCINNATI. At a demonstration of 400, 120 copies of the *Militant* were sold, plus four subscriptions.

- MORGANTOWN, W. Va. At a rally of 150, 25 *Militants* were sold. Twelve people accepted invitations to an open house at the socialist hall.

- MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL. At a citywide meeting of 200, 20 people bought the *Militant* and three took subscriptions. At a University of Minnesota meeting of 200, it was 40 *Militants* and six subscriptions.

And at an educational conference on South Africa, 30 copies of the *Militant* were snapped up.

- PHOENIX. A total of 25 copies of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist* were sold at the protest of 100.

- SAN DIEGO. At a protest of 200, 25 *Militants* and five subscriptions were sold.

- BALTIMORE. At an action of 150, 33 *Militants* and 15 *Young Socialists* were sold.

All of this gave a solid boost to our campaign to sell 40,000 copies of the *Militant* and our Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*, by November 15.

Not including the Saturday demonstrations, we've sold 4,458 copies of the *Militant* and 436 of *PM* last week.

That makes a total of 15,030 copies of the *Militant* sold so far, and 1,791 copies of *PM*.

This represents 42 percent of our total goal and it means we're two percent ahead of schedule.

One very helpful contribution to the total was made by the New York SWP and YSA, which went on a strong catch-up drive. This past week they sold 681 copies

of the *Militant* and 69 *PMs*.

Meanwhile, the concurrent drive to sell 2,000 subscriptions to both publications is chugging along.

The total number of subscriptions is now 588, 29 percent of our goal. At this point, we should be at the 40 percent mark.

Frontrunners for the week were Los Angeles, 18 subscriptions; Houston, 18; and Minneapolis-St. Paul, 14.

On totals to date, Houston is definitely out front, having sold 58 subscriptions toward a goal of 75.

How do they do it?

The secret, according to sales director Steve Warshell, is "conscious planning and systematic work."

They began with their coworkers. That's been going well. So far, 10 members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers at two major refineries have bought subscriptions.

The next goal was to win subscribers among anti-apartheid activists and protesters. That's worked well too. So far, they estimate, 34 subscriptions have been sold to people active in the city's anti-apartheid coalition and to participants in South Africa meetings and protests.

At a University of Houston meeting of 100, five subscriptions were sold, along with single copies.

So far, Houston has sold 11 subscriptions in door-to-door canvassing. The trick there, Warshell said, is to realize some people are reluctant to plunk down \$3 for a sub the first time they see the paper. They sold the 11 by going back to places where they already sold individual copies door-to-door.

One of the things they intend to do now, he added, is to pick up the slack on the sale of *Perspectiva Mundial*. One plan in the hopper is to hit a housing development with a substantial number of Mexican and Central American residents.

But the real secret of the Houston success story goes beyond careful planning.

Despite the difficulties of oil workers and others on rotating shift, some 90 percent of the SWP branch participates regularly in the sales drive.



Militant/Nelson Blackstock
Socialist literature table at anti-apartheid action October 12 in Los Angeles. Sales and subscriptions of socialist press to anti-apartheid fighters boosted drive.

500 dead in shantytown as storms hit Puerto Rico

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

Puerto Rican authorities, working from voter registration lists, estimate that some 500 people were killed in a mudslide that destroyed Mameyes, a shantytown outside Ponce, Puerto Rico.

In addition to the hundreds lost in the October 7 Mameyes mudslide, at least three people were killed in a mudslide in Marrufo, another of the shantytowns that ring Ponce. A mother and her three children died in a slide at the Ferran shantytown, also near Ponce.

Twelve people drowned in flooding that destroyed parts of Tuque beach, near the city of Santa Isabel.

Hundreds of others were injured and at least 2,000 have been left homeless across the island after heavy rains swept Puerto Rico.

In the aftermath of this disaster, Puerto Rico's governor, Rafael Hernández Colón, blamed the victims for their fate. He told reporters October 9 that "this is a lesson for people in the tropics. When a storm is coming you have to listen to the radio and do what they say."

However, Pedro González Ortiz, civil defense director for Ponce, admitted that he examined Mameyes on October 6 at the request of the residents of the area. He told reporters that he did not order an evacuation because the situation "was the kind of common slopping we have seen before in such rains."

Hernández Colón has requested that U.S. President Ronald Reagan declare the island a federal disaster area.

Colonial authorities have announced



Family members grieve for those who died when mudslide destroyed unsafe housing in Mameyes, a shantytown outside Ponce, Puerto Rico.

plans to build 700 new homes in the next 60 to 90 days to provide shelter for the survivors of Mameyes. But the governor's office has offered no plans to build safe housing for the 25,000 other people living in shantytowns around Ponce or the 250,000 people who live in shantytowns across the island.

According to the governor's chief spokesperson, Daniel Vélez, except during hurricanes and other heavy rains, the safety of residents of shantytowns is "no problem at all."

Filipino unionist speaks in N.Y.

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

NEW YORK — Seventy-five people gathered in the District 65 United Auto Workers hall to hear Bobby Ortaliz, a leader of the labor movement in the Philippines. He spoke of the reign of terror under Ferdinand Marcos, the Philippine dictator backed by the U.S. government.

Ortaliz is the vice-chair of the May 1st Movement (KMU), which is the largest opposition labor federation in the Philippines. The KMU represents more than a half million workers. He is also the president of the National Federation of Sugar Workers.

Ortaliz explained that the Philippines could develop a healthy economy. "But, being a victim of invasion by multinational corporations, U.S. military bases, and rampant corruption, my people are in poverty." The official minimum wage in the Philippines is \$3.07 per day, but workers are often paid much less, he said.

The union leader explained that the KMU seeks not only to organize workers for better wages and working conditions, but to lead them in a fight for deep-going political changes. The Marcos regime has

responded to the growing Filipino protest movement with stepped-up repression. "Children, workers, farmers, professionals, and religious leaders are being killed by the regime," Ortaliz said.

The U.S. military maintains two huge military bases on the Philippines, Clark Air Base and Subic Bay naval station. Ortaliz explained that these bases have been used in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and against the people of China and Kampuchea, and are a threat to all peoples of the region.

Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of District 65, linked the struggle in the Philippines to that of working people in South Africa, Central America, and the United States.

Kathy Andrade, education director of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25, said she was reminded of the struggle of the people in her native country of El Salvador.

The New York meeting was part of a 20-city North America tour by three Filipino trade union leaders sponsored by the Philippine Workers Support Committee.

SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #4: Totals as of *Militant* issue #39, *PM* issue #19)

Area	SINGLE ISSUES		SUBSCRIPTIONS
	Sold this week	% of 10-week goal reached	
	Militant/PM		Sold so far Militant/PM
Atlanta	72/5	38	19/0
Baltimore	91/0	40	11/0
Birmingham	102/0	48	15/0
Boston	35/3	31	9/7
Capital District, N.Y.	57/0	35	17/1
Charleston, W. Va.	50/0	24	5/0
Chicago	182/32	38	17/0
Cincinnati	65/0	39	6/0
Cleveland	106/4	41	5/0
Dallas	124/23	39	11/1
Denver	67/10	33	10/0
Detroit	212/7	40	34/3
Greensboro, N.C.	73/0	41	20/0
Houston	258/47	38	44/2
Kansas City	161/0	59	11/0
Los Angeles	141/25	52	31/11
Louisville	49/0	43	13/0
Miami	53/5	27	17/0
Milwaukee	126/1	45	12/0
Morgantown, W. Va.	58/0	43	4/0
New Orleans	79/0	35	24/0
New York	681/69	33	24/2
Newark	227/46	39	13/3
Oakland	90/21	43	8/3
Philadelphia	87/0	42	12/0
Phoenix	88/18	46	7/0
Pittsburgh	82/1	33	7/1
Portland	89/10	36	5/0
Price, Utah	13/0	24	4/0
Salt Lake City	48/6	43	7/2
San Diego	57/6	44	12/1
San Francisco	112/57	42	5/2
San Jose	50/11	29	8/2
Seattle	47/5	37	12/0
St. Louis	209/0	26	11/0
Tidewater, Va.	46/0	50	0/0
Toledo	81/4	43	25/0
Twin Cities	195/1	35	17/1
Washington D.C.	95/19	62	26/8
Total sold this week	4,459/436		
Total sold to date	15,030/1,791		538/50
10-week goal	40,000		2,000
Percent of national goal reached	42%		29%
To be on schedule	40%		40%

Major victory at New York's SUNY

BY GEORGE KONTANIS

ALBANY, N.Y. — State University of New York (SUNY) anti-apartheid activists won a major victory September 24 when the board of trustees voted 13-3 to divest the entire New York State University system of \$11.5 million worth of holdings in companies doing business in South Africa.

While the trustees were voting, 200 students from SUNY campuses at Albany, Buffalo, Binghamton, Plattsburgh, and Stony Brook picketed the State University administrative building, chanting "SUNY must divest."

After the vote was announced, students marched to the steps of the State Capitol where another rally was held.

Taking aim at the \$4 billion that New York State has invested in companies doing business in South Africa, students immediately started chanting, "SUNY today, New York tomorrow."

Shelly Wilsey, organizing director for the Student Association of the State University of New York, called for support to statewide protests on October 11.

Waves of clapping and chanting greeted Themba Ntinga, the representative of the African National Congress (ANC), who said, "No one can fault us for using any means necessary to fight for our freedom."

The night before the trustees' vote, 500 students rallied at the Albany campus of SUNY against the university's ties to apartheid.

In one of the largest protests since the movement against the Vietnam War, student anti-apartheid activists saw this protest as a demonstration of the sentiment that exists on the campus against the brutal apartheid regime.

Roger Green, a New York assemblyman, said, "the divestment struggle is an investment in social justice for the Black majority in South Africa." He warned that "New York legislators can't talk about justice and at the same time keep investments in the most oppressive government on the face of the earth."

The ANC representative concluded the rally by telling students that "the African National Congress is for uprooting apartheid. This inhuman system must be totally destroyed in order for our people to be free." The crowd started clapping and chanting in a rising crescendo of solidarity, "ANC, ANC, ANC."

Student conference on South Africa and Namibia

"Now is the time to join forces in the struggle to end all U.S. backing for apartheid in South Africa and Namibia. The student movement has played a vital role in that struggle. Let us build on that legacy in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in southern Africa," says the call to a National

Student Conference on South Africa and Namibia.

The conference is to take place November 1-3 in New York City at Hunter College, Park Avenue and 68th Street.

This will be the first time that student anti-apartheid activists will meet nationally since anti-apartheid protests took place on many campuses last spring and since the very successful October 11 days of protest.

The conference will discuss strategies for divestment and building support for the liberation movement and the mass organizations fighting the racist regime. It will also take up building the National Weeks of Anti-apartheid Action on March 21-April 6 and the April 4 National Protest Day in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

To register and for more information on the conference contact the National Student Conference on South Africa and Namibia, 198 Broadway, Room 402, New York, N.Y. 10038. Telephone (212) 962-1210.

Free the 16 UDF leaders!

A petition demanding the release of 16 Black leaders held since June by the racist apartheid regime in South Africa is being circulated by the New York Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, New York Labor Committee Against Apartheid, and the New York Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Four of the accused —

Published by the New York Area Labor Committee Against Apartheid, c/o Headwear Workers' Joint Board ACTUW

Labor Against Apartheid

South African Labor Leaders Charged with HIGH TREASON

Human Rights Are Not High Treason!

We Petition for the Release of Black Trade Unionists Imprisoned in South Africa

We demand the immediate and unconditional release of four Black leaders of the South African Allied Workers Union who have been framed on charges of high treason, punishable by death. Their only "crime" has been to organize trade unions and protests against the racist system of apartheid.

We also demand an end to the violence against Black trade unionists such as that which took the life of Andries Radebe, an official of the Chemical Workers Industrial Union, who died after being beaten in police custody.

We further demand that the U.S. government break all diplomatic, trade and economic relations with South Africa unless the prisoners are released and this violence against trade unionists ends.

Name _____ Union _____ Address _____

Name _____ Union _____ Address _____

Name _____ Union _____ Address _____

Name _____ Union _____ Address _____

Leaflet and petition distributed by New York Area Labor Committee Against Apartheid and N.Y. Coalition of Black Trade Unionists demands release of jailed South African unionist.

Thozamile Gqweta, Sam Kikkine, Isaac Ngobobo, and Sisa Njikelana — are officers of the South African Allied Workers Union. All are members of the broad-based United Democratic Front.

The 16 leaders are being charged with high treason. If convicted, they face the death penalty.

Anti-apartheid activists are being encouraged to take the peti-

tion to their unions, Black rights, campus, and other organizations.

Petitions can be obtained from the Labor Committee Against Apartheid, c/o Headwear Joint Board, 49 W 37th St., 7th floor, New York, N.Y., telephone (212) 840-0550, or from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, c/o District 65, 13 Astor Pl., 7th floor, New York, N.Y., telephone (212) 673-5120.

Bay Area labor hails Black S. African unionist

BY RICK TRUJILLO

SAN FRANCISCO — An outpouring of solidarity from the union movement and others greeted Thozamile Botha, administrative secretary of the banned South African Congress of Trade Unions, during a three-day tour of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The tour was supported by Transit Workers United Against Apartheid (TWUAA), headed by the presidents of four locals of the Amalgamated Transit Union and one local of the United Transportation Union.

TWUAA sent a letter September 11 to AFL-CIO central labor councils and unions in the San Francisco Bay Area. The letter called on the councils to "build and en-

dorse" Botha's tour and urged unionists to "open their doors in solidarity to the victims of the racist minority government." The Santa Clara County Central Labor Council, as well as the United Farm Workers and several union locals, became endorsers of the tour.

Arriving in the predominantly Black city of East Palo Alto on September 22, Botha was greeted by Mayor Barbara Mouton and City Councilman Omowale Satterwhite.

At a reception in the city council chambers, Botha declared, "We have to meet violence with violence. The African National Congress has embarked on armed struggle after forty years of nonviolent struggle. All other channels have been frustrated and exhausted."

Anti-apartheid activists hold D.C. forum

BY DAVE PAPARELLO

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On September 29 over 40 people attended a Militant Labor Forum where a panel of activists and leaders of the anti-apartheid struggle in the D.C. area presented plans for organizing opposition to U.S. support for the apartheid regime.

Rick DiMassimo of Northern Virginians Against Apartheid stated that "computer firms play an important role in maintaining the pass system in South Africa. We decided to target Control Data and we're organizing a picket line there for October 12."

Marty Ellington, executive director of the Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (SCAR), which has representatives on nearly all the area campuses, explained how the Georgetown University (GU) chapter of SCAR won a \$2 million divestment out of the \$11 million that GU has invested in South Africa. "This was a concession, not a total victory," explained Ellington, "but it was especially important given that both Jeane Kirkpatrick and Chester Crocker, the architect of constructive engagement, are members of the Board of Trustees of G.U."

SCAR is also building the October 11 protest at the White House.

James Winfield, a leader of the Young

Socialist Alliance (YSA), just returned from Denmark and Britain where youth are rebelling against police violence and racism. He said youth in both countries are inspired by the freedom struggle in South Africa.

Dumi Matabane, representing the African National Congress (ANC), said, "They ask, 'What will you do when you have power?' How can you say to a slave, 'before I can fully support your right to be free, I must know, what will you do when you have your freedom?'"

"There is a double standard when it comes to South Africa that reveals their racism. They talk about violence by Blacks against Blacks in South Africa. Did you ever hear them describe the situation in Ireland as whites killing whites?"

The following day another anti-apartheid meeting was held at the University of the District of Columbia campus, sponsored by the Special Activities Committee of the Undergraduate Student Government and the YSA.

The meeting featured a showing of the film *Last Grave at Dimbaza* and a talk by James Winfield.

Six students signed up for more information about the YSA and Winfield was invited by the student government to return next spring to speak at an anti-apartheid rally.

A high point of Botha's tour was the September 24 meeting at the Labor Temple in San Jose, hosted by the A. Philip Randolph Institute and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265. It was endorsed by the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council.

A representative of United Stanford Workers Service Employees International Union Local 680 told the 100 people at the meeting that the local was demanding that Stanford University divest itself of investments in apartheid.

Lola Williams, the first Black elected to the San Jose City Council, welcomed Botha on behalf of the city council. She said she is pressing a resolution before the National League of Cities, demanding that all municipal governments withdraw funds from companies doing business in South Africa.

Carol Webb, recording secretary of the Central Labor Council, sang a Zulu-language union song from South Africa.

Five Mexican-American workers, who are on strike against frozen food plants in Watsonville, brought greetings from their union, Teamsters Local 912. They had traveled 40 miles to voice solidarity with South Africa's Black majority. The unionists asked for support to their strike and received a standing ovation.

That day, Botha sent a message of solidarity to the Teamsters' picket line. "To the working people of Watsonville who are fighting for their unions, I pledge our friendship, solidarity, and support," he said. "The heroic fighters of South Africa salute the heroic fighters of Watsonville."

In his remarks to the Labor Temple meeting, Botha urged "intensification of the international campaign to isolate the South African regime."

Botha received pins, hats, and jackets — and financial contributions — from locals of the painters, molders, and carpenters unions, as well as from locals of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), International Association of Machinists, United Farm Workers, United Auto Workers, and others.

The meeting was co-chaired by Ron

Lind, an organizer for UFCW Local 428 and Sandra Hudnall, president of the Santa Clara County chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

On September 22, about 100 people had greeted Botha at the headquarters of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 87. The meeting was opened by Eric Hall, secretary treasurer of the local.

Jeff Greendorfer spoke for the San Francisco Central Labor Council. He said that the council, which has been organizing protests against the South African consulate and airline office in San Francisco, has passed a resolution calling on all local affiliates to divest pension funds from companies that do business in South Africa.

Greetings from Mayor Gus Newport of Berkeley were brought by Berkeley City Councilwoman Maudelle Shirek.

Howard Pinderhughes, vice-president of the student government at the University of California at Berkeley, appealed for support to anti-apartheid protests being held October 11 and 12.

Other speakers included Mary Deems, vice-president of SEIU Local 535; Oakland City Councilman Wilson Riles; Don Cassidy of Local 28 of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union; and Juan Lombard of SEIU Local 616.

A number of local presidents were among 40 unionists who met with Botha at a September 23 breakfast sponsored by the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 10 in San Francisco.

While in the San Francisco area, Botha also spoke to a gathering of 35 delegates to the Alameda County Central Labor Council; 50 workers at the hall of Iron Workers Local 358, who donated \$300 for Black mine workers in South Africa; and a lunchtime meeting of workers from the Pacific Steel plant, arranged by officers of Molders Union Local 164.

Botha toured Highland Hospital in Oakland during a shift change. At the end of the meeting, he cut a large cake presented to him by SEIU Local 616 with the inscription: "Welcome Brother Botha. We are with you."

Newark anti-apartheid rally set for Nov. 9

Statewide call says action shows unity and solidarity against apartheid

BY MARY ROCHE

NEWARK — Organizers of the November 9 statewide march and rally calling for the abolition of apartheid told an October 8 news conference at the Statehouse in Trenton they expected thousands of demonstrators to take part in the Newark action.

They were speaking on behalf of the New Jersey Anti-apartheid Mobilization Coalition, which has been endorsed by over 200 organizations and prominent individuals. They include trade unions, Black organizations, religious and student groups, women's organizations, and elected national, state, and local politicians.

Coalition speakers told the press that although New Jersey now has a law ordering the withdrawal of all public pension funds from companies doing business with South Africa, the fight against apartheid is not over, and more sanctions are needed on federal and state levels.

Leslie Roberts, regional director for District 65 of the United Auto Workers and a key leader of the coalition, told reporters, "The labor movement has taken the lead in this effort in solidarity with the South African workers who are under attack, and in recognition that our freedom is directly linked to that of our brothers and sisters in South Africa."

Roberts explained that the purpose of the rally "is to heighten the consciousness of the state [of New Jersey] as an ongoing commitment to end apartheid and a brutal and fascist system."

Adrienne Taylor of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), a leader of the successful divestment movement around the state pension funds, also spoke at the press conference. Taylor described the divestment bill as an "important step" in the fight against apartheid. She said, however, that New Jersey must do more to make the state "a role model for the rest of the country, to show there is no compromise, no fallback on our position to oppose apartheid."

Rev. Paul Stagg, general secretary of the

N.J. Council of Churches, predicted that church groups would participate in the march because it is a "call to conscience."

Stagg, in a previous announcement to the press, spoke of "the moral outrage New Jersey residents and all Americans feel at the continuing atrocities perpetrated by the white minority leadership of South Africa."

The coalition, which has regular meetings at the District 65 offices, has asked Republican Thomas Kean to declare November 9 "New Jersey Free South Africa Day."

Thousands of leaflets and other materials, including a commemorative button, are being distributed.

