

## Anti-apartheid rally wins union backing

BY MARY ROCHE

CHERRY HILL, N.J. — Delegates to the convention of the New Jersey Industrial Union Council of the AFL-CIO meeting here November 26 voted overwhelmingly to "support and mobilize" for the statewide anti-apartheid march and rally to be held in Newark, Saturday, November 9.

Industrial Union Council President Arthur Cole pledged: "Anything we can do morally and physically to support November 9, we are going to do."

Leaders of the steelworkers', auto workers', teachers', and other unions spoke vigorously in support of the resolution.

Leslie Roberts, regional director of District 65, United Auto Workers (UAW), explained that unions are playing a leading role in the coalition building the November 9 demonstration.

Members of local unions are taking the initiative in this. For example, at the New Jersey General Dynamics plant, November 9 activists have found broad support among the members of the UAW there. In less than a day, 100 fund-raising buttons for the rally were sold. A civil rights committee in the local has been reactivated to help win membership participation in the action, and an article about it was in the local's newsletter.

UAW workers at the Hyatt plant in Clark Township have already bought 200 buttons, and at the Ford plant in Edison, 200 were sold as well.

At the Post Office Bulk Mail Center in Jersey City, members of Mailhandlers Local 300, who have been participating actively in the statewide anti-apartheid coalition, sold 1,000 buttons in a day. They're urging members to wear the buttons in the days leading up to November 9.

At the Exxon refinery in Linden, members of Teamsters Local 877 voted to sup-

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## N.Y. socialist defends Sandinista revolution

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — "The State of Emergency in Nicaragua is the act of a revolutionary government organizing to defeat U.S.-backed terror," Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, told 80 people who attended a campaign rally here October 27.

The rally capped a month of intensive campaigning by González and her supporters. In the week leading to the rally, the socialist candidate participated in the welcoming demonstration for Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega at the United Nations. She also participated in the town meeting organized for Ortega. (See article on page 6.) Campaign supporters visited the picket lines of striking Columbia University clerical workers. González also visited members of the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) on strike against Sperry Rand in Great Neck, Long Island.

"The Nicaraguan revolution," González said, "is not the first revolution that has had to take emergency measures to defend the gains of the people from counterrevolutionary forces."

"One revolution in a small, poor country freeing itself from a major power took much more severe measures. It jailed without charges or trial over 10,000 people, shot hundreds of others, prohibited all supporters of the counterrevolution from teaching, preaching, or holding any job and confiscated their land. But it was only these measures that secured the American revolution against the British empire."

The U.S. government, González said, seized on the State of Emergency to charge that Nicaragua is a totalitarian dictatorship. "How can Nicaragua be a dictatorship

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## Nicaragua batters U.S.-organized mercenaries



Militant/Michael Pennock

Young militia members at rally in Managua last February. Thousands of workers and farmers have joined Nicaragua's militia to defend their country against U.S.-organized attacks.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government's reimposition of certain state of emergency measures is reinforcing recent victories scored by Sandinista troops over the mercenaries armed and directed by the U.S. government.

"We've battered the mercenaries, demoralized them, and divided them,"

explained Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. "We have to keep on the offensive now to assure their strategic defeat. We can't give them any breathing space."

The state of emergency measures announced October 15 were previously in effect here from 1982 to the summer of 1984, when they were lifted during the country's presidential election. Their reimposition now is designed to prevent Washington's mercenaries from organizing terrorist actions and other destabilization efforts in the cities.

On the military front, Sandinista leaders explain that the CIA's mercenary forces currently inside Nicaragua have lost all initiative and ability to mount effective operations. In a major news conference October 14, Vice-minister of Defense Joaquín Cuadra outlined the situation the mercenaries find themselves in today.

Throughout 1985, the Sandinista army has handed big defeats to the CIA's counterrevolutionary armies, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE), said Cuadra. This summer, the U.S. government launched an operation called "Plan Repunte '85" (Turn the Tide Plan '85) in an effort to regain the offensive. The plan called for the CIA's best-trained mercenaries to try to take the towns of Estelí, Condega, and La Trinidad, in the northern Pacific Coast region of the country, and to seize control of the Pan American highway.