Local coalitions

Another important aspect of the November 9 action is that local coalitions are forming to mobilize people from their localities. For example, a broad coalition from the Newark area is meeting weekly under the auspices of the Newark City Council. They are organizing people in the Newark locality, and plan to print and distribute 100,000 leaflets for the mobilization.

A local coalition has also been meeting regularly in Jersey City. Other areas planning local coalition meetings include Elizabeth, Paterson, and Plainfield.

The coalition has the endorsement of more than a dozen major unions in the state, and local unions are taking the initiative in printing and distributing leaflets. One local is making T-shirts for the action.

The statewide coalition includes, in part, from labor: N.J. Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO; N.J. State Federation of Teachers; District 65, UAW; Region 9, UAW; CWA; District 3, International Union of Electronic Workers; National Union of Hospital and Health Care Workers, 1199J; United Steelworkers of America; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; N.J. State Council, Service Employees International Union; American Postal Workers Union, North Jersey Area; and National Post Of-



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Members of UAW District 65 at 1985 Labor Day march in New York City. District 65 is playing a leading role in organizing the November 9 anti-apartheid march and rally in Newark.

fice Mailhandlers Union.

Endorsers from religious organizations include: Dr. Paul L. Stagg, general secretary, N.J. Council of Churches; Rev. Caleb Oates, president, General Baptist Convention; and Dr. Edward Verner, president, Newark-North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen.

Endorsements from elected officials include: Newark Mayor Kenneth Gibson; Jersey City Mayor Anthony R. Cucci; Newark City Councilman Donald Tucker; Deputy Speaker, N.J. General Assembly Willie Brown; and Jersey City Council President Glenn Cunningham.

Other endorsements are: N.J. State Coalition of Labor Union Women; N.J. National Organization for Women; Young Socialist Alliance; N.J. Chapter, National Black Independent Political Party; N.J. Divest; N.J. Sane; Rutgers CISPES; and the Socialist Workers Party.

More information on building the November 9 action can be obtained from UAW District 65, AFL-CIO, 455 Green St., Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095. Phone (201) 636-9200.

Mary Roche works for EXXON and is a member of Teamsters Local 877.

500 demonstrators in Ohio say end U.S. ties to South Africa

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

CLEVELAND — The people of this city sent a message to the U.S. government: "End all U.S. ties to apartheid!" In front of a banner with that slogan some 500 trade unionists, students, and community and church activists took part in the National Day of Anti-apartheid Protest October 11.

The rally was held at the union hall of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 880.

Other banners on the platform read "Free Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners," and "Labor solidarity knows no borders."

Shuping Coapoge of the African National Congress hit the proposed "reforms" of the apartheid system put forward by the racist South African regime. "Apartheid cannot be reformed. Apartheid must be destroyed," he said.

Warren Davis, director of United Auto Workers Region 2, said South Africa government and business leaders "are only talking reform because they are being overwhelmed, like U.S. corporations were overwhelmed by the labor movement here in the '20s and '30s." The UAW official demanded that the apartheid regime release ANC leader Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

Davis said, "American labor is committed for the duration of this war to bring down this vicious, dehumanizing system."

Also speaking at the rally was Nomonde Ngubo, a founding member of the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa and now an international representative of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

Ngubo explained the issues in the year-long UMWA strike against the A.T. Massey Coal Company. Massey is trying to bust the union. She explained that the company is owned by two corporations, "Royal Dutch Shell and Fluor, both of which have extensive holdings in South Africa — holdings that enhance its antilabor drive here in the United States."

The U.S. trade union movement, she added, should take actions to demand "an end to investment in South Africa and an end to trade with South Africa." She said the UMWA will host a delegation from the South African miners' union to win solidarity for their struggle.

Dozens of trade union officials, prominent Black leaders and religious figures had endorsed the Cleveland rally.



Militant/Paul Mailhot

Nomonde Ngubo, a founding member of the South African miners union, now on UMWA staff.

Statewide call demands 'Abolish apartheid'

Following is the text of "A Call To Conscience" appealing for support in building a November 9 anti-apartheid action in Newark, New Jersey. Anti-apartheid demonstrators will meet at Essex Community College, 303 University Ave., Newark, and march to the rally site at Military Park, Park Place and Broad Street in Newark.

The New Jersey Anti-Apartheid Mobilization Coalition is calling on all people of the State to take action against the institutionalized system of racial oppression in South Africa known as apartheid. We are a broad-based coalition of religious organizations, labor unions, and student and community groups. Our call to action is issued to dramatize our unity and solidarity in resistance to apartheid; to focus on the impact of apartheid on the quality of our lives in the United States; and to raise consciousness with respect to an evil we can no longer endure. BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY WE CAN

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

This call goes forth at a time when the South African government remains intransigent. While the Botha government claims reform is taking place, Black South Africans today are still being arrested, brutalized, murdered, silenced, and denied their basic human rights. We will not be content with a facade of change. Apartheid cannot be "reformed" or "constructively engaged." Freedom cannot be bartered away or negotiated piecemeal. We cannot rest until apartheid is totally abolished.

We have a moral responsibility to remove all support from the South African regime — economic, diplomatic, cultural, and political. We believe that all people are endowed with inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These rights are all denied to Black people in South Africa. This is a clarion call that these rights be realized by *all* people in South Africa. IF THEY ARE NOT FREE — WE ARE NOT FREE!

Morgantown meeting gets report on S. Africa campaign of UMWA

BY SARA LOBMAN

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — "A free South Africa will bring new freedom not only to my people but to yours as well." With these words Nomonde Ngubo concluded her talk here attended by 70 people October 9.

Ngubo was recently added to the international staff of the United Mine Workers of America to work on the UMWA campaign against apartheid.

Her presentation opened three days of anti-apartheid activities that included a significant amount of support from the UMWA.

"The growth of the South African trade union movement," she explained, "along

with the upsurge of the Black masses in general, has shaken the South African government. Apartheid cannot be reformed — it must be abolished.

Speaking at the October 9 meeting and at a rally two days later was Steve Weber, international executive board member of the UMWA.

He told the rally of 150 at the courthouse square that the UMWA actively supports divestment and economic sanctions against South Africa.

Also speaking at the rally was William Chisana of the African National Congress and Betty Justice, vice-president of West Virginians Against Apartheid.

Thousands protest against apartheid

2,000 in Los Angeles: 'Free Nelson Mandela'

BY SUE SKINNER

LOS ANGELES — Two thousand demonstrators, mostly Blacks, marched through one of the busiest shopping districts in the Black community here demanding the release of Nelson Mandela and all South Africa's political prisoners, total sanctions against the South African regime, and an end to U.S. support to apartheid.

The October 12 march was organized by the Los Angeles Free South Africa Movement (LAFSAM). It led off the procession with a huge banner carried by a number of Black celebrities, elected officials, and church and community leaders.

Contingents were organized by trade unions, campus antiwar and Central America solidarity groups, many Black community-based organizations, and churches.

Chants of "Free the people, free the land, free all South Africans!" and "Jail Botha, free Mandela!" rang out as marchers continued down Martin Luther King Boulevard. Hundreds waved from apartment building windows, poured out of shops and homes, honking their horns and raising their fists in solidarity as the march passed by. Many joined in with the demonstration.

Hundreds of bright yellow posters were displayed in the majority of stores along the march route. Two big banners hung across Crenshaw Avenue announcing the October 12 event.

Front page articles announcing the march appeared in the city's largest Black newspapers.

The NAACP contingent carried placards reading "Stop racism in South Africa!" Some high school students changed their signs to read "Stop racism in South Central!" South Central is a predominantly Black section of Los Angeles.

The march ended at Leimert Park where an enthusiastic rally of entertainment and speakers continued for several hours.

Ed Waters, coordinator of the LAFSAM, chaired the program. Waters began by introducing actor and former football star Jim Brown. He denounced apartheid as "the most abominable system the world has ever known."

A host of elected national, state, and local officials gave greetings to the rally or were introduced.

Rita Walters, president of the Los Angeles Board of Education, promised that the school board was going to do whatever "we can to make sure its funds were not invested in South Africa."

Los Angeles City Council President Pat Russell presented Waters with a recently passed resolution by the city council to divest its funds in companies doing business in South Africa and demanded that Nelson

Mandela and all South Africa's political prisoners be freed.

Russell told the crowd that the resolution passed unanimously because of the "climate that you have created in Los Angeles."

Themba Velakuzi, vice-chair of the executive board in the United States of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), brought greetings from the struggling masses in South Africa.

A number of entertainers performed. One 15-year-old singer, Bruce Williams, dedicated his song "Free the people" to all young people in South Africa. The crowd joined in with him as he sang "Down with apartheid blow by blow."

'Get the hell out of South Africa'

BY JAMES WINFIELD

NEW YORK — "Reagan will never free South Africa. Only you will, Mandela will, Reverend Boesak will! Don't let the government break your spirit! Stand tall and stay united." That's what Reverend Tubaiku, leader of the struggle in South Africa and schoolmate of Bishop Desmond Tutu, had to say to more than 1,000 youthful demonstrators here on October 11.

The protest — part of the National Anti-apartheid Protest Day — began with a rally in front of the headquarters of Citibank and Citicorp followed by a march to the South African consulate.

The mostly youthful, Black demonstrators cheered wildly as Tanaquil Jones, a leader of Columbia Coalition for a Free South Africa, took the platform to denounce U.S. ties to the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. She explained that Citibank is one of the principal international banks that prop up the South African regime with loans. "Our academic careers are on the line and we don't care. We are here to say 'U.S. corporations — get the hell out of South Africa!'"

The rally attracted many workers from the banks and offices surrounding Citicorp, as well as student contingents from Columbia, Hunter College, New York University, Bronx Community College, Pace College, and high school and elementary school youth.

Jim Bell, New York chairperson of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of District 65 of the United Auto Workers, spoke on the importance of trade unions taking a leading role in the struggle against apartheid.

Robinson told the crowd about an important trade union struggle that has been unfolding in Dublin, Ireland. There, workers at Dunnes have been out on strike for over 15 months demanding the chain store stop



Militant/Nelson Blackstock

October 11 anti-apartheid protest in Los Angeles

carrying South African goods. (See story on page 20.)

Bell said, "We as unionists and students must take the struggle to the docks," referring to the need for U.S. workers to take effective action to demand that our government break all trade ties with the outlaw Pretoria regime.

This theme was echoed in remarks by Jesse Jackson. "We must refuse all handling of all goods from South Africa. The structure of apartheid is coming apart and we must make sure that it ends!"

"What we are struggling for is the dignity of 22 million people, for their right to vote, to have land," Jackson said. "We are struggling to free Nelson Mandela. What we're talking about is Mandela for president and Pieter Botha in jail!"

Representatives from the African National Congress, South West Africa People's Organization — the group leading the fight against South Africa's rule of Namibia — and Josh Nessim of the American Committee on Africa also spoke. Ruben Blades, the salsa performer star, was present to show a new video of internationally known musicians opposed to apartheid.

Spirited rally held at White House

BY CHARLES OSTROFSKY

WASHINGTON D.C. — Two hundred fifty students held a spirited rally in front of the White House the afternoon of October 11, capping off a morning of anti-apartheid activities on local campuses.

The Washington D.C. Student Coalition

Against Apartheid and Racism (SCAR) organized the rally to protest the U.S. government's pro-South Africa policy of "constructive engagement." The students demanded "Free Nelson Mandela," "Divest now!" and a free South Africa.

They called on the president to make a complete break with the racist South African government and to work for the release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela and other South African political prisoners.

"Youth are organizing in the Philippines, Chile, and here in Washington, D.C. No student is free until all of us are free," said a speaker from the South African Student Committee.

A number of student leaders from area campuses spoke and reported on the anti-apartheid struggle at their campuses.

The rally organizers invited the participants to attend the National Student Conference on South Africa and Namibia that will be held in New York City on November 1 at Hunter College.

At the South African embassy more than 100 protesters heard Randall Robinson of the Free South Africa Movement explain that the protesters were part of the "longest running, nonstop demonstration in American history."

Twenty-four people were arrested at the embassy.

400 march and rally in Cincinnati

BY MORRIS STARKSKY

CINCINNATI — Four hundred opponents of apartheid, the majority of them Black, marched and rallied in this city's downtown. Many wore their union jackets and marched in contingents behind their local banners.

A large banner near the head of the October 12 march proclaimed "Cincinnati Labor Council, AFL-CIO."

The march and rally were endorsed by 20 unions and over 30 groups and prominent individuals.

Speakers at the rally included Solly Simelane, representative of the African National Congress; Leonard Ball, a representative of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Henry Nicholas, district president, Hospital and Health Care Employees 1199; Dan Radford, executive secretary-treasurer, Cincinnati Labor Council; Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth; and others.

Three hundred students, faculty, and unionized workers at the University of Cincinnati held an on-campus rally against apartheid October 11. Speakers included Solly Simelane; Jim Baroni, UC student body president; Monica Plear, president of the Black Student Association; and Dan Petty, president of the UC chapter of AFSCME.

After the rally there was a march to the administration building to demand that UC end its investments in South Africa.

'IP' on farmers in Sweden, New Zealand

Farmers in the United States are not the only independent producers on the land that have been fighting worsening conditions. In Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand farmers have been protesting too.

The November 4 issue of *Intercontinental Press* carries articles on the growing crisis of exploited farmers in two of those countries — Sweden and New Zealand.

The article from Sweden by Solweig Ellström presents a background to the current situation. She describes the class structure of the Swedish countryside and the history of government policies over the past 50 years. These policies have mainly aided the better-off capitalist farmers and helped to throw tens of thousands of "inefficient" farmers off their farms.

From New Zealand, Rob Gardner describes the Labour government's recent moves to let farmers fend for themselves on the "free market." This has led to increasing

bankruptcies and forced farm sales.

The current October 21 issue of *IP* reprints an interview with African National Congress President Oliver Tambo that originally appeared in the August 12 issue of the West German weekly, *Der Spiegel*.

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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South Africa

Growing Rift
in Ruling Class

Anti-apartheid fighters win right to protest

BY MIKE TABER

HOUSTON — A spirited march of 700 anti-apartheid demonstrators was held in downtown Houston, followed by a rally on the steps of City Hall.

Even before the marchers gathered, the Free South Africa Movement had already won an important victory for the anti-apartheid movement and for democratic rights. After initially denying a permit for the march, based on a restrictive city ordinance, the city government of Mayor Kathryn Whitmire was forced to back down following a public protest campaign. The city council, with the signature of Whitmire, subsequently issued a proclamation to make October 11 and 12 Anti-apartheid Days in Houston.

Included in the predominantly Black crowd were official contingents of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Locals 4-367 and 4-227 from the Shell and Arco oil refineries, some striking members of Service Employees International Union Local 706 in Beaumont, Texas, and from the Texas State Employees Union.

The Houston Central Labor Council's endorsement of the day's event also gave a big impetus to union participation in the anti-apartheid movement. Other union locals showed videos about South Africa at their meetings and lent their support to the October 12 activities.

Chairing the rally was Ada Edwards, representing the Free South Africa Movement, which sponsored the march and rally.

Nana Mahono, program director for the AFL-CIO African-American Labor Center, called for the total elimination of apartheid and compared the Black struggle in South Africa to that in the United States.

Rep. Mickey Leland, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus who is planning a fact-finding trip to South Africa, criticized the Reagan administration's policy of "constructive engagement." Attacking corporations doing business in South Africa, Leland declared, "The time for divestment is now!"

Other speakers at the rally included Rev. Francis Williams, minister of the Antioch Baptist Church, which mobilized many of its members to attend the event; Susanna Ounei, a leader of the struggle against the apartheid-like oppression faced by the native population of the French-ruled Pacific island of New Caledonia; the president of the University of Houston Black Students Union; Mary Pritchard, from the National Black Independent Political Party; a representative from the Committee for a Democratic Palestine; and others.

San Diego protest hits South Africa

BY SYLVIA HANSEN
AND MARI HAWKES

SAN DIEGO — Shouting "Freedom yes, apartheid no!" and "Free Mandela!" more than 400 people participated in the Anti-apartheid Protest Day here October 12. The protesters marched from Lincoln High School to Martin Luther King Park for a rally keyed by Vusi Shangase, West Coast representative of the African National Congress.

The October 11 Anti-apartheid Coalition, organizers of the activity, had broad support from the community. Working out of the local NAACP offices, the coalition obtained the endorsement from a variety of Black, student, religious, and union organizations. Labor support came from the San Diego-Imperial Counties Central Labor Council, International Association of Machinists Local 1125, IAM District 50, United Auto Workers Local 506, United Domestic Workers, United Farm Workers, Musicians union, leaders of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, American Federation of Teachers, and the Utility Workers union.

At the rally Shangase explained that apartheid is the result of a colonial, racist, and capitalist system. In order to abolish apartheid, the South African state itself must be destroyed and a democratic state



Members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union at Portland rally. Hundreds of unionists participated in anti-apartheid rallies across the country.

run by the people must be created.

He called for people in the United States to help by demanding the release of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners, withdrawing money from banks and companies investing in South Africa, closing all South African consulates, imposing mandatory sanctions to stop financing apartheid, and boycotting South African goods.

He said, "We will one day say thank you and that day will not be very far. That thank you will be by dismantling apartheid and giving power to the South African people." He received a standing ovation.

Speaking for the Central Labor Council, Joe Francis called for divestment. He said that the South African government is trying "to crush the Black labor movement because it is a potent force for change. Wherever labor and human rights are denied, freedom is threatened everywhere."

Dolores Huerta of the United Farm Workers said that we are going to have to have a lot more marches and arrests in opposition to apartheid. She said, "We'll have to take the movement to the doorsteps of businesses. If companies won't stop doing business with South Africa, we'll stop doing business with them."

Saturday's march and rally were the culmination of two days' activities in San Diego. On Friday hundreds of students held demonstrations on their campuses and a rally was held downtown in front of the Federal Building.

Ellen Haywood, national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance, addressed the largest campus rallies, held at San Diego State University and at the University of California. She drew the connections between Washington's support to Pretoria and its support to other dictatorial regimes, like those of Pinochet in Chile and Nicaragua when it was ruled by Somoza. "All U.S. ties to the apartheid regime must be broken," she said, expressing the sentiment of the protesters.

700 students rally for divestment

BY ANNA SCHELL

PITTSBURGH — Over 700 students, faculty members, and staff rallied at the University of Pittsburgh here on October 11 to protest the university's investment in corporations doing business in South Africa.

They were supported by a number of groups including District 1199-P of the National Hospital and Health Care Employees, members of which brought union banners, and the Pittsburghers Against Apartheid, a coalition that is organizing for a

citywide demonstration on October 19.

The students and faculty who spoke took up arguments against divestment made by the university's regents. The speakers explained why divestment would help the struggle against apartheid. They refuted the regents' contention that the Sullivan principles were being applied in South Africa and were beneficial to the struggle for freedom by South Africa's Black majority. Among other things, these principles call for the "freedom of mobility of Black workers" and inclusion of Blacks in management.

Rasheed Soundiata, a student leader representing the Black Action Society, stressed the fact that this was just the beginning of protests to force the University of Pittsburgh to divest.

After the October 11 action, students met and decided on further activities. Black fraternity and sorority members set up tables at the University of Pittsburgh to gather signatures of students demanding that the University divest. In addition, students from Carnegie-Mellon University, several blocks away, participated in the October 11 activity and are planning their own demonstration on October 18 to demand that their university divest.

'Freedom yes, apartheid no'

BY K. C. ELLIS

PORTLAND, Ore. — Chanting "Freedom yes, apartheid no!" and "Free the land, free the land — South Africa will be free!" nearly 500 people demonstrated their opposition to racist South Africa in a march through downtown Portland.

The October 12 day of protest was sponsored by Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAF) and endorsed by many civil rights, labor, church, campus, Central America solidarity, and women's rights organizations. Many endorsers, including the Portland chapter of the National Organization for Women, organized contingents to march behind their own banners.

Trevor Fowler, regional representative of the African National Congress, was the featured speaker at the rally following the march. He explained that today "over 150 centers of resistance against apartheid exist in South Africa. That resistance, along with your efforts to impose sanctions, is shaking the South African economy. Your efforts are making a difference."

Over a half-dozen labor unions endorsed the demonstration. On the platform at the rally Bob Baugh, secretary-treasurer of the Oregon AFL-CIO, stated, "I'm here to say: solidarity with the ANC and with every-

body here trying to defeat apartheid!"

Julia Hicks of the Pacific Northwest Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union was one of the best-received speakers. She said, "Blacks could bring South Africa's President Botha and his government to their knees."

Other speakers included Ron Herndon, Black United Front; Herb Cawthorne, Urban League; Rev. John Garlington; Bobbi Gary, Grey Panthers; and Richard Beetle, Portland Labor Committee on Central America and the Caribbean.

Ollie Smith, assistant to Portland Mayor Bud Clark, presented Trevor Fowler with a framed proclamation declaring October 11 and 12 "days of protest against apartheid."

On October 11, 75 students rallied at Portland State University and 200 students marched at Reed College in Portland. Elsewhere in the state rallies took place October 11 in Corvallis and Ashland, while more than 1,000 people marched to the Federal Building in Eugene following a rally at the University of Oregon.

Farm worker strikers join Arizona rally

BY KATHY OWEN

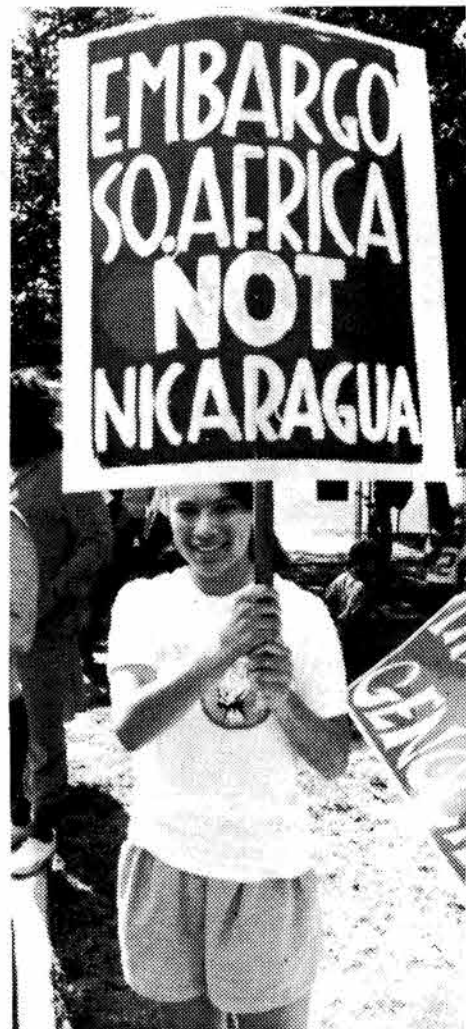
PHOENIX — Over 100 people gathered at the Capitol here October 11 for a rally sponsored by Students Against Apartheid and the Arizona Coalition Against Apartheid. Speakers included Siphos Cele of the African National Congress; Pat Cantelme, Central Arizona Labor Council; Rev. Warren Stewart, First Institutional Baptist Church; and State Rep. Art Hamilton, a Democrat.

The rally also heard representatives from the National Organization for Women, NAACP, and speakers from a number of area churches.

Participants in the rally included activists in the Central American refugee sanctuary movement, high school and college students, and union members — including members of the International Association of Machinists, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, United Steelworkers of America, and the Arizona Farm Workers (AFW).

AFW members at the rally included a group of workers on strike against White Wing Ranch, which is owned by a major bank in the area. Members of the union also distributed leaflets publicizing an upcoming rally at the offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, part of a national day of justice for immigrants and refugees.

Earlier in the day, Siphos Cele addressed 50 students at Arizona State University.



Sign at Los Angeles action

Nicaraguans build vegetable canning plant

New complex will increase agricultural production in Sébaco Valley

BY BILL GRETTHER

SÉBACO, Nicaragua — Sixty thousand acres of rich farmland make up the Sébaco Valley. Straddling the Pan American Highway in the mountains of north-central Nicaragua, the valley is not extremely large — from anywhere in it one can see the surrounding mountains on all sides. But the land is flat and fertile, and all of it is suitable for modern agriculture.

"There is only one disadvantage," says Salvador Lanzas, pointing to a field of withered sorghum that will never bear a crop. "We get very little rain here."

"But there's also one big advantage," he continues. "There's enough water under the ground to irrigate the whole valley, if we can build the irrigation systems to do it."

Lanzas is the director of the Oscar Benavides company, a government-owned corporation that operates a number of rice and cattle farms here.

Live in remote areas

As a result of decades of U.S. domination, Nicaragua has an underdeveloped economy based on agriculture. Very little industry exists in the country. What does exist is mostly agroindustry.

Thousands of peasants live in remote, mountainous areas, working unproductive land with backward techniques. Productivity in many cases is barely above the subsistence level.

For Nicaragua's workers' and peasants' government, increasing agricultural production is an essential first step toward developing the country's productive capacity and raising the living standards of the Nicaraguan people.

The government has developed an ambitious plan to modernize agriculture in the Sébaco Valley. The centerpiece of that plan is an important new agroindustrial complex, the Sébaco Valley canning plant.

Its director, Aníbal Guerrero, describes the operation as a "vertical organization" that goes all the way from planting and harvesting the crops, to processing and canning, and even includes a factory to make the cans to put the vegetables in.

Plant will open in 1985-86 season

The plant will begin operation in the 1985-86 season, producing a small amount of canned tomatoes. Operating at full capacity four years from now, it will produce almost 60,000 tons of vegetables. Nearly half of this will be fresh produce for the domestic market. The rest will be canned vegetables for export.

In addition to tomatoes, the enterprise will produce fresh cabbage, carrots, and cucumbers. Peppers, corn, and beans will be sold, both fresh and canned. Other canned goods will include broccoli, cauliflower, and okra — all now completely unknown to the Nicaraguan diet.

Mixed vegetables, vegetables and meat in tomato sauce, and dried onions will also be produced. Crops will be rotated to keep the canning plant running throughout the year.

"Nothing like this now exists in Nicaragua," Guerrero explained. "This is the first integrated enterprise of this type on this scale."

It is now projected that the plant will employ nearly 2,000 workers, both agricultural and industrial, and generate \$13 million a year in foreign exchange earnings. In doing so, it will fulfill some of the stated goals of the project: to create jobs, reduce imports of food, meet the domestic demand, and increase export income.

But underlying all of these goals is the fundamental one that will make all of the others possible: to raise the technological level of agriculture throughout the area.

Will spread technology to coops

The Sébaco Valley canning plant will need some 3,000 acres of land to produce the vegetables it will process. Under irrigation, two or three crops a year are possible, making, in effect, 7,000 acres planted.

The factory will own only 35 percent of the land needed, which it will cultivate using the most advanced techniques feasible. It will buy produce from 16 peasant cooperatives in the valley. And it will have a very strong influence on their functioning, spreading agricultural technology to the coops.

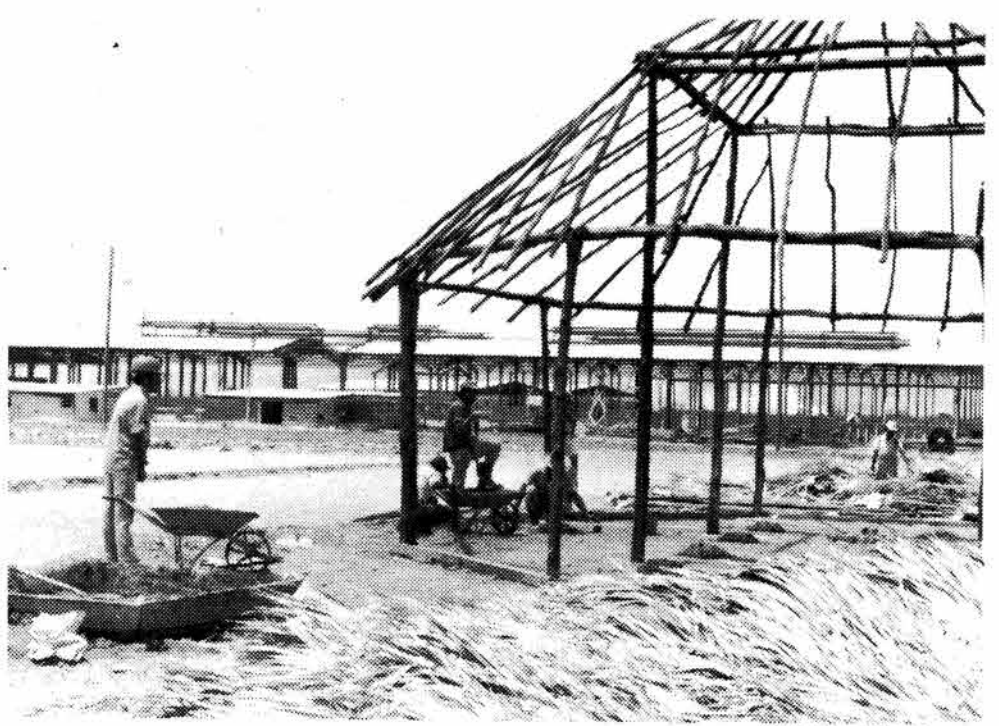
"Technification" is the watchword of Nicaraguan agriculture today. At the Sébaco Valley's vegetable processing plant, technification means irrigation, rotation of crops, new and more productive varieties, and semimechanized harvesting.

At the north end of the valley the Oscar Benavides company is working to technify the production of beef, one of Nicaragua's most important products. The company has three divisions that raise cattle and one that produces rice. Each consists of three or four farms taken over from the dictator's cronies after the overthrow of Anastasio Somoza six years ago.

"At first we tried to do a little of everything," Salvador Lanzas says. "Now we concentrate on cattle and rice."

The company buys steers from private farmers and fattens them for market by feeding them a balanced diet. "This is completely new here," according to Lanzas. "The traditional way is to let the cattle wander anywhere, eating whatever they want. The average Nicaraguan cattle farm has seven acres for each head of cattle."

The Oscar Benavides company has 6,000 head of cattle. Its farms need only one-third of an acre to raise the sorghum



Sébaco Valley vegetable canning plant under construction

Militant/Bill Grethter

and hay for each of them, if they have the machinery for irrigation and the tractors to plant and harvest.

A junkyard at one of the farms testifies to the difficulty of meeting these two requirements. Half of the scrapped vehicles are U.S.-built trucks and tractors that can no longer be kept running without repair parts. These are now impossible to obtain because of the U.S. government's trade embargo against Nicaragua. The other vehicles were destroyed by CIA-trained mercenaries in an attack a year ago.

Farm workers deal with U.S. embargo

Farm workers have responded in several innovative ways. Some of the trucks that no longer run have been converted into wagons. And at one of the farms, a partially destroyed tractor has been turned into a stationary irrigation pump.

The Sébaco Valley has long been dominated by big landowners who grow rice. Many of them remain, living in elegant haciendas, with luxurious gardens and swimming pools.

On the big farms the technification of rice production is well established. The fields are planted by distributing the seeds from airplanes. With irrigation, the amount of water in the fields can be precisely controlled to guarantee germination. Transplanting is not necessary, and two crops a year are possible.

The Oscar Benavides company, a product of Nicaragua's agrarian reform, is now competing with these capitalist farmers, using the same advanced methods. "We produce over 50 hundredweight of rice per acre," Lanzas said, "and we're really proud of that. It's equal to what the private farms get, or even a little better. And they have 20 years more experience than we do."

As the company has developed its areas of specialization over the last six years, some of the expropriated farms it used to manage have been turned over to peasant cooperatives. Sandinista leaders frequently describe this as "giving the land back to its rightful owners."

Over a period of many decades, Nicaragua's peasants were steadily driven off the best land as the large farms expanded. Many now live in remote areas beyond the "agricultural frontier," presenting several problems for government planners.

One is organizing to defend these isolated farms from attack by counterrevolutionary terrorists, which is very difficult.

Continued on next page

More pledges needed to put \$125,000 fund on schedule

BY FRED FELDMAN

The drive to raise the \$125,000 Socialist Publication Fund by November 15 currently stands at \$92,620 pledged and \$20,892 paid. With only four weeks to go, a concerted effort is needed to get the fund on schedule.

The most immediate step in assuring that the drive is completed in full and on time is to bring the pledges up to the \$125,000 goal. This can be accomplished quickly in the course of fundraisers' political activity on the job and as part of their participation in the anti-apartheid movement, as well as the struggle against U.S. military intervention in Central America and the Middle East. The key to meeting the fund goals, explained Nelson Blackstock, who is organizing the November 9 Socialist Publication Fund rally in Los Angeles, is "to go where the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* go."

"This means reaching out to the wide range of people — including coworkers, anti-apartheid activists, and others — who read the socialist publications and want to contribute to their expansion."

Supporters of the fund set a goal of raising \$9,000. So far \$8,550 has been pledged, and \$2,280 collected.

Socialists who are members of industrial unions are meeting to discuss how to involve their coworkers who read the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, or other

socialist publications in the rally and other aspects of the drive.

The Los Angeles fundraisers think it may be possible, with this kind of consistent political organization of their efforts, to meet and even surpass their target. Mac Warren, National Organization Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, will be one of the featured speakers.

Los Angeles is one of 40 cities where Socialist Publication Fund rallies will be held this fall. They will address the vital contributions that the socialist publications make to the struggles of workers and farmers around the world.

For example, the list of speakers at the October 19 Socialist Publication Fund rally in New Orleans is a sign of the support that can be won. Scheduled to appear are Rev. Jerome Owens, a coordinator of the local anti-apartheid coalition; Marielos Hernandez, a participant in the struggle against U.S. intervention in Central America; and Cindy Lorr, a member of the reproductive rights task force of the National Organization for Women.

Contributions from *Militant* readers will be a vitally important part of meeting the \$125,000 goal and continuing the advances made by the socialist publications. Readers who wish to make a contribution, or a pledge to be paid over the next several weeks, should fill out and return the coupon.

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*, 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.

\$125,000

Socialist Publication Fund
Where we stand
Pledged: \$92,620

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Life for farmers in northern Nicaragua town of Villa Nueva

BY BILL GRETTHER

VILLA NUEVA, Nicaragua — María got up earlier than usual on Monday morning, September 9. A farm worker came to the porch where I was sleeping, knocking on her door, calling, "Get up, María. It's 2:30 already."

The evening before, her husband Pablo had slaughtered three hogs. They cleaned them and cut up the meat. In the morning María cooked the pieces of skin and fat in a huge kettle over a wood fire. Dried pork rind and lard were the most popular items when customers began to arrive at 4:30 a.m.

They came to the house in a steady stream all morning long, carrying plates or bowls to put the meat in and bottles for hot lard: women with children, young men in army pants with spurs on their boots, small boys and girls with precise instructions from their mothers.

Pablo greeted them all as friends, introducing many of them to me. "Familia," he said, in many cases — relatives. About half of the people I met were related to him.

'New Town'

Villa Nueva is a town of 14,000 people, a little more than 10 miles from the Honduran border, at the far northern end of Nicaragua's Pacific Coast. From Chinandega, a paved road leads north, turning first to the east, and then back to the west. The last Nicaraguan town on the road is Somotillo. Shortly before that, a dirt road turns off. Three miles down that road is Villa Nueva, which means "New Town." Pablo Morales, 51, was born and raised here.

The town is neat and orderly; the streets dusty and unpaved, but smooth. The houses are fairly large, mostly of brick with tiled roofs, set right out to the street with fenced yards between them. There are some horses and a few jeeps, but no private cars.

Chinandega Province is generally considered cotton country, but sugarcane and cattle are also important. Innumerable small farmers raise a wide variety of other crops, including corn, beans, rice, and vegetables for domestic consumption; sorghum and hay for fodder; and sesame for export.

Pablo owns a 350-acre farm outside of town devoted mostly to cattle. He is one of the town's leading members of UNAG, the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers.

Compared to most Nicaraguan working people, Pablo is quite well off. Compared to other farmers he is "medium." The majority of farmers here are considered "small," with farms of 10 or 15 acres or even less. Many of these farmers are now organized into cooperatives.

There are also "large" farmers here, with 10 times more land or cattle, and 10 times more income, than Pablo.

Pablo's farm

Tuesday we went to the farm. It was a typical day. We got up, drank black coffee with sugar, and walked five blocks to the center of town.

Beside the main square, in front of the church, the bus was loading. Inside the church a handful of women and children attended mass. Outside, 80 people crowded into a bus designed for half that number. Many of them were women with children, going to market.

A concrete column beside the road marks the path that leads to Pablo's farm. The farm itself does not have access to the main road. We got off the bus and began to walk. It took about 40 minutes to reach the farm.

At one point we waded across a river. In the dry season the water is barely a foot deep, and crossing is easy. But it can be seen clearly that at times the river is much higher. Then you take the long way around, approaching the farm from a road that leads in from the other side.

The farmhouse is at the top of a small hill. When we reached the farm, Tomás, one of three workers, was just finishing milking. Of the 80 head of cattle on the farm, 27 are now producing milk. It takes

several hours to milk them by hand.

Tomás is a friendly man of about 25, quiet but not shy. He spent four years in the Sandinista Army in the border patrol troops along the Honduran frontier.

The milk produced on the farm is poured into a wooden trough carved out of a single gigantic log. The cream that rises to the top after several hours is scooped off. Then an enzyme and salt are added. The milk thickens to form *cuajada*, a soft cheese.

Farm productivity in Cuba

Uriel and Nelson, two of Pablo's children, work with him on the farm. Sometimes they sleep in the farmhouse, and sometimes in the house in town. The other two children, a son and a daughter, are studying in Cuba.

Pablo was in Cuba earlier this year, and was impressed by the high productivity of the farm cooperatives. He told me he visited farms that produced "truckloads of milk, truckloads of tomatoes, truckloads of eggs." Nothing in Villa Nueva is done on that scale.

Three young boys, between eight and 12 years old, were at the house when we arrived. Pablo gave them tortillas and coffee for breakfast. They buy the cream and *cuajada* every day, carry it out to the highway, take it on the bus to Somotillo, and market it.

The farm has neither electricity nor running water. But a few modern features stand out: a battery-operated radio that picks up some Nicaraguan and Honduran stations, and a spray can of all-purpose antiseptic for treating a variety of infections in cattle.

Water for the farm comes mostly from rain, which drains from the roof of the house through a series of gutters into a concrete cistern. Since there had been little rain recently, the cistern was empty. After breakfast we went to the river to get water.

Collecting water

First, Tomás yoked the oxen. With leather straps, he lashed a wooden cross-beam to the horns of both animals. Then, with another leather rope, he tied the cart to the beam. The cart itself is made almost entirely of wood.

We put three metal barrels (all with small leaks in them) into the cart to carry water for washing, and three milk cans for drinking water.

When we got to the river, the oxen waded halfway in. Tomás rolled up his pants, took off his boots, and waded in too.

Using the bucket, we filled the barrels with water from the river.

For drinking water, Tomás scoured the shovel with sand, and dug a hole in the sandy bank. He bailed out the dirty water, then let it settle. When the water in the hole was clear he filled a bucket with water for drinking.

Brahman and Brown Swiss

Like many Nicaraguan cattle ranchers, Pablo raises a cross of Brahman and Brown Swiss. Brahman cattle are tolerant of hot weather and are resistant to disease. They are not, unfortunately, very good producers of milk or meat. Crossbreeding with Brown Swiss improves production.

Also like many Nicaraguan ranchers, Pablo does not concentrate on either beef or dairy production, but raises the same breed of cattle for both. The young steers are sold for beef. The cows are kept for milk.

In addition, there are five or six hogs on the farm, and a few chickens and turkeys. Seven acres are planted in corn, to be ground into *masa* for tortillas or fed to the chickens. An equal amount of land is set aside to produce hay for the cattle. Pablo intends to "technify" further in the future, planting sorghum to feed the cattle in the dry season.

Although the farm is by no means a subsistence operation, it does produce a surprising amount of food for the family's use: pork, beef, milk, cheese, eggs, poultry, corn, and honey.

After we got back to the farm, we set off in the opposite direction to gather fire-



Militant/Bill Grether

Farmers line up at mike at September 8 meeting of National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) in northern province of Chinandega.

wood. This time, Pablo drove the oxen and Tomás rode ahead on horseback looking for fallen trees. We cut them up with machetes, loading the firewood into the cart.

When the oxcart was full, we drove back and unloaded the firewood in front of the house. On the way, Tomás cut some wild chiles from the fields, which Pablo added to the soup for lunch, along with pork, onions, plantains, potatoes, and squash. It

was delicious.

We later left the farm on horseback, riding out to the highway to catch the bus. Pablo gave me a spur to strap onto my shoe and set me on a horse which, fortunately, knew what it was doing.

Pablo wants to buy a pickup truck, but they are very expensive. To buy one he would have to sell the team of oxen. He has a third ox which he would keep; he needs it for plowing.

Nicaraguans build plant

Continued from previous page

In addition, the country does not have the resources — particularly transportation — to effectively deliver education, health care, and other social services to the most remote areas. And without technical aid and better land, the peasants cannot become more productive and be integrated into the national economy.

Omar Torrijos coop

The 15 families who make up the Omar Torrijos coop now have 430 acres of good land in the Sébaco Valley. "We used to live up there," says coop President Rodolfo Torres, gesturing toward the mountains east of Sébaco. "Our land was really not very good. In 1981 with the agrarian reform law, we joined together to ask for

land. We got title to this in August 1982."

At first, all of the families lived together in one small wooden building. Now there is a new brick house for each one. The coop has electricity, and a well that provides clean water. Classes are being held in the morning in the community building. Technical aid is provided by a woman agronomist assigned by the ministry of agriculture.