Although the terrorists managed to briefly enter the town of La Trinidad, they took big losses as they were driven out: 150 dead and 61 captured. The Sandinista army broke up the task forces involved in this CIA offensive, and the mercenaries were dispersed.

The CIA then relaunched another "turn the tide" offensive, trying again to attack the Estelí region, as well as opening up offensives in Boaco and Chontales, in south-central Nicaragua, and in the gold-mining region of north-central Nicaragua. The goal was to seize the airstrip at Sina, one of the mining towns, use it to bring in supplies from Honduras, and then connect up with the mercenary forces in Chontales.

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## AFL-CIO debates Central America

BY TOM LEONARD

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The deepening discussion inside the AFL-CIO over government policy in Central America broke out in the open on the convention floor this afternoon.

A two-hour debate took place as delegates were deliberating over 32 resolutions on international affairs submitted by labor bodies across the country.

Spearheading opposition to the Central America policy of the AFL-CIO Executive Council were Ed Asner, head of the Screen Actors Guild; Kenneth Blaylock, president of the American Federation of Government Employees; and Nita Brueggeman, Pacific Northwest Joint Board manager of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

Resolution #34, moved and adopted by the convention, is entitled, "Labor, National Security, and the World." It was submitted by the federation's Executive Council. The resolution says that a "negotiated settlement, rather than a military victory, holds the best hope" for establishing peace and democracy in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers, told the media that the resolution was a compromise — taking no position for or against giving aid to the U.S.-backed mercenaries trying to topple the Nicaraguan government. He said that the resolution would allow unions affiliated to the AFL-CIO to support or to oppose the *contras* (counterrevolutionaries).

The resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority of delegates. None of

the other 31 resolutions on international issues, however, were brought to a vote.

It is clear from today's debate that a public discussion has opened up on what position the labor movement should take on the U.S. government's war drive in Central America. The expansion of that debate will have important ramifications throughout the labor movement.

The week-long 16th Constitutional Convention of the AFL-CIO began October 28

with a keynote speech by federation President Lane Kirkland.

Some 852 delegates representing 85 national and international unions — most of them elected union officials or staff members — are registered for the convention.

Observing the convention are a large number of trade unionists from Africa, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

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## Freedom letter to Bishop Tutu: One million against apartheid

The Free South Africa Movement is carrying out a campaign to get 1 million signatures on a Freedom Letter of support to Bishop Desmond Tutu. The goal is to gather the signatures by November 27 and to send a delegation from the United States to deliver the letter on December 16.

Tutu has come under fire from ultra-rightists like Rev. Jerry Falwell, as well as from the South African government, for his irreconcilable opposition to the racist apartheid system. Because Tutu denounces the racist nature of the Reagan administration's support for the South African rulers, these attacks on him have found an echo in the U.S. government.

### EDITORIAL

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The Freedom Letter makes it clear where all democratic-minded people stand on these attacks: "Jerry Falwell does not speak for me — or for America. . . ."

"By signing this FREEDOM LETTER, we say NO to Mr. Falwell, NO to apartheid, and NO to the government of South Africa."

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland is a signer of the Freedom Letter, and many unions are supporting it. The letter has been distributed to all locals of the United Mine Workers of America.

Every effort should be made by unions, anti-apartheid coalitions, and other opponents of apartheid to help the Free South Africa Movement reach the goal of 1 million signatures.

Bishop Tutu is putting his life on the line by defying the repression of the murderous apartheid regime. He has earned the solidarity of democratic humanity.

# South African struggle spurs Birmingham sales

BY TOM O'HARA

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — *Militant* sales at plant gates can mean weeks, even months, of selling just one or two papers. But world events can change that quickly.

The courageous struggle of South African Blacks to bring

(USWA) Local 3004, has been selling the *Militant* for years at O'Neal Steel where he works.

"For a long time, we were pleased if we sold one or two papers," Boyers said. "But recently sales have averaged four or five copies a week, and those papers

South Africa every day, so why would people go out of their way to read the *Militant*? Because on something like this a lot of people don't believe they can get the real story from the evening news."

Socialists have begun selling the *Militant* recently at the Arrow Shirt Company in Jasper. Arrow is a large, highly mechanized plant of 600 workers organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. It is located 35 miles northwest of here.

Curiosity may have been a factor the first morning when we sold 10 copies and handed out two dozen copies of the *Militant's* special South Africa supplement.

Socialists sold only a single

copy last week, but discussions in the plant indicate that a real possibility exists for two or three regular readers.

For months SWP members sold the *Militant* at a Southern Railroad yard. Company guards would drive out and park on access roads nearby, trying to intimidate rail workers from buying the paper. But one or two workers each week would stop to get one anyway and the guards eventually disappeared. Then the town police began harassing us, telling us we couldn't sell there. The cops backed off when we threatened to take legal action.

An occasional anticommunist remark from one or another passing car was more than outweighed by friendly waves and

clenched fists from the others, so we kept at it.

Over the past few weeks it is not unusual for four or five workers at Southern Railroad to buy copies on a single sale.

At the Alabama By-Products Co. coke plant, steelworkers became familiar with the *Militant* during their contract strike last year. Currently sales are averaging four copies per week.

No particular plant accounts for increased sales in Alabama. Instead of averaging five to eight copies per week, socialists are now selling 15 to 20 at all our regular sales.

The fact is that events far beyond the plant gate have a deep effect on people's thinking.

## SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

down the apartheid system has generated wider interest in what the *Militant* has to say. That is evident from plant-gate sales in Alabama.

Marty Boyers, a member of United Steelworkers of America

get passed around. There is a lot of interest in South Africa, of course, especially the union activity there, and the beginnings of solidarity expressed by the unions in this country," he said.

"The capitalist media cover

## Textile union defeated in vote at N.C. mills

BY R.C. GORDON

KANNAPOLIS, N.C. — In one of the largest union-representation elections in recent years, thousands of textile workers in Cabarrus and Rowan counties employed by Cannon Mills voted October 9 and 10 against being represented by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). The vote was 3,530 for, 5,982 against.

The vote came at the end of a 15-month-long organizing drive by ACTWU. The union drive ran up against a vicious antiunion campaign by Cannon, the giant sheet and towel maker owned by Los Angeles capitalist David Murdock. Murdock bought Cannon in 1982 for \$413 million.

The last union election at Cannon, which is based in this town, was held in 1974 when the union lost by a vote of 8,473 to 6,801.

Murdock repeatedly threatened to close the mills if the workers voted for the union. Posters were put up in the mills with a picture of a mill gate padlocked shut that said "Vote no!"

In one of many videotape appearances before the workers, Murdock said, "If I determine that Cannon cannot operate competitively, I can and will cease to operate Cannon. . . . If the union has us fighting each other we're going to remain unprofitable."

In addition to threats to close the mills, the company implied that workers would lose any benefits that they currently have if they voted union. This threat scared some older workers who felt their pensions might be in danger if the union won the election.

Murdock told the workers that a union would mean strikes, high union dues, lower wages, more layoffs, and no voice in the affairs of the union. He said the union was nothing but "outsiders," "carpetbaggers," and an "insidious cancer."

Local businesses took out ads urging a vote against the union, and one furniture store threatened to call in loans if the union won.

ACTWU's Southern Regional Director

Bruce Raynor, who is the coordinator of the organizing drive for the union, said that the company had created an "atmosphere of pressure and fear like I've never seen" and that because of the company's tactics the workers were scared.

Murdock has complained that he is not making money with Cannon and that he has had to put up \$12 million of "his own money." But Murdock was recently named one of the richest men in the United States and admits to being worth at least \$550 million.

During the organizing drive the union brought in a number of ACTWU members from textile union locals at companies such as J.P. Stevens and Fieldcrest. They explained to Cannon workers the advantages of working in a mill with a union.

The results of the vote against unionization at Cannon were met with jubilation by the bosses and their mouthpieces in the news media.