Although resources are very limited, the revolutionary government is putting everything it can into the coops. The goal is to make them attractive enough to draw the peasants out of their isolated homesteads in the mountains, into the more accessible areas, where their productivity — and the country's wealth — can be increased.

Salvadoran freedom fighters hit U.S.-run military base

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) dealt a stunning blow to the Salvadoran dictatorship's army on October 10.

Several hundred FMLN combatants assaulted a large military base and training school run by U.S. officers and occupied it for two hours. They destroyed significant portions of the base and, according to the FMLN radio station Radio Venceremos, killed or wounded more than 200 Salvadoran soldiers.

The action was timed to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the FMLN's founding as a front of five revolutionary groups, each with its own armed units. The groups are: People's Liberation Forces, Communist Party, People's Revolutionary Army, Armed Forces of National Resistance, and Central American Revolutionary Workers Party.

An FMLN statement on the October 10 attack pointed out that the assault on the military base came about through "the national cooperation of all the forces in the FMLN." The statement said that the successful attack demonstrated that "on our fifth anniversary we are advancing toward the establishment of a single revolutionary party and a single people's army."

According to the Salvadoran press service *Notisal*, the base attacked by the FMLN fighters is the main, U.S.-run military training center in El Salvador. Called the Armed Forces Military Instruction Center, the base is located in the port city of La Unión. Some 1,000 Salvadoran troops were receiving training there from U.S. officers.

Notisal said that thus far, the Salvadoran army has admitted that 44 of its troops were killed and 68 badly wounded in the FMLN attack. It reported that nine FMLN fighters fell in the battle.

Socialist Workers Party candidates indict c

In the November elections, Socialist Workers Party candidates are on the ballot in many cities across the country. These are stories about several of the campaigns.

Cleveland

BY TINA JOHNSON

CLEVELAND — The campaign of Henry Scheer, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, climaxed with a debate at the Cleveland City Club September 24.

The debate included Scheer, a garment worker and member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; liberal Republican Mayor George Voinovich; and two liberal Democratic challengers — City Council member Gary Kucinich and James Barrett, nominee of the Committee to Elect a Minority Mayor.

The *Call & Post*, Cleveland's major Black weekly, wrote in a front-page article: "Scheer — the youngest of the three candidates — made an issue of the Lion Knitting Mills, where he's employed.

"Scheer said the \$140 a week he takes home is more than many of his coworkers who aren't doing as well.

"The workers aren't doing well, but the owners are," he said. "They squeeze as much work out of us as possible and pay us as little as they can."

"Scheer said the knitting mills represents a microcosm of society, where the big bankers and big business 'don't give a damn about working people.'"

The *Call & Post* article was circulated widely throughout Scheer's plant and several of his coworkers thanked him for telling the truth about "the hell us working people are catching."

The owners of Lion Knitting Mills weren't so happy. Scheer was called in and told to stop "dragging Lion's good name through the mud."

The *Plain Dealer* and UPI wanted to do some plant tours of the mill to interview Scheer and his coworkers. Management refused to let any media inside. As a result, Scheer conducted three interviews across the street at a bar.

The two Democratic Party contestants made "public safety" and "crime" the focus of their campaigns, promising to hire more cops if elected.

Scheer took this up in the debate. "You want to talk about crime? Right here in Cleveland we have one of the most modern, advanced, and well-known medical institutions in the entire world, the Cleveland Clinic. Yet in the very neighborhood where it's located — the Glenville Black community — infant mortality is the highest in the country! Now that's a crime.

"SOHIO, based in Cleveland, with \$1.4 billion in profits last year, just threw 2,500 Utah copper miners off their job because



Socialist Workers Party nominee Henry Scheer during his campaign for mayor of Cleveland.

they wouldn't accept \$6 an hour cutbacks in their wages and benefits. Now that's a real crime!

"Forty-five percent unemployment among Black Cleveland teenagers is a real crime! Five thousand homeless people in Cleveland is a real crime!

"Cleveland business ties to racist South Africa is a real crime!"

The evening of the debate, Channel 3 News did short profiles of the candidates, followed by a half-hour preference poll. Scheer came in third with 14 percent of the vote.

A nonpartisan primary was held October 1, marked by the lowest voter turnout in Cleveland's history. Only 17 percent of the registered voters went to the polls.

The low voter turnout was summed up by Don Lee, a 26-year-old Black punch press operator who told a reporter, "I thought about voting, but I don't see them doing anything about jobs. They say they're going to do this and that, but we're all in the same predicament."

And by Tony Wicks, a poll worker who said, "I think people feel no matter how they vote, nothing's going to be done about it. A lot of it has to do with no work."

Scheer and Barrett were eliminated in the primary vote, leaving Voinovich and Kucinich to vie in the November 5 general election.

Scheer was credited with 561 votes, 1.1 percent of the total. Commenting on the returns, Scheer said he thought the votes he obtained were significant since he was contesting with Democratic and Republican candidates who all claimed to speak for poor and working people.

"And," Scheer observed, "there was the 83 percent who didn't vote mainly because they knew that whether the Democrats or Republicans won, working people would

lose, and nothing fundamental would change in their lives."

The socialist campaign was an energetic and effective one. Thirteen thousand pieces of literature were distributed emphasizing the theme, "Money for jobs, not war."

And despite the obstacles, a good amount of media exposure was won for the socialist point of view. Wherever he spoke, Scheer said, his ideas were well received.

Newark

BY CHRIS RICHARDSON

NEWARK — Mark Satinoff, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New Jersey, and his supporters have taken the socialist campaign throughout the state, appearing at candidates' nights, joining striking workers on the picket lines, and talking to working farmers.

Campaign issues have included the fight to end U.S. aggression in Central America, what strategy to fight the Ku Klux Klan, and how to clean up the toxic waste dumps that blight the New Jersey landscape.

The socialist candidate is also involved in the movement in opposition to Washington's support to South Africa, and is working to build the statewide demonstration against apartheid set for Newark on November 9.

Satinoff participated in a recent protest against government inactivity on toxic waste cleanup in Kearny, marched with anti-Klan demonstrators in Newark, and

addressed a gathering of the American Association of University Women in May. Earlier, socialist campaigners attended the annual Puerto Rican parade, and a campaign supporter spoke before the New Jersey conference on Puerto Rican Congress in Trenton October 12, explaining the campaign's support for Puerto Rican independence and for bilingual education.

One of the highlights of Satinoff's campaign has been getting out to the rural areas to talk with working farmers. Satinoff and a team of supporters attended the Flemington Fair in Hunterdon County where they distributed a campaign statement and copies of the *Militant*.

The statement was also distributed at a farm coop sale and at a farm sale in Ctown.

The campaign scored a big victory recently by winning the right to campaign at Satinoff's workplace, ITT, a plant organized by the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE). Campaign supporters had been denied the right to pass material at the plant, but the social forced the company to back down.

Satinoff has also participated in joint activities with Andrea González, New York mayoral candidate.

Together they joined the picket line striking IUE members at the New York Sperry plant, and participated in a press conference to declare their support for the New York referendum to bar a Staten Island naval port from berthing nuclear ships.

In the final weeks of the campaign media coverage is increasing significantly. On Tuesday, October 22, the four public service channels will feature a debate among the gubernatorial contenders.

On Wednesday, October 23, at 8 p.m., Satinoff will appear with the other candidates on Cable Channel 8, covering New Jersey.

On Tuesday, October 29, at 3 p.m., he will be interviewed by WWDJ, 970 AM Hackensack.

Boston

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — A proposal to launch an ambitious drive to get out the truth about the historic struggle to desegregate Boston public schools was warmly received by supporters of Kip Hedges, Socialist Workers Party nominee for Boston City Council. Hedges spoke at a rally here October 1.

Hedges told the crowd that such an effort was demanded as a response to "a conscious drive by the rulers of Boston to

Socialists urge yes vote on New

Continued from front page

feelings on the part of New York City workers in opposition to the Navy's home-port project."

Even though the city clerk has certified that the petitions contain sufficient valid signatures, officials are still fighting to keep it off the ballot.

Several Staten Island city council members unsuccessfully challenged the signatures in an effort to get the referendum ruled off the ballot. A suit has been filed against the referendum by the City Corporation Counsel who argues that it is unconstitutional because it would infringe on the federal government's power to provide military defense. Deputy Mayor Alair Townsend is personally coordinating the public relations campaign against the referendum.

Koch and other city politicians have brushed aside justified fears of nuclear accidents with appeals to "patriotism" and "sacrifice." "New Yorkers," Koch declared, "enjoy the advantages of living in the United States; we ought to be willing to assume some of the responsibilities of defending the United States."

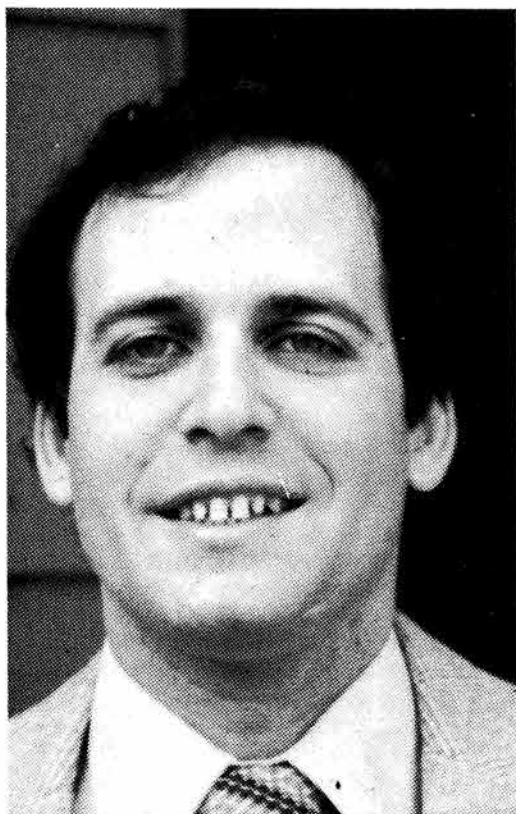
Koch has been joined in his campaign to defeat the referendum by the *New York Times*. In its October 2 editorial, *Times* editors argue that, "New York cannot conduct its own foreign policy. . . . No local community can opt out of the burden of national defense. . . ."

"When the *Times* warns New York that we can't conduct our own foreign policy, what they are saying is that work people in New York, or anywhere else that matter, shouldn't have anything to do about the U.S. government's foreign policy," González charged.

"Whose security and whose defense is it? Koch and the *Times* concerned with safeguarding?" she continued. "Security for working people means having a job; decent wages; education; liveable, affordable housing; a secure retirement; peace."

"Our security is threatened by the U.S. military, which exists to make war against working people around the world, and defend the profits of a class of wealthy bankers, corporate chiefs, and real estate magnates — the capitalist class that runs the country. The home port, like the rest of the military budget, channels resources for desperately needed social services to the U.S. war machine, increasing working people's tax burden."

"Look at the real context for this proposal to build a navy base," urged González. "The U.S. government is sponsoring wars against the Nicaraguan people and propping up the Salvadoran regime that wages war against the workers and farmers in that country. Washington refuses to break all ties with the outlaw apartheid regime in South Africa that murders, jails, and keeps in b



Mark Satinoff, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New Jersey, and Andrea González, for mayor of New York.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

italist rule

write the history of the Black community's battle for equality in the 1960s and '70s."

The centerpiece of the racist drive, he said, is the new book, *Common Ground*, by *New York Times* reporter J. Anthony Lukas.

The book, Hedges explained, is a key ideological weapon in escalated efforts to gut desegregation in Boston. Its publication coincides with the withdrawal of Federal District Judge Arthur Garrity from the school case after 12 years of supervising busing and other desegregation moves. This responsibility is now returned to the control of the Boston School Committee.

Common Ground has been the focus of a massive public relations campaign. It falsely claims to be the definitive work on the busing struggle here.

Scoring the twisted account it offers, Hedges charged that, "It rewrites history by failing to even mention the actions and protests by the Black community to win equality and to defend its use against racist attack."

"It prettifies racist leaders like the notorious Louise Day Hicks," the socialist candidate said, and claims that the rights of whites were the target of "suburban liberals" who allegedly misled Blacks into a fight for school desegregation.

Hedges' campaign supporters agreed to get out the truth about the school issue by distributing hundreds of copies of a new pamphlet published by the campaign committee. It is composed of articles on the struggle selected from the *Militant* newspaper.

To help finance this project, nearly \$600 was raised in response to a fund appeal by Boston SWP leader Don Gurewitz.

San Jose

BY MARY SMITH

SAN JOSE — Student walkouts and community protests have rocked the San Jose Unified School District since September 30 when district officials announced their intention to close San Jose High School. Over 80 percent of the students at San Jose High are Chicano, Black, or Asian. It is the only high school left in the downtown area. It is considered a center of the Chicano community.

Closing the school is the school board's answer to a federal court order to desegregate the district. Under the board's plan, students of oppressed nationalities would bear the burden of implementing desegregation. Three schools in the northern, predominantly Chicano, sections will be closed under the plan. These students would be



1974 Boston school desegregation demonstration. As part of current campaign to gut desegregation, Boston rulers are promoting book, *Common Ground*, which rewrites history of that struggle and makes no mention of pro-desegregation demonstrations. Kip Hedges, socialist candidate for Boston city council, is exposing racist lies concerning desegregation.

bused to the southern, predominantly Anglo, part of the district.

Terry Applegate, Socialist Workers Party candidate for San Jose Unified School Board, joined angry parents, teachers, and students in denouncing the plan.

At an October 7 hearing, she declared, "The school board used tax dollars allocated for education to fight desegregation all the way to the Supreme Court. They lost. Now they are determined to make the victims of their segregationist policies pay even more."

Six hundred parents and students packed a meeting at the Burnette School to hear the board's proposal. Burnette, a middle school in the same area as San Jose High, is also slated to be closed.

Superintendent Ramon Cortines was frequently interrupted by students shouting, "The bus goes both ways!" and "This is apartheid in San Jose!"

Applegate was interrupted by applause several times as she pointed out that the board's plan was a continuation of the racist policies it had pursued for decades. "The board claims it has to close San Jose High because it's the most run-down school in the district. But this board refused to spend the money to improve the high school. Instead it built new schools in Anglo neighborhoods."

Applegate also called for support to the

district teachers and other school employees who have been working without a union contract since last June.

District officials admitted over 20 years ago that the district was segregated, but they blamed it on "neighborhood patterns."

In 1971, parents of Chicano students filed suit, charging the board with deliberately maintaining segregation. Finally, in 1984 a federal appeals court found the district guilty of "segregated intent."

The decision read, "The inescapable conclusion that the board intended segregation emerges from a view of the evidence as a whole."

The evidence included staff and student assignments made on the basis of race, and overcrowding of schools to avoid desegregation. The school board appealed to the Supreme Court. Last April the Supreme Court let the district court finding stand by refusing to hear the case. The present school board plan is purportedly intended to comply with the federal court desegregation decision.

On October 10, Applegate joined picketing at the school board offices by members of the San Jose Teachers Association, an affiliate of the National Education Association. These unionists took a 13 percent pay cut when the school district declared bankruptcy in 1983.

Applegate is a member of the International Association of Machinists, Local 562.

Price

BY JAN STEPHENSON

PRICE, Utah — Joe Geiser, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Price, is an underground coal miner and an active member of United Mine Workers Local 1769.

Geiser, 30, the father of three, came to work in the mines six years ago after a big layoff in the Pittsburgh steel mill where he had worked.

Geiser has been strongly union conscious since he was a youngster. His father is a steelworker and went through a strike struggle in the early '60s that left a lasting impression on his son.

Geiser brought that union consciousness with him to Price, and after being hired in the mine, became active in his union local.

Through his union activities, Joe became convinced that something more was needed, that there had to be some fundamental change in the way society is run.

He met and talked with members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance who were active in his union local and, two years ago, he joined both organizations.

Geiser's campaign for mayor has received a friendly response from his co-workers. A few of the miners would like to see him elected. Others are curious about his socialist ideas.

With a population of 10,000, Price is in a center of western coal, with a number of underground mines close by.

Agriculture is also an important part of the economy here. Nearby Emery County has over 300 farms growing grains and fruits and raising cattle.

About five years ago there was an increase in coal production here. This brought an influx of workers looking for mining jobs and such mining-related ones as rail. But since then there have been substantial layoffs and hundreds of miners are still waiting to get back to work.

One of the issues that marks Price's political terrain is the mine disaster that occurred here Dec. 19, 1984.

Nineteen miners and eight company executives and foremen were killed in a fire that broke out in the Wilberg mine that day. The mine is owned by Utah Power and Light and managed by Emery Mining Corp.

The bodies of the 26 men and one woman who died have not been recovered and there is still discussion in the area about who bears responsibility for what happened.

Many blame Emery for recklessly endangering lives and ignoring safety in its drive to boost production and profits.

The Wilberg fire is one of the issues that Geiser is discussing in his campaign. Geiser's supporters have been putting up an attractive campaign poster and distributing campaign material, including a special statement addressed to the issues facing farmers.

Campaigners have had good discussions on the South Africa issue and the U.S.-sponsored mercenary war against Nicaragua, as well as the drive against the unions in this country.

A mid-September campaign meeting was well attended and included three people who came as a result of door-to-door canvassing. One woman who was visited this way mailed in a campaign contribution.

Recently, campaigners went outside Price, visiting the Ute tribal reservations about 50 miles from here, as well as canvassing from farmhouse to farmhouse. They received a very friendly reception at the reservation and also held a number of good political discussions with farm families.

The local paper, the *Sun-Advocate*, has front-paged Geiser's campaign and he is now seeking radio time. Geiser hopes to speak at some union locals as well as at the high school and college campus.

York antinuke referendum

dage the vast majority of people of that country."

The proposal to homeport the *Iowa* especially dramatizes this point, Satinoff explained. "The *Iowa* is a battleship whose main mission until now has been maneuvers off the coast of Nicaragua, threatening the workers and peasants there as part of the U.S.-backed war aimed at overthrowing the Sandinista people's revolution."

"The United States rulers are the source of war, including the threat of nuclear war," González said. "The United States is the only country that has used the nuclear bomb. The U.S. imperialists," she explained, "have repeatedly threatened to use nuclear weapons against the Korean, Vietnamese, and Cuban peoples during their struggles for national liberation against U.S. domination."

"Peace is not possible," she continued, "until the imperialists are disarmed. The ruling families must be thrown out of power, and replaced by a government of workers and farmers."

"Working people should oppose the rulers war drive and military buildup," González continued. "Today this means actively opposing Washington's aggression in Central America and the Caribbean and its overall military buildup such as the berthing of nuclear ships on Staten Island."

Satinoff added that "there is a clear danger for a potential nuclear accident. A

fire or accident in New York harbor involving a ship with nuclear weapons," he said, "could release deadly plutonium dust, threatening the lives of millions in New York and New Jersey."

Mobilization for Survival, the principal organizer of the Navy port referendum, is planning a number of activities to rally support for the referendum. On October 20 they will hold a jazz festival at the Village Gate, a popular jazz club. On weekends leading up to election day, there are leafletting caravans being organized throughout the city. For more information on these activities contact Mobilization for Survival, 135 W. 4th Street, New York, New York, 10012, or call, (212) 673-1808.

Supporters of González and Satinoff will take the socialist candidates' position on the referendum to Staten Island on October 19 to talk to working people there.

The following week, Andrea González and other opponents of the nuclear Navy port will speak at the Militant Labor Forum at 79 Leonard Street. To help get out the socialist position paper on the nuclear Navy port, or for more information about the forum, contact the SWP campaign headquarters at 79 Leonard Street, New York, New York, 10013 or call (212) 925-1668.

In New Jersey, contact SWP 1985 Campaign, 141 Halsey, Newark, New Jersey, or call, (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

SWP Campaign Rally and Reception

SPEAKERS:

Andrea González, for mayor
Rashaad Ali, for city council pres.
Pat Hayes, for Brooklyn boro pres.

Sunday, Oct. 27, 4 p.m.
79 Leonard St. (5 blocks south of Canal)
(212) 219-3679 Donation: \$3

Resistance by unions to concessions grows

Strikes show stirring in ranks is boosting national-international solidarity

BY TOM LEONARD

There is some stirring in the ranks of labor in response to a decade-long government-employer offensive. A growing number of strikes are drawing the line on giving further concessions to what more and more workers recognize as corporate greed for profits. Five important defensive battles reflecting this ferment are:

- The Wheeling-Pittsburgh strike involving 8,200 members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

- The yearlong coal strike against A.T. Massey by 2,000 members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in West Virginia and Kentucky.

- The General Dynamics strike by some 4,600 members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) in Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

- The just-concluded strike at the Bath Iron Works shipyard by 4,500 members of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers (IUMSWA).

- The Hormel meatpacking strike by 1,500 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) in Austin, Minnesota.