A *Charlotte Observer* editorial claimed that the Cannon vote showed that union or-

ganizing is a thing of the past in the Carolinas.

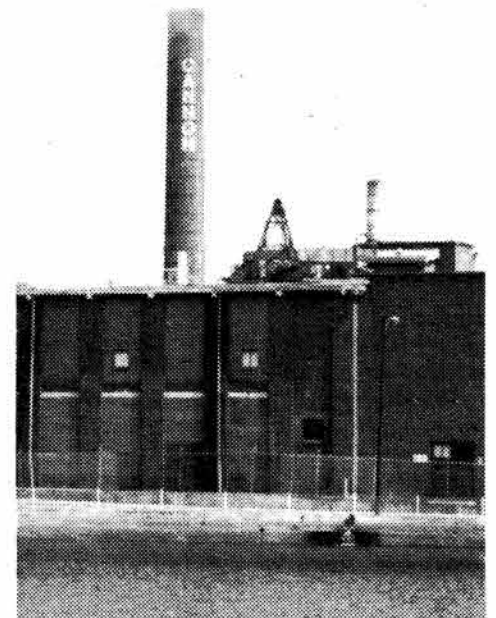
The financial pages carried articles almost immediately after the vote reporting that Cannon was for sale and, since it had stayed nonunion, would be a prime investment.

The union had warned throughout the organizing drive that Murdock was interested only in profits and would sell Cannon if he had the chance to make money. Murdock always denied the union's charges.

Reginald Blackwell, a towel packager and union supporter at Cannon, told the *Charlotte Observer*, "The majority of people I spoke with who voted against the union did so because they were afraid of someone closing the plant down."

Although ACTWU lost the vote, the mood among many Cannon workers who supported the union was one of pride at having put up a good, hard fight against a powerful and vicious opponent.

It is clear that many workers have stood up, and the fight for workers' rights at Cannon Mills will not go away.



Militant  
Cannon Mills, Kannapolis, North Carolina.

## Arkansas paperworkers suffer big setback

BY JERRY FANNING

CROSSETT, Ark. — The 12-week-old strike at the Georgia-Pacific Corp. by approximately 1,000 members of United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 369 ended October 11. Seventy-one percent of the strikers, many with tears in their eyes, voted to return to work. One union member explained, "They feel they have a loaded gun with the hammer drawn stuck at their heads."

Georgia-Pacific got everything it demanded, including a "flexibility" program that would seriously damage job security and a cut in the number of holidays enjoyed by its employees. In addition, the company will keep 150 scabs on the payroll to permanently replace the same number of strik-

ing workers. Among those replaced are Local 369's officers, including its president, Troy Kincaid, a 33-year veteran of the papermill. Most workers believe this is a bluff designed to intimidate the union.

The people of Ashley County formed a solid wall of unity with the strikers throughout the entire strike. Hardly a single word was spoken against the strikers. At the beginning of the strike Georgia-Pacific asked area merchants not to extend aid to the workers. They made allusions to hard times that might come to those who did so. In spite of this, grocers extended credit to strikers, small employers gave part-time jobs, and service stations gave discounts. The woman who owns the vacant lot across the street from the plant's

main gate gave strikers permission to rally there. She maintained her position even though Georgia-Pacific got a court injunction against the rallies, and she steadfastly refused company attempts to buy the property.

"What the company doesn't understand is with the tactics they used to win this strike, they've completely alienated this work force," was one worker's opinion. Nearly everyone else is saying the town of 7,000 people will never be the same again.

Not everything was lost. "We've gained a lot of experience" are words often heard at the union hall now that the strike is over.

Jerry Fanning is vice-president of UPIU Local 796 in Crossett.

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### The Militant

Closing news date: October 30, 1985

Editor: MALIK MIAH

Managing editor:

MARGARET JAYKO

Business Manager:

LEE MARTINDALE

Editorial Staff: Rashaad Ali, Susan Apstein, Fred Feldman, Andrea Gonzalez, Pat Grogan, Arthur Hughes, Tom Leonard, Harry Ring, Norton Sandler.

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

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

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

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

# UAW ranks ratify new Chrysler contract

BY HARRIS FREEMAN

DETROIT — Members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union overwhelmingly ratified a three-year contract with Chrysler Corp. after striking the number three U.S. automaker for 12 days.

The new agreement gives Chrysler workers wage and benefit parity with UAW members employed by General Motors and Ford for the first time since 1979.

A UAW press release quoted union President Owen Bieber and Vice-president Marc Stepp as saying, "... the tentative contract meets the full auto pattern established at GM and Ford last year."

More than 70,000 UAW members at Chrysler returned to work on October 28.

Eighty-seven percent of those voting approved the contract, which gives Chrysler workers an immediate 2.25 percent wage increase and a soon-to-be-received lump-sum payment of \$2,120 to compensate for the enormous concessions made by UAW members over the last six years.

Chrysler workers gave up more than \$1 billion in concessions since 1979. In the last 18 months Chrysler has made \$3.5 billion in profits.

The first year's wage increase amounts to 20 cents an hour for an assembler. A \$2.99 hourly cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) payment will be folded into the base wage rate, increasing benefits such as insurance, vacation pay, and medical that are calculated on the hourly base rate.

That brings the new rate for an assembler, when COLA is included, to \$13.34 an hour.

Workers will receive another 3 percent increase in the base wage rate in the third year of the contract. A lump-sum payment equal to 2.25 percent of a worker's actual yearly earnings will be paid in the second year.

Another monetary gain registered in the contract is the right of UAW Chrysler members to have personal control over Chrysler stock previously obtained as a trade-off for wage and benefit concessions made in 1979 and 1982 contract negotiations. Many Chrysler workers have common stock worth more than \$6,900. They will now be allowed to sell their stock for

its cash value. The agreement also guarantees workers a minimum of \$500 a year in profit-sharing payments.

Discussions at contract ratification meetings and press interviews indicate that the large amount of up-front payments amounting to more than \$9,000 (if sales of stock are included) for many workers, and the inclusion of two yearly wage increases, account for the big majority voting in favor of the contract.

Chrysler workers have not seen copies of the contract, only a 24-page summary that contains none of the actual contract language. No information from the union's bargaining committee on the course of negotiations reached Chrysler workers on the picket lines throughout the strike. The 170-member Chrysler council approved the contract unanimously according to the UAW. All presidents of Chrysler locals urged their members to approve the settlement.

Contracts for auto workers at GM and Ford, as well as Chrysler's Canada plants, all expire in September 1987, leaving U.S. Chrysler workers to bargain alone in October 1988. The UAW initially demanded a two-year pact with Chrysler to have all auto pacts expire at the same time.

The UAW top officials labeled the Chrysler-UAW pact as "parity plus." But the "plus" includes the additional concessions that GM and Ford workers were forced to make in their recent contracts.

The Chrysler contract incorporates wage progression for new hires patterned after the GM and Ford contract concessions. Chrysler new hires — like those at GM and Ford — will start at 85 percent of full wages and benefits. It will take 18 months for them to reach full pay and benefits. Under the previous contract Chrysler workers had received full hourly pay after a three-month probationary period.

The Chrysler owners had demanded large-scale reduction in job classifications and changes in work rules and seniority rights. But Chrysler workers were able to beat many of those demands. Under the new agreement, a joint company-union "National Task Force" has been established to select four plants "for the purpose of analyzing potential changes in work as-



Militant/Kate Kaku

Chrysler auto workers ended 12-day strike after 87 percent voted to ratify new contract.

signments and pay systems. . . ."

The agreement also sets up what the union leadership calls "new advances in job protection." Patterned after last year's GM and Ford settlements, workers with one or more years seniority who are laid off due to the introduction of new technology are eligible to enter a job bank. Once in the bank, a worker must accept a job at any other plant or be trained for a new job. The new jobs include nonunion work at lower pay.

If Chrysler decides to outsource (i.e., contract out) certain parts or work, the company must inform the union 60 days in advance. The union Sourcing Committee then can propose that the plant change the

national agreement's work rules to increase productivity and produce the parts more cheaply. If plant management still wants to outsource, the union can "appeal" the decision to a board of top Chrysler execs.