Years of concessions

All these strikes involve concessions, some so deep, as at Wheeling-Pitt and Massey, that if complied with they would erode the national strength of the USWA and the UMWA.

A common feature of all these battles is that the workers involved are not strangers to giving concessions. They have all been hounded by increasingly hostile corporations backed by U.S. government agencies like the National Labor Relations Board — some since the 1970s.

Wheeling-Pitt strikers, for example, had already given up three rounds of concessions to the company that included \$120 million in lost wages in previous negotiations. The company, with the support of a federal court ruling, declared bankruptcy and literally tore up its contract with the USWA, forcing the union to strike on July 21.

In the General Dynamics strike, which began September 18, UAW members have been living with concessions since 1979 when the four war-industry tank plants now on strike were owned by Chrysler. They took the same cutbacks as Chrysler auto workers that year and more concessions in 1982 when the four plants were taken over by General Dynamics. GD is now demanding more concessions.

\$20 million in lost wages

Members of Local P-9 of the UFCW took concessions over a seven-year period with the intention of keeping the company in business. During that time union members gave up \$20 million in lost wages, which helped Hormel build a modern plant in Austin, Minnesota. The company is demanding more givebacks. The workers went on strike August 17.

The owners of Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, began pushing for concessions nearly two years before the June 30 expiration of its contract with Local 6, IUMSWA. This included an attempt to reopen the contract six months ahead of time for concessions, and stepped-up harassment of workers on the job. The company, for example, installed a television system in the shipyard to spy on union members during working hours.

The concessions that workers were forced to take to end their bitter 99-day strike were less than the company demanded earlier. Workers returning to the job are determined to maintain their solidarity.

The concession demanded by A.T. Massey was to get rid of the UMWA in its mines by refusing to sign the national contract that the union negotiated with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association in the fall of 1984.

Drawing lessons

These living experiences, and the lessons workers are beginning to draw from giving concessions to profit-gouging corporations, are the starting point for under-



Truckload of supplies at September 19 Hormel strike rally was part of a solidarity food caravan organized by Minnesota unionists. UMWA poster (right) was displayed at March 16 Massey coal strike rally in Elk Run, West Virginia.

standing the increased willingness of union members to organize to fight. As one steelworker explained at the beginning of the Wheeling-Pitt strike: "Each year we hear this from management: 'We need this. We're broke, but if you give us this we'll create jobs.' None of this was true. In 1979, 1,700 of us worked at Allenport. Last weekend there were only 370 of us."

This is the kind of reasoning that led the overwhelming majority of workers to support strike actions against further concessions in the five contract battles, and in some cases to begin preparations for a possible strike months ahead of time. In Bath, Maine, workers began lining up alternative jobs before the BIW strike began. Local P-9 started stockpiling food supplies months before the Hormel bosses forced them out on the picket line.

There has been strong membership support in strikes initiated by union locals that were later sanctioned by the International, such as Hormel and General Dynamics, as well as in strikes that were sanctioned by national union leaderships from the beginning, such as A.T. Massey and Wheeling-Pitt.

More unity and solidarity

These increasing efforts to resist concessions are helping to unify the rank and file and are advancing rank-and-file democratic participation inside the unions. They are also a strong mandate to union officials to resist takebacks in negotiations. Resisting concessions is accelerating solidarity from other unions and allies who face similar attacks.

The 217-vehicle "Motown to Coaltown — Support and Solidarity" caravan is an example. Organized by the UAW, the caravan traveled 500 miles from Detroit to Belfry, Kentucky, on August 10, bringing food, clothing, money, and solidarity to the Massey strikers and later participated in a rally of 6,000 strike supporters. UAW Regional Director Frank Runnels had organized a similar caravan in the 1978 coal strike but reported that this one was much bigger — with "more participation on both sides. It's amazing."

The UMWA returned this solidarity when UMWA President Richard Trumka took a Coaltown to Motown contingent of 200 coal miners to Michigan to participate in the Detroit Labor Day march and rally at which Trumka was a featured speaker.

The UMWA also responded to the support they have gotten from USWA members.

Early in the strike, steelworkers in South Williamson, Kentucky, had taken out a one-third-page ad in solidarity with the coal miners.

At the beginning of the Wheeling-Pitt strike, western Pennsylvania coal miners were among the first to offer solidarity. Later in the strike Tony Bambico, an International representative for the UMWA, District 6, pledged his union's solidarity at a strike support rally of 5,000 in Steubenville, Ohio.

Solidarity develops faster

An important difference in the Wheeling-Pitt strike was the speed with which solidarity for the strike began inside the

USWA, including national union leaders as well as the rank and file. On the first day of the picket line, International President Lynn Williams was out walking the picket line and some 300 USWA local union officials quickly and unanimously approved the strike.

District union leaderships have actively built and supported rallies and raised material support. District 31 — the largest in the union — in the Chicago-Gary area raised over \$29,000 and sent a car caravan to the strike area to demonstrate support.

Hormel workers won solidarity for their struggle through a militant corporate campaign beginning last December that exposed Hormel's greed for profits.

When Local P-9's president recently attended a session of the Minnesota AFL-CIO convention with 200 Hormel strikers they got a standing ovation from the delegates and a contribution of thousands of dollars.

International solidarity

These acts of solidarity in opposition to more concessions are inseparable from the growing international solidarity by U.S. trade unionists with the leading role played by Black South African workers in the struggle against apartheid.

The Hormel strikers' corporate campaign exposed financial ties between Hormel and its financial backer, First Bank, which has holdings in South Africa. The UMWA has similarly exposed A.T. Massey's holdings in South Africa, and expressed solidarity with Black miners in that country. One striking coal miner in West Virginia put his finger on the growth of this UMWA solidarity in a letter to a local paper when he explained, "Isn't it amazing how Lobata [West Virginia] now looks so much like the work camps in South Africa with the guards and the ten-foot chain link fences."

This same awareness was shown on a picket sign carried by a Detroit striker in

Lincoln Freed The Slaves... Massey Coal Co. Hasn't Heard!



Massey's owners support South Africa's slave labor system
A.T. Massey Coal Co. is connected to the South African government and the apartheid system. The company's profits are used to support the South African government and its military. The company's profits are used to support the South African government and its military. The company's profits are used to support the South African government and its military.

Militant/Peggy Winter

the General Dynamics strike which said, "Stop two-tier at General Dynamics and in South Africa."

In addition to South Africa, a broad discussion on Central America is shaping up in the unions. This was most dramatically posed by the thousands of union members who demonstrated their opposition to apartheid and U.S. government policies in Central America by actively participating in the sizeable April 20 antiwar actions.

Union ranks more active

These changes occurring in strikes and other union actions go beyond immediate contract demands, important as they are. For one thing they actively involve the union ranks in more meetings, more discussion, and more actions as in the Hormel strike. P-9 members walk picket lines, demonstrate at banks, speak to meetings of other unions, support working farmers, and participate in other activities that involve the majority of the local's members. These kinds of activity register important gains for union democracy and help workers see the importance of national and international solidarity with the political struggles of Black South African unionists and with working people in Central America.

It is in this light that the strikes referred to reflect a little more democratic participation of the membership, a quicker tempo in the development of solidarity, and a growth in political awareness. The development of all these tendencies is critical for strengthening the trade unions after decades of weakness brought on by business unionism and declining rank-and-file participation.

The task of progressive-minded union activists is to join in this process and help strengthen labor by actively participating in the unions. This is the most effective way of advancing the fightback against a continuing corporate-government offensive.

Wheeling-Pitt strikers win benefits in W. Va.

BY DAVE SALNER

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — Steelworkers Local 1190's "strike force" has been showing up at picket lines and protests in the three-state area of the Wheeling-Pittsburgh strike. But September 30 was their first visit here, to West Virginia's state capital.

[As we go to press a tentative agreement has been reached between the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) negotiating committee and the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation. According to newspaper reports the agreement includes hourly compensation cuts of about 15 percent. The specific amount will vary based upon steel prices.]

[The new agreement includes union representation on the board of directors.]

[The union bargaining committee voted 13 to 6 to approve the package and then to

unanimously recommend approval to the membership. The strike will continue until the membership has voted. The vote is scheduled to be completed on October 26.

[U.S. federal bankruptcy Judge Warren Bentz also must approve the contract.]

Five busloads of these sisters and brothers made the four-hour trek to find out why unemployment benefits were denied in West Virginia after being granted in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Judges in those states awarded the benefits on the basis that the USWA faced a company lockout.

The Steelworker strike force had a well-publicized meeting with Gov. Arch Moore to "lobby" for their more than 700 members denied benefits. But they weren't the usual type of lobbyists that our unions send to capitols across the country. Instead of three-piece suits, you had 300 steelworkers

Continued on Page 17



1980 protest of Hyde Amendment that eliminated federal funding for abortion. San Francisco conference targeted initiatives that would cut off funding in California, one of few states that still provides public funding for abortion.

S.F. conference: 'no cuts in funding for abortion'

BY DIANA CANTÚ

SAN FRANCISCO — About 50 people gathered at the Women's Building here for a conference to discuss strategies for fighting the renewed attacks against women's right to safe, legal abortion.

The October 5 conference, which was organized by the Northern California Pro-Choice Coalition, was held to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Rosie Jiménez, a young Chicana from Texas who bled to death in 1977 from an illegal abortion. She was the first known victim of the 1977 Hyde amendment that eliminated federal abortion funding for low-income women.

California is one of the few states that have continued to fund abortions as part of Medi-Cal benefits. A major topic of discussion at the conference was two ballot initiatives aimed at eliminating that state funding.

The first of these initiatives, called "The Children's Fund" by proponents, has already qualified for the June ballot. It would eliminate public-funded abortions except where a woman's life is in danger. It calls for the establishment of a fund to improve health services to fetuses, premature babies, and handicapped children. Petitions are also being circulated to place another initiative on the ballot that would not even make exceptions for life-threatening pregnancies. It is being sponsored by California Attorney General John Van de Kamp.

In the workshop on fighting antiabortion legislation, Helen Grieco, reproductive rights task force chair for the San Francisco National Organization for Women (NOW), explained that the so-called "Children's Fund" initiative is being used by antiabortion forces to try to undermine support for a woman's right to choose.

The initiative cynically tries to counterpose the health of low-income women to that of children. In fact these initiatives target Black, Latina, and other working-class women as the weakest link in the chain that includes all women. Backers of the initiatives hope to create a legal opening that will force women who need abortions back underground and into the back alleys.

The main session of the conference was chaired by Carmen Vasquez from Somos Hermanas, a woman's organization in solidarity with women of Central America. Panelist Brenda Payton, a columnist for the Oakland Tribune, blasted the attacks on public-funded abortions as "genocidal," pointing out that 80 percent of Medi-Cal users are non-white. Forty-five percent of abortions in California are Medi-Cal funded and 43 percent of those are per-

formed on non-white women.

Wilma Montañez, representing the Mission Neighborhood Clinic, said this is also an international issue affecting women around the world. In addition she stated that while non-white women are disproportionately affected by public funding cuts, it is also more and more of a problem for white working-class women as unemployment deepens and the costs of health insurance rise.

Workshops also discussed the need to oppose forced sterilization.

Conference participants were urged to join in a number of activities coming up. These include a rally November 9 at Union Square in San Francisco, the annual January 22 demonstration in Sacramento celebrating the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion, the March 9 West Coast protest march called by NOW in defense of abortion rights, and the campaign against the antiabortion ballot initiatives slated for the June election.

The Pro-Choice Coalition of Northern California, which includes organizations in the area active in defense of abortion rights, is helping to organize broad participation in these actions. A coalition of the reproductive rights task forces of Northern California NOW chapters has also been formed to map out a strategy to defend reproductive rights and to build participation in the March 9 protest. For more information on these activities contact S.F. NOW at P.O. Box 1267, San Francisco, Ca. 94101; telephone (415) 386-4232.

CLUW conference on work and family

BY PAT GROGAN

BOSTON — Thirty years ago, 60 percent of married men were the sole "breadwinners" in the family. Today, there are 50 million women in the work force. In the majority of families both spouses work, and 15 percent of families are supported by women alone.

For the 180 delegates and observers attending the October 4 conference on family and work sponsored by the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) here, this was seen as an immense challenge to the union movement. The labor movement, they said, must champion such demands as child care and parental leave, as well as pay equity, affirmative action, and the elimination of sexual harassment.

A highlight of the conference was the participation of a group of women members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

UMWA President Richard Trumka addressed the conference and described how

W. Virginia NOW maps abortion rights and solidarity campaign

BY PAT LEHMAN

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — "We have to stand with the people of Nicaragua, the people of South Africa, the U.S. church women killed in El Salvador, the people of the Philippines," Sister Maureen Fiedler told 100 women's rights activists at a meeting here in early September.

Fiedler was the featured speaker at the West Virginia State Conference of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Fiedler is one of the "Vatican 24" — a group of nuns who gained prominence by publicly opposing the Catholic church's stand against abortion. She is a longtime antiwar activist. Fiedler has been to Nicaragua several times and urged other women's rights fighters to do so.

She stressed the kinship between the fight for women's rights and the struggles of oppressed people everywhere. "Our business is justice," she said. "It is the fight against racism, apartheid, nuclear violence, and unjust intervention in other countries."

During the plenary session the next day, West Virginia NOW members voted to reaffirm national NOW's position against apartheid, and to join the West Virginia Coalition Against Apartheid.

In the workshop on abortion rights, Jean Clark, chair of national NOW's reproductive rights committee, outlined NOW's plan for action nationally.

The workshop discussed plans to begin now to organize getting people to the March 9 national abortion rights demonstration in Washington, D.C., and to plan local actions and programs to build up to it. Clark recommended forming local coalitions of women's groups, labor unions, and community organizations to start planning for March 9.

Clark said that NOW is planning a



Maureen Fiedler linked fight for women's rights with struggle for justice in S. Africa, Central America, and Philippines at West Virginia NOW meeting.

nationwide media campaign aimed at telling the truth about abortion and birth control to counter the lies told by the right-wing antiabortion forces. NOW also plans to start a campus campaign to talk with women on college campuses about abortion rights and birth control, and to get them involved.

Sheri O'Dell, national NOW's vice-president-action, gave the keynote address on the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985. Workshops included Pay Equity, Homeless Women and Their Plight, Lesbian Rights, Pornography, and Child Support.

'Stop violence vs. women!'

BY SUSIE WINSTEN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Amid a sea of picket signs proclaiming slogans such as "Rape is violence against women," "Date rape is still rape," and "Stop rape, torture, and murder in Central America," "Solidarity with our sisters in South Africa," and "Stop abortion clinic violence," well over one thousand women and men marched through the streets here the evening of September 28. The "Take Back the Night" protest of violence against women was sponsored by the D.C. Rape Crisis Center, D.C. Feminists Against Pornography, International Council on African Women, Sapphire Sapphos, the Washington Area Women's Center, National Organization for Women, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the D.C. chapter of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

Rallies were held at the beginning and

end of the march. They took on the flavor of a teach-in. The speakers reflected the leading role of Black women's rights activists in the action. They explained the brutalizing nature of antiwoman violence and how it flows from a society where women are treated as sex objects and forced, through economic dependence, into prostitution and pornography.

Chairperson Tania Abdulahad, of the Committee for Social Responsibility and a founding member of the Black feminist group, Sapphire Sapphos, said, "We live in a society based on the exploitation of many for the profit of a few white males. Poverty, sexism, racism, ageism, and antilebian bigotry are all forms of violence against women."

She went on to list the demands of the march which included fighting for the right to live free from violence and fear; for an end to harassment on the street and on the job; for full economic equality, jobs, and education; for an end to the victimization of prostitutes; and for finding non-sexist instructors for self-defense courses for women and girls.

Nkenge Toure, director of the Community Education Department, D.C. Rape Crisis Center, addressed the rally. Toure recently returned from Nicaragua where she was a guest of the Luisa Amanda Espinosa Nicaraguan Women's Association.

Cecelie Counts, a founder of the South Africa Support Project and a staff member of TransAfrica, spoke about women's struggle against apartheid. Adjoa Aiyetoro, general counsel for the National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression and a leader of the National Council of Black Lawyers, spoke about the treatment of women in prisons. Marty Langelan of the D.C. Feminists Against Pornography also addressed the rally.

Allison Gee of the National Campaign to Restore Abortion Funding, and Ricki Grunberg, a member of the D.C. NOW chapter and a local pro-choice activist, both addressed the need to defend women's right to abortion.

Ala. trials of Black activists continue

BY JOHN HAWKINS

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Frederick Daniels, one of two Black political activists on trial in federal court here for alleged vote fraud, was found innocent of charges against him October 11.

Daniels, who was on trial along with Spiver Gordon, a Eutaw, Alabama, city councilman facing similar charges, was acquitted by an all-white jury.

At the same time as they reported their verdict in the Daniels case, the jury also informed federal district court Judge E.B. Haltom, Jr., that they were deadlocked in the Gordon case. Instead of declaring a mistrial in the case, Haltom ordered the jurors to continue deliberating.

The jury returned the next day having voted to acquit Gordon of 9 of the 21 charges against him, but still deadlocked on 12 of the charges. In an unprecedented move, Haltom again ordered the jury to continue its deliberations.

[As we go to press an all-white federal jury convicted Spiver Gordon on October 16 on four counts of abusing the absentee voting process. Gordon faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine on each count.]

Responding to the partial verdict after court recessed, Gordon said, "I have nothing but good words for the jury." He sharply criticized Judge Haltom, saying that he was "badgering" the jury and "trying to be a dictator."

"The jury has spoken," Gordon said.

"They have said over and over again they are deadlocked."

The racial composition of the jury has been an issue in the case since it began here in federal court September 23.

Having failed in several recent attempts to convict Black political activists of vote-fraud charges, federal prosecutors used all six of their challenges to eliminate Black prospective jurors from the jury. The juries that tried the other cases all had Blacks on them.

Attorneys for Daniels and Gordon made an emergency appeal to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals asking that the trial be halted in face of the prosecution's conduct during jury selection.

Gordon pointed out that "They are prejudging not only the Blacks, but also the white jurors — that they will automatically vote to convict. I believe that this jury, if given the evidence, will be a fair jury and will render a decision of not guilty."

At issue, defense attorneys pointed out, was the deliberate prosecution attempt to thwart the constitutional guarantee that juries will contain a "cross-section of the community and therefore Black representation." Despite the defense attorneys' arguments, the court of appeals refused to halt the trial.

During the presentation of its case the prosecution attempted to construct a conspiracy on the part of the defendants to "deprive the people of Greene County of a fair and impartial election based on one person,



Black political activists Spiver Gordon (left) and Frederick Daniels leaving the Federal Courthouse in Birmingham last June 20. Daniels was found innocent of alleged voter fraud charges on October 11.

Militant/Katy Karlin

one vote."

In question were 12 absentee ballots out of a total of 1,500 votes cast in the September 4 and 25, 1984, Democratic Party primary and runoff in Greene County.

The prosecution's allegations of forgery

and other misdeeds were to have been backed up by testimony from voters that Gordon and Daniels had helped to cast absentee ballots. However, under cross-examination of nearly all the prosecution's witnesses, discrepancies surfaced between the witnesses' trial testimony and earlier statements given to attorneys for the prosecution and defense.

As in the previous vote-fraud trials, there was some indication that several witnesses who received federal assistance had been coerced into testifying against the defendants. The judge in the case, however, denied defense attorneys the opportunity to pursue this line of questioning.

Meanwhile, Bobby Nel Simpson, one of two Greene County political activists accused of vote fraud whose earlier trials had ended in hung juries, was acquitted of the charges October 12.

The retrial of Union, Alabama, Mayor James Holden, whose original trial also ended in a hung jury, is scheduled for November. The trial of another Greene County defendant, Essie Underwood, began October 15 in Birmingham.

Tank plant strikers build support

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DETROIT — The huge General Dynamics tank plant in Lima, Ohio, sits out in the country surrounded by fields and woods. The 2,400 members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2075 there have been out on strike since October 18.

Picketing can be lonesome duty, especially since the company got a court injunction limiting the union to four pickets per gate.

So what a sight for sore eyes when an old bus pulled up to the plant October 9 and out jumped members of UAW Locals 1200 and 1248, strikers from GD's Warren and Sterling Heights plants near Detroit.

"We found all the employees there to be in high spirits and they have the same determination to fight as we have. Our appearance was a definite boost to their morale," Local 1200 member Cass Ponus reported in a letter to the 1200 membership.

"As we discovered, they also have camera surveillance, with the guards recording our every move," Ponus reported.

Besides visiting the pickets, the Michigan strikers met with Local 2075 President Jeff Pollock at the local hall.

"Through our discussion we learned many valuable things," Ponus continued. "For one, Lima may be the target for tank production, being that it is the largest plant and has the majority of employees. Also because the tanks are made there from scratch."