The contract also includes a letter of intent to have the UAW collaborate with Chrysler's Liberty Project, a plan to cheaply build a small car in the United States to compete with the Japanese auto makers. Chrysler says it will only build the Liberty car in the United States if the UAW helps to improve productivity.

Harris Freeman is a member of UAW Local 1700 and works at Chrysler Sterling Heights Assembly plant.

## Campaigners press sales

BY HARRY RING

It still takes careful organization, persistent effort, and maximum participation, but we're moving toward the final goal in our circulation drive.

The aim is to sell 40,000 copies of the *Militant* and our Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 2,000 subscriptions to both publications.

Having completed six weeks of the 10-week drive, we're at the 60 percent mark on single sales, with 24,153 copies of the two publications sold.

On subscriptions, we held our own last week, but didn't narrow the gap. We're now at the 51 percent mark, with 1,021 subscriptions sold so far.

Socialist Workers Party branches and Young Socialist Alliance chapters are the ones accomplishing this important job of promoting the socialist press.

Special note this week goes to Chicago. They set the seven days beginning this past Saturday as a target week, "to see just how many we could sell," as sales director Holly Harkness put it.

They got off to a fine start. In several communities where they've been selling regularly, they totaled 195 copies — 155 *Militants* and 40 *PMs*. "People in these communities are getting to know us," Harkness said, "and we think we can begin selling some subscriptions on the street." They sold two the first day.

Star salesperson for the day was Cathy Gutekanst. She sold 22 copies of the *Militant* and 10 of *PM*.

The Saturday sales total included the regular weekly presence at the meetings of Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH. This week, 25 copies were sold there.

And there was a gratifying response by several hundred participants at a University of Chicago teach-in on South Africa. A well-stocked and attractively presented literature table sold 43 copies of the *Militant*, plus nine subscriptions.

The week's star subscription salesperson was Marie Cobbs, an Oakland, Calif., Black political activist. She sold eight subscriptions to coworkers at the big FMC plant in San Jose and then, just to up the

total, sold two more at a Militant Labor Forum meeting.

Detroit sales teams hit seven Chrysler plants during the strike and sold 38 *Militants* and one subscription. Another three subscriptions were sold to General Dynamics strikers.

Dallas has the figures to confirm the depth of the interest in the fight against South African apartheid.

During the month of October, along with individual sales and subscriptions, they sold \$1,100 worth of literature, mainly at anti-apartheid meetings and protests.

Nobody in town has a better selection of literature on South Africa, and they've had calls from several campuses to set up tables during anti-apartheid meetings. They've received several invitations from students to provide speakers on the issue.

The same kind of interest was shown in Pittsburgh. At an October 19 anti-apartheid march we sold 44 *Militants*, one subscription, and 38 copies of the *Young Socialist*.

Several areas confirm that the fast-selling *Young Socialist* is proving an excellent lead-in for selling the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Boston has been selling regularly during the campaign in the central shopping district of Roxbury, a major concentration point in the 1970s fight for school desegregation. With much interest in South Africa, they've been selling 20 to 25 copies of the *Militant*. They're beginning to get steady readers and will begin offering subscriptions.

Baltimore sent a team to Cambridge, Md., scene of civil rights battles in the 1960s. Door-to-door, they sold 10 *Militant* subscriptions and seven individual copies.

In Greensboro, at a North Carolina campus conference on apartheid, attended by 100 people, 11 *Militant* subscriptions were sold, as well as 17 individual copies.

Finally, in Phoenix, plant gate sales include selling at ranches organized by the Arizona Farm Workers. At one ranch last week, 16 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold.

All of the above adds up to a solid accomplishment.

## SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #6: Totals as of Militant issue #41, PM issue #20)

Area	SINGLE ISSUES		SUBSCRIPTIONS
	Sold this week Militant/PM	% of 10-week goal reached	Sold so far Militant/PM
Atlanta	74/0	55	23/0
Baltimore	82/2	59	32/1
Birmingham	81/0	67	26/0
Boston	66/5	47	16/7
Capital District, N.Y.	55/0	53	23/1
Charleston, W. Va.	10/0	31	10/0
Chicago	147/18	57	33/1
Cincinnati	36/0	66	9/0
Cleveland	37/4	54	10/0
Dallas	101/13	55	26/2
Denver	101/4	59	16/0
Detroit	125/0	52	50/3
Greensboro, N.C.	61/0	57	39/0
Houston	155/16	56	67/4
Kansas City	212/0	99	12/0
Los Angeles	158/35	72	58/14
Louisville	42/0	62	14/0
Miami	60/4	47	18/1
Milwaukee	41/9	61	18/2
Morgantown, W. Va.	50/0	65	7/0
New Orleans	26/0	48	32/1
New York	143/36	40	30/2
Newark	154/25	51	46/7
Oakland	85/15	62	17/4
Philadelphia	31/14	57	18/0
Phoenix	28/8	63	12/19
Pittsburgh	93/3	53	10/1
Portland	53/3	48	16/0
Price, Utah	9/0	31	6/0
Salt Lake City	69/7	64	10/2
San Diego	53/13	65	20/2
San Francisco	128/36	67	20/8
San Jose	66/23	45	15/8
Seattle	86/6	57	15/4
St. Louis	220/0	42	28/0
Tidewater, Va.	20/0	67	6/0
Toledo	69/1	63	37/2
Twin Cities	130/9	51	37/3
Washington D.C.	91/6	92	30/10
Total sold this week	3,248/315		
Total sold to date	21,641/2,512		912/109
10-week goal	40,000		2,000
Percent of national goal reached	60%		51%
To be on schedule	60%		60%

# Buthelezi: friend or foe of apartheid?

BY ERNEST HARSCH

In Durban, South Africa's second major industrial center, anti-apartheid activists have been subjected to a brutal crackdown that has taken scores of lives since early August. This is despite the fact that Durban is not one of the areas officially covered by the state of emergency.

Some of those killed have been shot down by the police. But more often than not, they have been the victims of reactionary goon squads organized by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, a key Black collaborator with the apartheid system.

Buthelezi heads the KwaZulu Bantustan, one of the 10 impoverished rural reserves set up by the apartheid regime. He also leads the Inkatha YeNkululeko YeSizwe (National Cultural Liberation Movement), a Zulu-oriented tribal organization commonly called Inkatha.

The main targets of this terror campaign have been supporters of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the 2-million-member anti-apartheid coalition that has been at the forefront of the current Black upsurge. In the Durban area, most of its members are themselves of Zulu background.

In early August, as demonstrations by UDF supporters in Durban mounted against the regime's apartheid policies, Buthelezi's Inkatha members, armed with sticks, knives, and spears, went into action. After one memorial meeting in Umlazi township for an assassinated UDF leader, 12 people were killed by Inkatha thugs, as police looked on.

Then Indians were attacked in the township of Inanda, which had previously resisted government efforts to incorporate it into KwaZulu.

## 'South Africa is at war'

In late August, Winnington Sabelo, an Inkatha leader and member of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, warned all UDF supporters to get out of Umlazi or "face the consequences." Inkatha *impis* (Zulu for "regiments") mounted round-the-clock patrols of the township.

Around the same time, speaking at a conference of the Inkatha Youth Brigade, Buthelezi explicitly attacked both the UDF and the African National Congress (ANC), the vanguard liberation organization, accusing them of engaging in an "unholy duet of violence." Michael Morris, of the government's Institute of Terrorism Research, called on the Inkatha youth members to mobilize "as warriors" to combat the ANC. "You must think South Africa is at war," he told them; "it must be saved."

In early September, Thabo Mokoena, a UDF activist as well as an organizer for the National Federation of Workers Unions, was dragged from his home and killed. A few days later, James Ngubane, a member of the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo), whose name had been on an Inkatha "hit list," was beaten to death in Mpumalanga township, near Hammarsdale.

In KwaMashu township, Inkatha members have burned down houses of supporters of the UDF and of its local affiliate, the KwaMashu Youth League, forcing residents to flee for their lives.