GD has been boasting that it intends to produce tanks, strike or no strike, and is reportedly lining up strikebreakers through a temporary employment agency.

"Jim Coakley [Local 1200 president] assured them we are still fighting and had no intentions of giving up," according to Ponus.

Plans were made for continued collaboration between the Michigan and Ohio strikers, and for more visits back and forth.

In all, 5,000 UAW members are striking GD in response to the company's insistence on more concessions despite big profits from military contracts.

The UAW contract with GD expired September 14, and Local 2075 members in Lima played a key role by walking out of the plant until the union leadership agreed to reject GD's concessionary contract offer.

GD fired 35 Local 2075 members for that walkout. Winning their jobs back will be important in any settlement.

So far, there have been no negotiations, despite the union's offer to talk any time.

"We've been busy this week getting support for our strike from other locals in the form of support letters, donations, invitations to speak at local membership meetings and having contingents from these locals sent to our picket lines," the October 11 edition of Local 1200's "Newline" reports.

Canadian UAW Local 444, whose members work at Chrysler's minivan plant in Windsor, sent a letter of support, as have many other unions.

These letters are displayed on a special bulletin board in the Local 1200 hall.

A number of unions in the Detroit area, including the American Postal Workers Union, have invited Local 1200 representatives to address membership meetings.

Coakley received a standing ovation October 13 from several hundred UAW Local 594 members who work at General Motors Truck and Coach plant in Pontiac, Michigan, when he spoke to their membership meeting.

Peru debt crisis laid to U.S. role

Calling the International Monetary Fund (IMF) an "accomplice" of the United States in causing the debt crisis, Peru's finance minister announced that Peru would no longer work with the IMF.

Luis Alva Castro addressed the joint meeting of the World Bank and the IMF October 10 in Seoul, South Korea. He said Peru would no longer negotiate the arrangement of its debt payments through the IMF but would try to negotiate directly with commercial bank creditors.

Peru is faced with a total debt of \$13.5 billion. Accumulated arrears of interest and principal alone amount to \$3.1 billion which is about equal to Peru's total expected earnings from exports this year.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? 'PM' on bilingual education fight

Even though the United States has the fifth-largest Spanish-speaking population in the world, the right of hundreds of thousands of youth here to learn and study in their own language — Spanish — has come under increasing attack.

Recently the Reagan administration has moved to gut bilingual education programs, drawing fire from Latino educators and others. In New York City, where the response by the Puerto Rican community against these racist moves has been strong, the Socialist Workers Party campaign has also spoken out against them.

In the current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial*, socialist candidate Andrea González — who herself is Puerto Rican — explains why bilingual and bicultural education are rights that have been fought for and must be defended and expanded. Further coverage of the New York socialist campaign includes a column by González on the meaning of the new anti-immigrant Simpson-Rodino bill.

This issue of *PM* also carries extensive coverage of the struggle against the unpayable foreign debt of Latin America.

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

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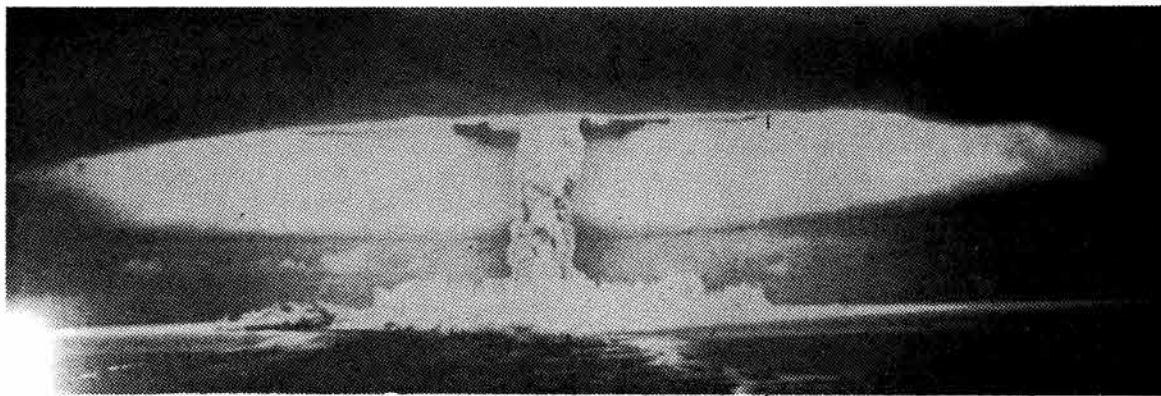
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This article is part of the Militant's ongoing coverage of the big questions facing auto workers and members of other industrial unions under the current offensive by the bosses. Don't miss our coverage of the labor movement. For \$3 you can get a 12-issue introductory subscription. Fill in and mail the coupon on page 2.



40 years of Pacific nuke tests

Despite 24 million people living in Pacific testing area, imperialist nations have detonated more than 200 nuclear bombs. Above, French H-bomb set off over atoll in 1971.

The following article traces four decades of nuclear testing in the Pacific by the governments of the United States, France, and Britain. It is reprinted from the Sept. 20, 1985, *Socialist Action*, biweekly newspaper of the New Zealand Socialist Action League, a sister party of the Socialist Workers Party. The article was written prior to the September 20 resignation of French Defense Minister Charles Hernu.

BY ANDY JARVIS

Since the close of World War II, well over 200 nuclear bombs have been exploded in the atmosphere, underwater, or underground in the Pacific region by the United States, Britain, and France — the nuclear powers with colonial possessions in the region.

With the exception of two brief interludes, nuclear bombs have been detonated in the Pacific every year for the past 40 years.

The U.S. government was the first to begin nuclear testing in the Pacific, starting in 1946 only months after it had dropped the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Between 1946 and 1958 the U.S. exploded 66 atomic and hydrogen bombs at its test sites on Bikini and Eniwetok atolls in the Marshall Islands. The largest of these, the Bravo hydrogen bomb exploded in 1954, measured 15 megatons — more than 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Six islands were vaporized during the test series while many more were made uninhabitable.

Islanders victims

Some 40,000 U.S. soldiers and scientists, and hundreds of ships and planes, occupied the Marshall Islands throughout this period, while the inhabitants themselves were uprooted and dumped from island to island.

In addition to the hardship and severe poverty this created, the islanders became the victims of numerous radiation-caused health problems and fatal illnesses which have grown worse over time. These include tissue and genetic damage, a variety of cancers, miscarriages, and extreme birth deformities (including what are known locally, because of their appearance, as jelly babies).

In some cases it is now clear that islanders were deliberately exposed to nuclear blasts and radiation fallout so that they could be used as guinea pigs for research by the U.S. military and government scientists.

Britain's record

British nuclear tests in the region began soon after those of the U.S. and continued for over a decade. These were carried out in collaboration with Australia and New Zealand.

The British tests took place at Christmas Island, a former British possession in the northern Pacific, and in Australia.

The Australian tests began in 1952 on the Monte Bellos islands off western Australia, and then shifted to Emu Field and Maralinga in South Australia. The test program came to an end in 1963.

Evidence presented to an Australian Royal Commission which began sitting in April this year, and recently released British military records from 30 years ago, for the first time have begun to cast some light on what happened during these tests.

Aborigines killed

At all three sites during the tests detailed studies were carried out to see that the local white communities and farm animals and

crops would not be directly affected. But the Australian Aborigines inhabiting these areas were almost totally ignored. Some were killed in the explosions, and many suffered major radiation contamination.

Servicemen testifying to the Australian Royal Commission have described finding the bodies of Aborigines following the blasts, and finding Aboriginal families wandering through the prohibited zones during the tests. Aborigines themselves have described how radiation clouds swept over their communities.

Aborigines from these regions continue to suffer the effects of the tests, in particular blindness, cancers, and birth defects.

British, Australian, and New Zealand servicemen involved in the test program have also suffered major health problems arising from exposure to radiation from the tests. Many of these soldiers were used as guinea pigs to study the effects of the explosions on humans. This had been proposed at the start of the test program by a British Defense Department research committee.

In one such experiment in 1956, 82 British, Australian, and New Zealand soldiers were ordered to stand out in the open during an atomic explosion, while their officers stayed in covered shelters.

Guinea pigs

Servicemen have also said that intellectually handicapped people were used as guinea pigs in secret experiments carried out during the tests. This included being placed in bunkers as close as a mere 500 meters from the center of the explosions.

Britain's nuclear tests on Christmas Island took place during 1956–58.

Christmas Island is the largest atoll in the world. It belongs to one of several Micronesian island chains on the equator that now make up the independent state of Kiribati. Prior to the formation of Kiribati in 1979, the islands were under British colonial rule. A number, including Christmas Island, were also claimed as possessions by the United States — a claim only relinquished in 1983.

BY JEFF MILLER

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — A march and car caravan were held here September 29 to protest a burning toxic landfill and a company discharging nearly two tons of toxic volatile hydrocarbons daily. Both sites are in residential areas.

Fumes from the Van Leer Container Co. have caused recurring nosebleeds and headaches, especially among children. A grammar school is located near the facility. One child required emergency oxygen on three separate occasions during school-time.

Health complaints filed with the city cite asthma; coughing; sneezing; and nose, eye, and throat irritation as effects of the landfill fire. The 40-acre fire with a 400-degree Celsius surface temperature is a few hundred feet from three housing projects with mostly Black and Puerto Rican residents, including 1,800 children. While children seem to suffer most from the effects, dockworker Michael Gurney, who works adjacent to the dump, said 12 workers were overcome by fumes one day. He said "Everybody on the job was sick," suffering from migraine headaches and nausea.

The landfill has been burning continuously for 30 years, but has gotten progressively worse in the last months. The fumes wafting from the smoldering dump at times resemble a thick fog covering large areas of

Britain exploded 13 high-altitude airburst hydrogen bombs in four test programs at Christmas Island during 1956–58. The tests were also observed by the Australian and New Zealand navies.

A further major test program was carried out on Christmas Island in 1962 by the United States.

French tests

French nuclear testing in the Pacific began where the U.S. and British tests left off. The first French nuclear tests had been carried out in Algeria during 1957–62. However, with the victory of the Algerian revolution, France announced in 1963 that it was to shift its test site to the Pacific.

Two neighboring atolls were chosen, Moruroa and Fangataufa, in the Tuamotu Islands — one of a number of island groups that make up the colonial territory France calls "French Polynesia."

Between 1966 and 1974 France carried out 42 atmospheric nuclear tests on these atolls. Fangataufa was abandoned as a test site in 1968 after a 2.5 megaton thermonuclear blast left it too heavily contaminated.

By 1973 protests by governments and antinuclear movements in the Pacific had aroused international condemnation of the atmospheric tests and France was pressured into moving them underground. From 1975 down to the present, over 70 underground nuclear tests have been carried out at Moruroa.

Neutron bomb

May of this year saw the largest of these underground explosions to date, estimated at 150 kilotons, the maximum allowed under international law.

The next series, to begin at Moruroa in a few weeks, will be of neutron warheads (an enhanced radiation bomb aimed at killing people while minimizing damage to buildings and property).

Announcing the new series in an interview published in Paris on September 4, French Defense Minister Charles Hernu arrogantly declared that the tests "will con-

tinue as long as they are judged necessary for the defense of the country by the French authorities and by them alone."

The French government has done everything possible to keep hidden the effects of the tests on the 165,000 inhabitants of Tahiti and the other islands of French Polynesia.

Beginning with the first tests in 1966, the French government stopped the further issue of all statistics on cancer and related causes of death in the territory. They have refused all requests to allow independent monitoring of the health and environmental effects of the tests.

Health effects

Nonetheless, the evidence accumulated by scientists and journalists internationally, and by antinuclear and independence groups in French Polynesia, indicates that the people of the territory are experiencing an epidemic of radiation-related illnesses — in particular, cancers and birth problems.

From 1976 onwards the French authorities have been secretly sending large groups of Polynesians on military flights to Paris for treatment of unusual cancers. Others have come to New Zealand. Most of these cases are thought to arise from the 1966–74 atmospheric tests, both from direct contamination and from contamination of fish, vegetables and rainwater.

However, moving the French nuclear tests underground has in no way reduced the health risks.

Moruroa Atoll is sinking further into the ocean with each test and there are major fissures in the island, resulting in ongoing radiation leakage. There have also been major accidents at the test sites, releasing radioactive material into the ocean. In addition, the French are widely reported to be themselves dumping radioactive waste into the sea there.

As time goes on, the lethal effects of the nuclear test program on the people and land of French Polynesia will become all the more evident, despite the attempts of the French authorities to conceal them.

N.J. march: 'Clean up toxic landfill'

BY JEFF MILLER

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — A march and car caravan were held here September 29 to protest a burning toxic landfill and a company discharging nearly two tons of toxic volatile hydrocarbons daily. Both sites are in residential areas.

Fumes from the Van Leer Container Co. have caused recurring nosebleeds and headaches, especially among children. A grammar school is located near the facility. One child required emergency oxygen on three separate occasions during school-time.

Health complaints filed with the city cite asthma; coughing; sneezing; and nose, eye, and throat irritation as effects of the landfill fire. The 40-acre fire with a 400-degree Celsius surface temperature is a few hundred feet from three housing projects with mostly Black and Puerto Rican residents, including 1,800 children. While children seem to suffer most from the effects, dockworker Michael Gurney, who works adjacent to the dump, said 12 workers were overcome by fumes one day. He said "Everybody on the job was sick," suffering from migraine headaches and nausea.

The landfill has been burning continuously for 30 years, but has gotten progressively worse in the last months. The fumes wafting from the smoldering dump at times resemble a thick fog covering large areas of

this city of 250,000.

The landfill is a federally designated toxic waste site on the Superfund National Priorities List of "imminent and substantial hazards to health and environment" to be cleaned up. New Jersey has 97 such sites. The landfill is ranked 97th in priority. None of the 97 have been cleaned up.

Of the 22,000 known toxic waste sites nationally, 800 are on the Superfund list. Only six of these have been cleaned up.

"We're concerned, we work in Jersey City, our families live here," said Grady Fitzgerald, one of those marching in the protest. Fitzgerald is the safety and health representative for Local 300 of the Mailhandlers Union.

The city has taken bids from companies to do the cleanup. But a court challenge by one company against another has ensured a lengthy delay.

"The governor should declare an emergency situation and bypass the bidding procedure," suggested Fitzgerald. He noted the dump adjoins the Black and Puerto Rican communities.

"Maybe that's why the state is dragging its feet."

Van Leer Container Co. manufactures and paints pails and drums in a process that emits two tons of solvent compounds, including methyl ethyl ketone, ethanol xylene, toluene, and acetates into the air each day. The Department of Environmen-

tal Protection (DEP) has ordered Van Leer to reduce its emissions by 90 percent. Since 1980, two prior orders did not result in reduced fumes. Van Leer is demanding a three-year extension to comply with the most recent order. The company says it will shut the plant down if it doesn't get it.

Who is to blame for the unchecked toxic contamination?

Local health officials blame the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Some local politicians say they're sorry they can't do anything. Others call for hearings to involve the courts to stop delays. The governor says the state will pay to clean up the landfill. But a court fight between bidding companies means more delay. More people are getting sick, meanwhile.

The profit drive of companies like Van Leer and Diamond Shamrock is to blame. They say pollution control equipment is very expensive. But the toxic wastes they emit should be cleaned up as part of the cost of operating. The workers at these companies, through their unions, should have the right to know what toxic agents are produced.

Said one auto assembly line worker and United Auto Workers union member at the recent protest march: "The unions, who have the organizing power, should stand behind efforts to clean up these pollutants and force the DEP and the governor, who don't give a damn."

How sensitive and dignified can you get? — "If, God forbid, L.A. is next, our commitment will remain unshaken," declares a *Los Angeles Times* ad for the Rose



Harry Ring

Hills and Forest Lawn mortuaries. The ad assures, "We shall help the families of disaster victims bury their loved ones with the sensitivity and dignity that have been our hallmark."

Plus and minus — Hugo Flores, general manager of Converse Estrella, a Mexican subsidiary of the U.S. athletic shoe firm, saw positive results from the Mexico City earthquake, suggesting it would lead to promoting more business around the country. More immediately, he saw a problem: "You don't know who is alive and dead, and what records are around. We don't know if our customers will pay their bills."

Really — European fashion commentators responded graciously to the Paris visit by Raisa Gorbachev, spouse of the Soviet leader, saying she looked very nice even though the blouse and stockings were the wrong color. But then she wore the same suit

twice. A radio commentator commented, "Princess Diana wears the same dress twice in public, but at least she waits two years."

Only reasonable — Rep. William Frenzel (R-Minn.) can see no reason why salespeople should not be able to take full tax deduction for business meals when farmers can deduct the full cost of the seeds they plant. Sure. Especially since selling is so much more useful an occupation than farming.

That's cool — When members of the House Ways and Means Committee finished a session of argument on whether to limit tax deductibility of business meals, some were able to catch a Red-

skins' game, with tickets provided by lobbyists — tax deductible, natch.

The silver lining — The *New York Times* "Careers" column advises that as the result of recent "troubles" in the banking industry — that is, revelations of major swindles — there will be more openings for federal bank examiners.

Philosophical — While it was feared that thousands of birds were injured by the oil from a Delaware River tanker spill, a Delaware wildlife official advised that, "This was a relatively good time [for a spill], from a bird's

standpoint. There aren't a lot of migratory birds in the river now."

Home furnishing dep't — If we can make it to Chicago, we'll be able to finish redecorating our bathroom. A Merchandise Mart showroom there is featuring a marble toilet bowl shaped like a shell, with gold seat and lid, \$5,700. And a countertop in lapis lazuli, \$25,000. Sink extra.

Saving civilization — Besides the slots, Las Vegas offers a "survival" store featuring a variety of items to get you through a nuclear winter, ranging from dried wheat to bayonets. And, for those long winter nights, there's a five-volume work, *How to Kill*.

—CALENDAR—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

The Mideast Crisis: Who Are the Terrorists? Speakers: Ruth LaMont; Marty Boyers, Young Socialist Alliance; a representative of the General Union of Palestine Students. Sat., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Socialist Publication Fund Rally. Speaker: Mac Warren, Socialist Workers Party National Organization Secretary. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 9. Reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

A Tribute to Maurice Bishop. Presentation and slideshow by Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

Spear of the Nation. A film on South Africa. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

San Diego

Farm Workers' Struggle. Speakers: Asual Jimenez, United Farm Workers organizer in San Ysidro; Araceli Martinez, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 1053 15th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

San Francisco

Spear of the Nation. A film on South Africa. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

COLORADO

Denver

Report from Nicaragua by Members of U.S. Labor Tour. Speakers: Mike Chamberlain, member United Auto Workers Local 766 and Socialist Workers Party; Veronica Dodgen, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 19, 7 p.m. 25 W 3rd Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

Third World Debt Crisis. Speakers: Harry Nier, Denver attorney, frequent visitor to Cuba; Larry Mosqueda, professor of political science,

University of Colorado-Denver and member, Central America Support Committee; Maureen McDougall, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 26, 7 p.m. 25 W 3rd Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Forum on Reproductive Rights. Abortion, a woman's right to choose; birth control, the right to health-care clinics in Chicago's schools. Speakers: Rey Payne, South Suburban National Organization for Women Task Force Against Racism; Mary Lee Box, vice-president, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Local 114, member of Coalition of Labor Union Women; Maureen Coletta, member United Auto Workers and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Adapt or Die. A film on role of South African Black trade unions in the struggle against apartheid. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Dearborn

Free South Africa Rally. Speakers: Dumisani Kumalo, Union of Black Journalists of South Africa; Leo Robinson, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. Sat., Oct. 26, 4 p.m. United Auto Workers Local 600 Hall, 10550 Dix. For more information call (313) 842-5350.

Detroit

Saturn: Can Our Unions Survive the 'Factories of the Future'? Speakers: Harris Freeman, member of United Auto Workers Local 1700 and Socialist Workers Party. Showing of film *We Are Driven* on Japanese auto industry. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 19, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

March and Rally for Peace, Jobs, and Justice. Speakers: Rev. Charles Adams, president of Detroit NAACP; Jeanette Mothobi, African National Congress. Sat., Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m. Clark Park (Clark St. and W Vernor). Ausp: Detroit Coalition for Peace, Jobs, and Justice. For more information call (313) 577-5053.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Free Lindsey Scott! Speakers: James Scott, father of Lindsey Scott, a Black marine framed on rape charges; a taped message from Lindsey Scott; Laura Garza, national cochairperson, Young Socialist Alliance; a representative of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Showing of "60 Minutes" segment on Lindsey Scott case. Sun., Oct. 20, 7 p.m. 4715 Troost. Donation: \$2, proceeds for Lindsey Scott's defense. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Hear Susanna Ounei. Representative of Kanak Socialist Liberation Front and leader of Kanak and Exploited Women in Struggle. Sat., Oct. 19, 1 p.m. Malcolm X Study Center, Medgar Evers College, 1150 Carroll St. Ausp: Medgar Evers Women's Development Center, National Congress of Neighborhood Women. For more information call (718) 735-1903.

Manhattan

To Free Kanaky: An International Forum on the Current Struggle Against French Settler and Social Imperialism in New Caledonia. Speaker: Susanna Ounei, representative of Kanak Socialist Liberation Front. Moderated by Brother Elombe Brath. Sun., Oct. 20, 4-8 p.m. Harriet Tubman School, 127th St. and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. Ausp: Patrice Lumumba Coalition, Unity In Action Network. For more information call (212) 410-5359.

OHIO

Cleveland

Cancel the Latin American Debt! Speaker: Nick Finn, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

Educational Conference on the Struggle for Freedom in Africa. Two classes Sun., Nov. 3. "South Africa," 11 a.m.; "Upheaval on the African Continent: Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola, Burkina, Ghana," 2 p.m. Speaker: Ernest Harsch, managing editor of *Intercontinental Press*, has written on and traveled extensively in Africa. Donation: \$1 for each class. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

TEXAS

Dallas

End Apartheid. Free South Africa! Speaker: Rev. Clarence Glover, leader of anti-apartheid

movement in Dallas. Sat., Oct. 19, 2 p.m. City Hall Plaza, 1500 Manella. Ausp: NAACP Coalition Against Apartheid. For more information call (214) 421-7610.

U.S. Invasion of Grenada: Two Years Later. Speakers: James Kendrick, activist in U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society; Chuck Guerra, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. 132 N Beckley. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

Fighting for Freedom from South Africa to Central America. Speakers: Rev. Prince Nuvan Ntintl of Soweto, South Africa; Héctor Marroquín, leader of Young Socialist Alliance; Rev. Clarence Glover, leader of anti-apartheid movement in Dallas. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 132 N Beckley. Donation: \$2. Ausp: YSA and Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Report. Speakers: Arab-American university graduates just returned from West Bank and Gaza. Sat., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State St., 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Fighting for Freedom from South Africa to Central America. U.S. Youth Join the Battle. Speakers: Rena Cacoullos, leader of Young Socialist Alliance; Dorinda Henry, student anti-apartheid activist. Sun., Oct. 20, 7 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: YSA and Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Adapt or Die. A film on role of Black South African trade unions in struggle against apartheid. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 20, 7 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

Grenada: Two Years After the U.S. Invasion. Speakers: Dr. Linus A. Hoskins, acting chairman of International Studies Program, Howard University, author of *U.S.-Caribbean-Grenada Relations: Before and After Bishop*; Reba Williams, member International Association of Machinists Local 1784 and Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 27, 7 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

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Why Palestinians fight for their homeland

BY FRED FELDMAN

Suppose an armed gang took over your house, killed members of your family, and forced you to live on the street?

Suppose the thieves were backed and armed by the U.S. government?

Do you think you would get sore enough to try to do something about it?

If you did, you would be no different than the Palestinian people who are being portrayed as subhuman terrorists in the U.S. big-business media today.

Few nationalities have faced the combination of genocide, racist persecution, and slander that the Palestinian people confront.

The establishment in 1948 of the racist state of Israel on their homeland has been followed by the violent expulsion of well over a million Palestinians. Together with their children and grandchildren, they have been forced to live in exile ever since.

In 1947 and 1948, Zionist armies waged a war against the Palestinian people aimed at establishing the state of Israel as an exclusively Jewish state on Palestinian soil. More than 700,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes and farms, which were turned over to imperialist-backed settlers.

The methods used to make room for the settlers included the murder of 254 unarmed men, women, and children in the village of Deir Yassin by Irgun, an army headed by future Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and a terrorist Zionist group called the Stern Gang.

In June 1967 the Israeli rulers launched a war of conquest against Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. They conquered the West Bank of the Jordan River, which had become part of Jordan after the establishment of the Israeli state; the Gaza strip, which had been held by Egypt; and the Golan Heights in Syria.

About 350,000 people were driven from their homes. And 1.25 million live under Israeli military rule in the occupied territories.

Backed by government repression and right-wing terrorists, Israeli settlements have been established on Palestinian land in the West Bank. A growing number of Palestinians are being pushed out of their homes, land, and jobs.

In June 1982 the Israeli armed forces invaded Lebanon. One goal was to crush the Palestinian resistance. About 50,000 Palestinians and Lebanese had been killed by September, and hundreds of thousands were left homeless. Israeli officials allowed rightist militias in occupied West Beirut to slaughter 1,300 Palestinians in refugee camps.

Although the Israeli rulers were forced to pull back from most of Lebanon, they still control a strip of Lebanese territory along the common border.

Between and after these major wars, Israeli rulers have launched repeated terror raids against Palestinians living as refugees in Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, and elsewhere. Many hundreds of Palestinians have been slaughtered in such attacks.

These raids are portrayed as daring and courageous by the same U.S. capitalist media that portrays violence by Palestinians as a crime against humanity.

Washington has backed the Israeli rulers at every step, providing them with billions of dollars in arms and economic support.

The Israeli rulers use racism to justify the brutal mistreatment of Palestinians. Former Prime Minister Menachem Begin called Palestinians "two-legged animals."

Palestinians have fought back. The West Bank has been the scene of general strikes

and other mass protests that have been met by repression.

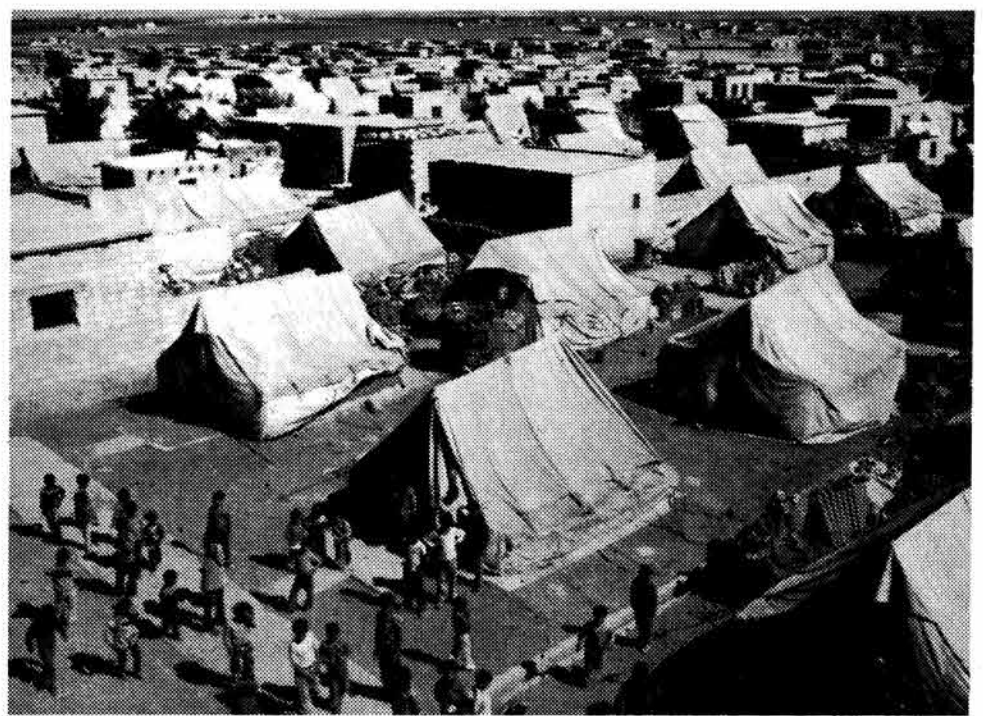
And Palestinians have fought back arms in hand as well.

Individual Palestinians, often belonging to no organization, have also attempted to strike at their oppressors in the occupied West Bank of Jordan and elsewhere. They have also formed a wide range of organizations, some of which coordinate their activities under the Palestine Liberation Front headed by Yassir Arafat.

The Israeli response to Palestinian resistance, backed by Washington, has been stepped-up terror, particularly against the PLO. On October 1 Israel bombed the PLO headquarters in Tunisia, killing more than 50 people.

Washington's and the Israeli rulers' goal is to destroy the PLO. If Palestinians would just bow to their oppressors, they claim, there would be peace in the Middle East.

But this is a lie. The source of war in the Middle East is the insatiable drive of the U.S. and Israeli rulers to expand and exploit. That is why supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian people is the only road to peace in the Middle East.



Palestinian refugee camp in Syria. Their homes and farms in Palestine were seized and turned over to Israeli settlers.

Reagan uses hijacking to attack PLO

Continued from front page

dent Reagan apologize to the Egyptian people.

The October 13 *Washington Post* reported that street protests against the U.S. attack on Egyptian sovereignty resulted in "the most violent clashes between students and police here since the turbulent final years of Anwar Sadat's rule."

"The American people must know the truth about the Egyptian people," said one student. "They have had enough of Mr. Reagan and American policy toward the Middle East and the people of Palestine."

The U.S. action was denounced across the Arab world. "The Arabs must not continue to trust the United States," said a daily paper in the United Arab Emirates. A daily in Saudi Arabia hit Washington's double standard: "The United States, if it is really out to check terrorism, would do better to stop Israeli terrorism against the Arabs." A Tunisian daily said, "We deplore strongly the acts of piracy undertaken by the United States."

The aim of Washington's hijacking of the Egyptian plane was to capture the Palestinians on board — including the PLO officials — and bring them to the United States. The Reagan administration wanted a show trial in the anti-Palestinian lynch atmosphere that the government and media were trying to whip up.

That lynch environment claimed a victim when Alex Odeh, the Palestine-born West Coast regional director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, was assassinated on October 11. (See story on page 1.)

Near-confrontation with Italy

When the plane was forced down in Sicily, U.S. troops of the Delta Force unit attempted to commandeer it with the aim of spiriting the Palestinians to the United States. This led to a near-confrontation with Italian police. The *Washington Post* cited an "intelligence source" who described "a confrontation that nearly led to gunfire."

The standoff ended when Washington gave way and allowed Italian authorities to take custody of the plane. Italian authorities rejected U.S. demands for extradition of the Palestinians, but laid charges against the four alleged hijackers even though they had been kidnapped to Italy by U.S. forces.

But Italian authorities refused to hold Mohammed Abbas, who is reported to be a leader of the Palestine Liberation Front and a member of the executive council of the PLO. Abbas is said to have played a part in negotiating the surrender of the hijackers.

The White House claimed to have proof, which it refused to make public, that Abbas had ordered the hijacking. Abbas has denied any role in seizing the Italian cruise ship.

Abbas left Italy and flew to Yugoslavia. The government there also refused to turn him over to the official lynch mob in

Washington. Yugoslav officials cited the country's constitution that guarantees safe conduct or political asylum for "peoples fighting for the liberation of their countries."

Washington's terrorism

Washington says its aim in pirating the Egyptian plane was to combat terrorism and avenge the killing of Klinghoffer. But the White House's opposition to terrorist acts is selective.

No U.S. planes intercepted the Israeli planes that bombed the PLO headquarters in Tunisia October 1, killing more than 50 Palestinians and Tunisians. The U.S. Sixth Fleet had reportedly been stationed off the Tunisian coast at the time.

In the Middle East, antiterrorism is just the name the U.S. and Israeli rulers give to their attempts to destroy the PLO and keep the countries of the region under their thumb. Washington and Tel Aviv unhesitatingly use mass murder, military attacks, economic blackmail, or any other weapon that serves these purposes.

Washington's attempt to pin the hijacking on Arafat and the PLO ran into obstacles internationally, as indicated by Washington's differences with Egypt, Italy, and Yugoslavia. That is because there is massive worldwide support for the Palestinian struggle.

Tens of millions of people know that the Palestinians are waging a just battle for the right to their homeland, from which a million were expelled during and after the establishment of the state of Israel on Palestinian land. They reject U.S. and Israeli government slanders of the PLO as murderous animals.

The Egyptian and Yugoslav governments, for instance, recognize the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. So does every Arab government.

The PLO is recognized by the group of Nonaligned nations, which includes scores of governments from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

It is supported by other popular liberation movements like the African National Congress of South Africa and the South West Africa People's Organization of Namibia, which is occupied by South Africa.

Recently the governments of Senegal, India, Nigeria, Iraq, Yemen, and Kuwait proposed that Yassir Arafat be invited to address the UN General Assembly at its 40th anniversary session.

The proposal was dropped under heavy U.S. pressure, even though it was almost certain to be supported by an overwhelming majority in the assembly. The General Assembly recognizes the PLO as representative of the Palestinian people.

Steel strikers win jobless pay

Continued from Page 12

all wearing T-shirts that said "USWA Local 1190 strike force" on the front and "Scab hunters" on the back.

They were working people who simply told it like it is. Clifford Sachini, who worked at the Follansbee coke plant for 13 years, outlined how he couldn't make it on \$40 weekly strike benefits. His wife and father were there to back him up.

"Enough is enough" is the way the union responded when Wheeling-Pittsburgh used bankruptcy proceedings in July to tear up the union contract.

The Wheeling-Pittsburgh steelworkers have won sweeping support in the depressed towns that dot the Ohio and Monongahela river valleys because they speak for the interests of all these working people. The union is fighting to defend these communities against corporate greed. Wheeling-Pittsburgh, the nation's seventh-largest steel producer, has bled these communities for years and now wants to use bankruptcy proceedings to destroy the future jobs and union rights of steelworkers and other area residents.

The Wheeling-Pittsburgh steelworkers are showing that their union will not be an easy target for union busters during the 1986 basic steel contract negotiations. They are fighting for all labor and the allies of labor — Blacks, women, young people,

the unemployed, and the country's hard-pressed working farmers.

The steelworkers union is determined to set back the union-busting plans of Wheeling-Pittsburgh. This is possible because the ranks of the union are being mobilized.

Even Gov. Arch Moore, no friend of labor, was forced to recognize the potential power of the union when he conceded during his meeting with the 300-member strike force: "We simply must grant these workers the benefits to which they are entitled."

The day after the USWA strike force paid its visit, a review board appointed by Moore overturned the earlier decision and granted benefits to the West Virginia steelworkers.

Dave Salner is a member of USWA Local 8621, Nitro, W. Va.

Swedish transport workers declare S. Africa boycott

Sweden's transport workers declared a one-month boycott of trade with South Africa October 14.

Transport Workers Union President Johnny Groenberg said the action from October 23 to November 24 was intended as a warning to the Swedish government. He demanded that Sweden halt all trade with South Africa.

Israel's War Against the Palestinian People

By David Frankel and Will Reissner. The articles in this pamphlet explain the nature of Israel as a colonial-settler state, the character and history of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

46 pages, \$1.25

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

'Achille Lauro': U.S. hypocrisy

The U.S. government says its air piracy against an Egyptian airliner was aimed at bringing to justice the alleged killers of Leon Klinghoffer, who died during the hijacking of the *Achille Lauro* cruise ship.

This humanitarian pose is 100 percent hypocrisy. Washington and its imperialist allies are only concerned about maintaining and extending their domination over working people at home and abroad.

Every day in South Africa, Black people are gunned down in the streets or beaten to death in jail by the white racist regime. When the story makes the papers at all, it usually gets a few lines on the inside pages. There are no demands by the U.S. government that President Pieter Botha and his henchmen be jailed for their crimes.

On October 1 Israeli warplanes bombed Tunisia, killing more than 50 people. Where were the pages of in-depth coverage about the victims, like those now being devoted to Klinghoffer and his fellow passengers? Instead of demanding that the Israeli murderers be punished, Reagan approved the slaughter and newspapers like the *Washington Post* praised it as "daring."

Thousands of Nicaraguans have been killed by mercenaries owned and operated by the Reagan administration. The cry of the administration, Congress, and the

big-business media is not "stop the killers" but "kill more."

The cops who incinerated 11 Blacks, including little children, in Philadelphia last May are free — with no protest from Washington or the big-business media. Nor are they seeking to bring to justice the cops who on October 9 killed Jackson Taylor, a longshoreman on strike in Baltimore.

Human life is the least of the concerns of the capitalist rulers of this country. The propaganda campaign around the hijacking and the death of Klinghoffer is a cold-blooded political operation.

The U.S. ruling class wants to spread the racist idea that the life of a white U.S. citizen is worth more than any number of Palestinians, South African Blacks, or other oppressed and exploited people.

The rulers need to spread that kind of racist ideology if they are to get U.S. working people to fight and die for big business in the Middle East or Central America.

The U.S. rulers are trying to bury the truth about the crimes of Washington and its allies in the Middle East and elsewhere under a mountain of distorted news about events like the hijacking of the *Achille Lauro*.

Provocations against Farrakhan

Are the big-business media and capitalist politicians trying to set up Minister Louis Farrakhan for assassination?

There have been the insistent repetitions, in the face of his public denials, that the Nation of Islam leader is anti-Semitic. Now a new inflammatory charge has been added — that the Nation of Islam is in a bloc with the notoriously anti-Black, anti-Semitic Ku Klux Klan.

The October 12 *New York Times* devoted nearly 20 column inches to a story headlined, "White Supremacists Voice Support for Farrakhan."

Dated Houston, the article purported to be an account of a KKK meeting held on a Michigan farm.

The sole cited source of information about the charge of KKK support for Farrakhan is as follows:

"According to people who attended the meeting, several speakers spoke favorably about Mr. Farrakhan." That was it.

Prior to this article, the *Times* and other papers featured articles asserting that Farrakhan's organization had established direct ties with the Klan.

The source of these reports was Rabbi Marvin Hier of Los Angeles. He charged that Farrakhan had invited former California Klan leader Thomas Metzger to attend his September 14 public rally in Los Angeles and to participate in a meeting he would be holding with other Nation of Islam leaders in New York.

Queried on this, Metzger said he and nine other KKKers had attended the public meeting for Farrakhan in Los Angeles.

He said he had never spoken to Farrakhan and had never been invited to the New York meeting.

Where did Rabbi Hier get his information? From

"highly placed sources" in the Los Angeles Police Department.

An LAPD spokesperson said a friend of the rabbi's in the department had telephoned him and simply repeated what he had read in the *Washington Times*. That's a right-wing rag published by the Moonies.

The fact that the frame-up campaign against Farrakhan is based on such stuff does not make it any less ominous. Such scare headlines are designed to incite, and the consequences can be dangerous.

Equally vicious is the anti-Farrakhan hysteria that Mayor Koch of New York is trying to whip up.

Soon after the New York Madison Square Garden meeting it was reported that the New York Police had assigned a special bodyguard to City Clerk David Dinkins, a Black who had attacked Farrakhan as anti-Semitic.

The basis for the action?

In his Madison Square Garden speech Farrakhan had scored Dinkins for his attack and reportedly had asserted that "when the leader sells out to people he should pay a price."

Meanwhile, Koch made clear that the smear charges are not directed at Farrakhan alone.

Commenting on the Madison Square Garden meeting for which 30,000 people — most of them Blacks — turned out, the mayor likened them to Hitler's Brownshirts.

"Obviously, it was disturbing to me," Koch said, "as it was disturbing to some citizens in the 1920s when smaller crowds came to hear Adolph Hitler."

Such smears and the dangerously provocative campaign against Farrakhan must be vigorously condemned and fought.

Oct. 11 anti-apartheid protests

Continued from front page

ther actively involve the U.S. labor movement in the fight against apartheid.

Most U.S. unions, including the AFL-CIO Executive Council, have taken positions in opposition to apartheid, as has the Coalition of Labor Union Women. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists is playing a leading role in working inside the labor movement to deepen union involvement and leadership of this struggle.

Another politically significant aspect of the demonstrations was the way some activists have begun to make the link between the fight against Washington's support for the South Africa regime and the fight against the reactionary policies of the U.S. rulers in Central America and here at home.

The idea that the U.S. government should "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua" was a popular one at many actions. Supporters of the struggle against U.S.-backed aggression in Central America were visible on October 11.

The miners' strike against A.T. Massey and the Arizona farm workers' strike against the Whitewing Ranch were part of October 11 actions, making the connection between the fights these workers are waging against their employers and the fight against U.S. corporate support for South Africa.

A majority of the participants in October 11 were young — mostly college students.

And a high proportion of the demonstrators were Black youth who see a clear connection between Washington's backing for racism in South Africa and the attacks on Black rights here. The NAACP and other Black rights organizations who have made the fight against apartheid a

top priority were a big part of the October 11 actions.

In Los Angeles, a Chicano contingent carried a banner that read "La Raza against apartheid." The National Organization for Women and the Coalition of Labor Union Women also joined in some of the actions, demonstrating the international character of the fight for the liberation of women.

Perhaps the most important thing to note about the extensive October 11 protests is that they are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to reflecting the sentiment in this country against apartheid and the potential to mobilize people to do something about it.

November 21 will mark the first anniversary of the formation of the Free South Africa Movement (FSAM) in Washington, D.C. Protests will no doubt occur in many cities around this date.

For the past year there has been an unbroken stream of anti-apartheid demonstrations and other activities involving broader layers of the population. The nationally coordinated actions on October 11 were part of that process and, in turn, will help spur future activities.

This week's *Militant*, for example, reports on the upcoming November 9 New Jersey anti-apartheid action, which has been endorsed by more than 200 organizations and includes significant trade union participation. We report on the November 1-2 National Student Anti-apartheid Conference that will take place at New York City's Hunter College.

These are just two of many opportunities for anti-apartheid fighters to expand the growing movement to win a free South Africa and an end to all U.S. ties with apartheid.

V.I. Lenin as campaign manager

Why and how do socialists participate in elections? These questions have long been a subject of debate in the radical movement.

Some have argued that it is possible to achieve socialism through the ballot box. Others counter this reformist idea with the sectarian argument that because the ruling capitalist class controls the electoral process, opponents of the system should not participate; that by doing so, they contribute to the illusion that this is the road to social progress.

Marxists reject both of these equally false notions. They insist that participation in elections affords socialists an important opportunity to gain an audience for their ideas and to win adherents to them.

In 1971, Doug Jenness, now editor of the international news biweekly, *Intercontinental Press*, wrote a pamphlet published by Pathfinder Press entitled *Lenin as Campaign Manager*. Jenness explained why Lenin attached extraordinary importance to participation in electoral activity by his organization, the Bolshevik wing of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party.

The following are excerpts from the pamphlet.

In January 1912 (the elections were to be held in November), the Bolsheviks adopted an election platform along the lines proposed by Lenin. The initiation of the election campaign coincided with the publication of the first legal Bolshevik newspaper, *Pravda*, a four-page newspaper that came out daily. The launching of *Pravda* was a major victory for the Bolshevik Party. It became

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

the principal instrument for publicizing the election campaign and popularizing its program.

Reading the articles Lenin wrote at that time, one can see that he viewed the promotion of *Pravda* and the building of the election campaign as an interlinked process.

He wrote comprehensive articles about the paper, discussing how many new subscribers there were, how many were from the working-class districts, etc. Then he analyzed what parts of the country the subscriptions came from, what proportion of subscribers were workers, and so on. He followed the development of the paper very closely along with the development of the election campaign.

At that time the election laws in Russia were extremely restrictive and discriminatory, denying the majority of peasants and workers the vote. They almost make the restrictive election laws of this country seem democratic. In addition, the laws were very complicated and hard to understand. In the section of his biography of Stalin covering this period, [Leon] Trotsky points out that "Lenin was practically the only Marxist who had thoroughly studied all the possibilities and pitfalls of Stolypin's election laws." Not only was Lenin the party's expert on the election laws, but he was in essence the campaign director.

Trotsky writes, "Having politically inspired the election campaign, he guided it technically day by day. To help [St.] Petersburg, he sent in from abroad articles and instructions and thoroughly prepared emissaries" (*Stalin*, Stein and Day, New York, 1967, page 142).

That Lenin functioned as campaign director in this manner is particularly amazing, since he was in exile in Poland.

Lenin followed the development of the elections just as he did the growth of the newspaper and the growth of the membership of the party.

When the elections were over, he wrote detailed statistical analyses of the meaning of the elections including the votes that each party received.

Lenin did not view electoral work in a period of ascending radicalization as a peripheral or sideline activity. It was not a task to be carried on in routine fashion; rather, it was the central task of the party, requiring a tremendous mobilization of forces, political inspiration, and great care for detail.

Lenin wrote the following in 1920:

"The Communists in Western Europe and America must learn to create a new, unusual, non-opportunist, non-careerist parliamentarism; the Communist Parties must issue their slogans; real proletarians . . . should scatter and distribute leaflets, canvass workers' houses and the cottages of the rural proletarians and peasants in the remote villages. . . .

"They should go into the most common taverns, penetrate into the unions, societies and casual meetings where the common people gather, and talk to the people, not in scientific (and not in very parliamentary) language, they should not at all strive to 'get seats' in the parliament, but should everywhere strive to rouse the minds of the masses and draw them into the struggle. . . ."

Puerto Rico mudslide — social disaster kills 500

"Help the victims of the disaster in Puerto Rico," reads the sign on the door of the *bodega* (grocery store) near my apartment in the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Similar signs can be seen in stores in Puerto Rican and Dominican *barrios* throughout the city. On the street all



¡BASTA YA!

Andrea González

conversation returns again and again to *la tragedia* (the tragedy).

The tragedy is the mudslide that destroyed a shantytown, killing at least 500 people outside Ponce. (See story page 3).

The mudslide followed several days of heavy rains. But the death and destruction was not caused by rain. This was no natural disaster that could not have been avoided. *This was a social disaster* that could easily have been avoided if safe, low-cost housing had been built for all who need it on the island.

The victims of the mudslide were working people, who, like the majority of working people in Puerto Rico, were poor.

They died because they could not find a job that would allow them to pay rent for decent housing. Their poverty forced them to build homes out of wood and tin on the side of a mountain that was not safe.

The disaster in Puerto Rico reveals that the U.S. government's propaganda that Puerto Rico is a model of development for Caribbean nations is a lie.

The disaster demonstrated that 87 years of U.S. colonialism has far from wiped out poverty for Puerto Rican working people. The factories, super highways, and beach front condominiums are there to generate profits for U.S. companies. For the workers and farmers of Puerto Rico, there is still only poverty, unemployment, and underemployment.

The shantytown in Ponce was not unique. It was one of hundreds of shantytowns that surround the major cities on the island. More than 200,000 people — out of Puerto Rico's population of 3.2 million — live in such shantytowns. These areas are overcrowded and lack sanitation and clean water.

The shantytowns themselves reflect the other social problems on the island. Unemployment is near 50 percent. And 90 percent of the population survives only through food stamps or other federal aid.

Ironically, the same issue of the *New York Times* that reported on the destruction of the shantytown also ran a full page ad by the colonial government of Puerto Rico entitled "The Climate is Right." The ad encourages businesses to come to Puerto Rico.

It tells U.S. corporations to "find out why the leading companies in the world are thriving in Puerto Rico." It brags of "a pro-business climate where average profits are consistently higher." It points to the "generous federal and local tax exemptions" on all profits made in Puerto Rico. In bold print it announces "annual rents as low as \$1.25 per square foot" for industrial facilities.

The U.S. government and the colonial government in Puerto Rico guarantee the *right* climate for U.S. corporations to make big profits in Puerto Rico. These guarantees come at the expense of Puerto Rican working people's standard of living and even their lives.

The only solution the colonial government proposes in the aftermath of this disaster is more sacrifices to keep the climate right for U.S. businesses. It gave Ponce \$30 million. But this money is not to build housing for the 25,000 people currently living in mountainside shantytowns. It is for improving the ports in the city for U.S. corporations doing business in the Caribbean!

The social disaster in Ponce dramatically illustrates that the right climate for U.S. capitalists is the wrong climate for us.

Parental leave: one woman miner tells her story

In 1974 when her husband Wayne was on strike for the second time against the Whirlpool Corp., Pam Schuble decided to get a job at Amax Coal. She made history by becoming the first woman member of the United Mine Workers union in the state of Indiana.

For five years, Pam had an excellent attendance and



WOMEN IN REVOLT

Pat Grogan

work record. But when her 12-year-old daughter, Jolene, became seriously ill, Pam was threatened with the loss of her job.

In June 1979 Jolene had surgery for the removal of a brain tumor. It left her brain-damaged, partially blind, and in need of intensive, specialized medical care — care not available near Chandler, Indiana, where Pam and Wayne lived and worked. In the next six years Jolene was in seven different institutions in an attempt to find medical personnel with the know-how to help her. Several times she went into comatose states because she lacked that expert help.

This meant that both Wayne and Pam had to take time off work to be with Jolene.

But Amax Coal didn't like that.

They told Pam that if she wanted to keep her job, she should give up parental rights to Jolene. That way, the child would be put on welfare, which would foot the bill.

Amax began harassing Pam for absenteeism, questioning doctors and demanding elaborate documentation proving she was actually with her daughter.

Under this kind of intense pressure, Pam's nerves broke. She spent three months in the hospital and was on medical leave for six months.

When she got back to work, the harassment stepped up. She was put on probation. At a time when she needed job security and medical insurance more than ever — last year the cost of Jolene's treatment and hospitalization was \$250,000 — she was faced with being fired if she took time off for her own health or her daughter's.

The company insisted she get special "counseling" from a company flunky with no psychiatric training.

But Pam is a fighter. And, as she says, "I'm union." Her union, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), stepped in and helped fight the company's harassment. Pam also contacted the Coal Employment Project (CEP), a group that helps women get and keep jobs in the mines.

Pam's own situation has improved, but she continues to fight so that other working people won't have to go through what she did.

I met Pam at a recent conference on the problems of family and work sponsored by the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). She and other women members of the UMWA were there to talk about their fight for parental leave. Parental leave is the right of workers —

male and female — to be absent from work because of the birth, adoption, or serious illness of a child.

Women coal miners like Pam, backed by the CEP, launched a successful campaign to win the union to include parental leave as part of its 1984 bargaining.

Mine Workers President Richard Trumka told the CLUW conference how it was "a group of dedicated UMWA members, dedicated women coal miners, who organized to get the issue of parental leave before the whole union. And to get the whole union behind the demand for parental leave."

Trumka said that while it was women coal miners who raised the issue, both men and women workers are deeply affected and will benefit. "It's another example of women miners making this a better union. It's long overdue for the labor movement to take on the job of humanizing the work place, so workers don't have to choose between their jobs and the welfare of their families."

Having children was once considered a reason to keep women out of the job market. Today 60 percent of women with school-age or preschool children work. In 1970, it was only 40 percent.

More and more women are single heads of households. And in more than 50 percent of families with married-couples, both husband and wife work.

There was a lot of discussion at the CLUW conference on the need for the unions to take up the fight for parental leave. Like child care, working women are pressing for these demands as more and more of us become part of the work force and active in the unions.

LETTERS

Rotten articles

In the September 14 and 28 issues of *The Nation*, a pair of rotten articles by Penny Lernoux (author of *Cry of the People*) appears on the Miskitos in Nicaragua.

She casts doubts on the autonomy proposals, misrepresents Brooklyn Rivera's role, and even challenges the threat of Red Christmas!

In sum, she sees the Indians of Nicaragua as caught between neo-Stalinist FSLN bullies and the *contras*.

I think an article dealing with these points should be forthcoming.

John Warne
Indianapolis, Indiana

AIDS scare

Your article "Behind scare campaign against AIDS victims" was an excellent antidote to the fear-mongering campaign by reactionary forces that seeks to play upon the ignorance of working people in order to deepen their prejudices and further poison the waters of human solidarity.

The slow and disorganized response of the government and medical system is a product of their institutional natures: racist, homophobic, and profit-oriented. While research institutions jostle for limited grant money; while researchers squabble over "dis-

coveries" in order to position themselves in the Nobel Prize race; while politicians push blood tests and treat the victims like lepers; while public health officials offer only "individual solutions" (be monogamous, don't use drugs, don't give blood) — people are dying: victimized once by a deadly disease; twice by ostracization; and a third time by an inadequate health care system.

Even though the Center for Disease Control has yet to conduct sociological studies of AIDS victims, the picture is becoming clearer that the cause and transmission of AIDS is not simply exposure to the HTLV-III virus. AIDS is concentrated in about six major U.S. cities: New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Chicago, and Newark, and among groups that suffer not only from sexual and racial oppression but who are forced to live in extremely unhealthy conditions. Forty-one percent of AIDS victims are non-white. Nearly all of the 150 pediatric cases are Black. One-third of the IV drug cases are from the South Bronx and Newark.

Documentation of the highest per capita concentration of AIDS in the world (among Blacks in Belle Glade, Florida) has begun to change the thinking of the medical community away from the single-cause theory toward co-factors,

such as sanitation, general health, nutrition, crowded housing, etc., playing key roles.

This is borne out in back-handed fashion by the CDC's own estimates that "only" 10 percent of those who test positive for the HTLV-III antibody will ever get AIDS. Environmental and public health factors seem responsible both for the introduction of the virus into humans as well as for its transmission.

Rich Cahalane
Somerville, Massachusetts

Uhuru sasa!

With the spirit of brother George Jackson I send my solidarity to the *Militant*.

Uhuru sasa!

I read the column on "Apartheid: source of all violence in South Africa." It was very good. I got a whole lot out of the column. And so did the other brothers here.

A prisoner
Michigan City, Indiana

Column unfair

The October 4 "Our Revolutionary Heritage" column was, in my opinion, very unfair.

To say that the opinions of one person in the Socialist Party USA constitutes an echo of the policies of the ruling classes is a fallacy.

Most of the other SP leaders and members opposed Morris Hill-



quit's resolution. One person does not make a party. This column was incorrect in making such an assumption.

Jack Holmes
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Correction

In an article on the Seattle teachers' strike appearing in the October 11 *Militant*, the student-teacher ratio in Washington state was misstated. It should have given the ratio as 31 to 1, making the state rank 47th in the 50 states as to student-teacher ratio.

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

duced-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.

U.S., Canada workers strike Chrysler

BY HARRIS FREEMAN

DETROIT, October 16 — The 80,000 Canadian and U.S. Chrysler workers struck the corporation at 12:01 a.m. today.

Negotiators for the United Auto Workers (UAW) unions in Toronto and Detroit rejected a wide range of concessions demanded by the third-largest U.S. auto maker.

In the U.S., 70,000 UAW members at Chrysler are demanding wage and benefit parity with Ford and General Motors workers and retirees.

Similar demands are being raised by members of the Canadian UAW, now an independent union.

Since 1979, Chrysler workers have given up more than \$1.1 billion in wage and benefit concessions and have seen a 45 percent reduction in the union work force.

But despite record profits — \$2.38 billion in 1984 and \$1.1 billion in the first six months of 1985 — Chrysler is demanding a new round of deep concessions.

Chrysler takeback demands include a two-tier wage scale that would start new hires at 75 percent of full pay, with fewer benefits and a three-year catch-up period; a 25 percent reduction in the number of shop stewards; reduction in the number of job classifications from 500 to 8; major changes in work rules; and fewer seniority rights.

These takebacks would divide workers, increase speedup, eliminate thousands of jobs, and weaken the union.

Chrysler workers are in no mood for more concessions. Larry Leach, president of the 4,000-member UAW Local 1264 told the *Detroit Free Press* that his members "are at the point where they say they won't take any more concessions.... They've seen what Lee got. They are united."

Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca received \$1.19 million in a 1984 bonus and at least another \$5 million in stock options.

As the Tuesday midnight strike deadline approached, Chrysler put more concession demands on the table. The company demanded that workers pay for an increased portion of medical expenses and prescriptions and for any increased costs in other fringe benefits, such as life insurance. In addition, the bosses asked for cost-cutting changes in the "30 and Out" program that allows workers to retire with a full pension after 30 years of service.

The UAW and Chrysler were also far apart on the union's demand for some kind of job security. UAW negotiators asked that a two-year ban on plant closings be included in the contract.

Chrysler Vice-president Gerald Greenwald cynically responded, "If people get job security, they will not want to work."

Chrysler bosses rejected demands by UAW members for wage and benefit parity with auto workers at Ford and GM. They opposed any wage increase and instead of-

fered annual lump sum payments that would mean a sizeable loss of money and benefits for Chrysler workers.

Chrysler also opposed folding \$3.61 of the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) into the base hourly wage. This means workers would lose hundreds of dollars in holiday pay and fringe benefits, which are based on that hourly wage rate.

All Chrysler pension plans have been frozen since 1981. On October 9, Chrysler UAW retirees picketed the company headquarters in the Detroit suburb of Highland Park. They demanded parity with retirees from Ford and GM, who receive as much as \$135 a month more.

Picket lines started to go up at Chrysler plants before the Tuesday midnight strike deadline. In Detroit, more than 2,000 second shift workers at the Jefferson Assembly plant set up the picket lines after the 9 p.m. dinner break.

Harris Freeman is a member of Local 1700 at the Chrysler Sterling Heights Assembly plant.



1982 strike of Canadian auto workers against Chrysler demanded wage hike and return of previous concessions. Today, 80,000 Chrysler workers in both U.S. and Canada are striking against Chrysler's demands for new concessions.

Irish workers strike vs. apartheid



Michelle Gavin (left) and Karen Gearon, striking Dunnes chain store workers from Dublin, Ireland, speak at New York meeting.

BY WILL REISSNER

NEW YORK — "The most we can lose is our jobs. In South Africa, Blacks are losing their lives," Karen Gearon remarked.

Gearon, 21, is one of 11 young Irish workers, most of them women, who have been on strike for 15 months against a Dublin chain store, refusing to handle South African products.

Their strike against Dunnes Stores, which began July 19, 1984, has been described as the longest protest against apartheid anywhere outside South Africa.

Gearon, a shop steward for the Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union, was in New York with fellow striker Michelle Gavin, also 21, to address an October 11 meeting of the United Nations special committee against apartheid.

The strike at Dunnes began after the Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union (IDATU) voted to boycott South African goods at its 1984 Annual Delegate Conference. When Dunnes worker Mary Manning refused to handle South African grapefruit, she was fired on July 19, 1984. A picket line was set up outside the store.

"When the strike began," Karen Gearon recalls, "we mainly viewed it as following instructions from our union. We knew very little about apartheid."

Since then, however, the strikers have learned a great deal about the racist system in South Africa. "We would rather give up our jobs than ever handle South African goods again," Gearon stated.

The Dunnes strike has received considerable publicity inside South Africa and support from South Africa's Black majority.

The young strikers were particularly moved by a \$70 donation to their strike

fund from Blacks on a Bantustan outside Durban, South Africa. "Those people have so little," Gearon noted, "and yet they wanted to give us financial support so we could hold out."

Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu met with the Dunnes strikers in December 1984. "We admire and commend your courage and concern for the voiceless people of South Africa," he told them.

Tutu and the South African Council of Churches invited the Dunnes strikers and Dunnes management to spend the first anniversary of the walkout in South Africa, seeing the reality of apartheid first hand.

Management never responded to the invitation. But eight strikers left for South Africa on July 8, 1985. But when they arrived at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport, Michelle Gavin recalls, "we were surrounded by armed guards and held in detention for eight hours until we were placed on the next plane back to Britain."

They have reapplied for visas to visit South Africa. But Karen Gearon notes, "we won't get back to South Africa until it's free. We hope that day comes soon."

As a result of the IDATU boycott call, a number of Irish stores have stopped handling South African products. The Dunnes chain, however, has agreed to remove South African goods only if the substitutes are both higher quality and cheaper.

Because of this policy, Gearon is not optimistic about a quick end to the strike.

At a New York meeting sponsored by the Irish-American Labor Coalition and the New York Labor Committee Against Apartheid, held October 9, United Auto Workers District 65 Secretary-treasurer Cleveland Robinson hailed the Dunnes strike as "a vivid demonstration of sacrifice in defense of human dignity."

Robinson, also first vice-president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, added that "if labor here in the United States acted as you have, South Africa would be on its knees today. You have taken the bull by the horns and said, hell no, we won't touch South African products. They are tainted."

Former New York City Council President Paul O'Dwyer remarked, "the fact that our two young visitors frighten the hell out of the South African government shows just how secure that government is."

Labor organizations represented at the New York meeting donated \$1,100 to the Dunnes strike fund.

Messages of support and financial contributions can be sent to the Dunnes strikers through the Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union, O'Lehane House, 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1, Ireland.

Black, beaten by racist cop, to go on trial

BY KEN HONDA AND ALAN GRADY

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Sagon Penn, a 23-year-old Black man, was stopped by two white cops while driving with friends on March 31. The cops savagely beat him. The struggle resulted in the death of one cop and the wounding of another. Although dozens of witnesses saw the assault on Penn, he has been charged with murder and is being held on \$250,000 bail.

The heart of the case is whether working people have a right to defend themselves when attacked by cops. In a recent breakthrough, after examining the files of the two cops, Superior Court Justice Raul Rosado ordered the City of San Diego to turn these files over to the defense. The files contain a list of people who have previously complained about the racist conduct of the cops involved in the incident.

Sagon Penn's trial is scheduled to begin

October 23 in San Diego. In the meantime, support for his defense is mounting both locally and nationally. Endorsers include Muhammad Ali, Congressman Ron Dellums, National Conference of Black Lawyers, California Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, International Association of Machinists District 50 Business Representative William Greenlee, former boxer Archie Moore, and Bishop George McKinney.

The Sagon Penn Defense Committee is sponsoring a rally October 17 at Lincoln High School Auditorium in San Diego. Speakers include Archie Moore, Maxine Waters, and Bishop McKinney.

For more information, or donations, call (619) 581-3867 or 262-2244, or write to: Sagon Penn Defense Committee, c/o Sagon Penn Legal Fund, P.O. Box 8206, San Diego, Calif. 92102.