On September 28, at a rally of Inkatha supporters addressed by Buthelezi, an *impi* left the Umlazi stadium and marched across the street to Lamontville, another township that has resisted incorporation into KwaZulu. Residents were attacked, and six people were killed in the fighting.

According to a report in the October 11 *New York Times*, a three-week-old infant died two nights earlier "after a group of blacks threw a gasoline bomb into a private house in the township of Umlazi, near Dur-



Chief Gatsha Buthelezi of South Africa.

ban, according to the police. Two other blacks died in similar incidents in the township." The houses belonged to UDF supporters.

## Propaganda campaign

The progovernment South African press, like the big-business news media in the United States and other countries, generally portrays such clashes as examples of "Black-on-Black violence," as seemingly inexplicable "tribal conflicts" and "faction fights" that the police are simply trying to bring under control.

This propaganda theme attempts to absolve the white minority regime of responsibility for the death and destruction in South Africa's Black townships, shifting the blame onto the oppressed Blacks themselves. It seeks to cover up the fact that the conflict is between those who are fighting to end the racist apartheid system and the white authorities, who, with the help of some Black collaborators, are trying to maintain it.

As a minority regime, Pretoria has long found it expedient — and necessary — to recruit Blacks to carry out some of its dirty work, for instance in the police force and apartheid administration. And ever since the original conquest of the indigenous African peoples, it has also followed a policy of divide-and-rule toward the Black majority, seeking to pit Africans, Coloureds, and Indians against each other, as well as to keep Africans of different language groups further divided.

For Pretoria, the Bantustan authorities play a key role in this. And of all the Ban-

tustan leaders, Buthelezi has been especially effective, from the regime's perspective. By fashioning a false image as an opponent of apartheid, he has been able to build up a certain base of support, a feat other Bantustan leaders have been unable to accomplish.

Buthelezi gives militant-sounding speeches and plays on his past membership in the ANC Youth League. He uses ANC songs and symbols and often dons the black, green, and gold colors of the ANC. He claims to support the same goals as the ANC, differing "only" on the ANC's adoption of a strategy of armed struggle to achieve them.

But Buthelezi's actual political course runs directly counter to the ANC's overall strategy of mobilizing the Black majority for the revolutionary overthrow of the apartheid system and the establishment of a democratic, nonracial state based on majority rule.

By administering the KwaZulu Bantustan, he is helping implement one of Pretoria's key apartheid policies. The ANC, like the UDF and other progressive groups, calls for the Bantustans' complete dismantling.

## Fomenting disunity

Buthelezi claims to favor Black unity, but in practice acts against such unity. Inkatha leaders have launched virulent attacks against Indians and Coloureds, as well as against anti-apartheid whites. Most recently, Goodwill Zwelithini, the Zulu paramount chief, claimed that Africans were being used "as a ladder" to advance the interests of a "cartel of Indian, Coloured and white activists in the UDF."

Through the Inkatha movement, Buthelezi has also hampered the process of forging unity among Africans of different backgrounds.

First launched in 1975, following a major strike wave in Durban, Inkatha was designed to channel and control the mass ferment among Zulu-speakers in the region. Inkatha demagogically played on the heroic traditions of the Zulu resistance to the original white conquests in order to win support. When this was insufficient, intimidation, threats of eviction, and promises of material privileges were employed to further build up Inkatha's membership, which is now claimed to be more than 1 million. Though formally open to all Africans, Inkatha's political appeals are in fact directed almost exclusively toward Zulus; as a result, it has few non-Zulu members. In addition, its leadership overlaps with the KwaZulu administration. Inkatha's orientation has served to deepen frictions between its Zulu supporters and Xhosas, Sothos, and other Africans.

While actively fomenting disunity among Blacks, Buthelezi has at the same time been moving closer to the main white bourgeois opposition party, the Progressive Federal Party. The PFP says that it is opposed to apartheid, but makes it clear that it is also against majority rule, based on the principle of one-person, one-vote in a single state. Buthelezi himself has recently urged Blacks to soften their insistence on this demand. Both the PFP and Inkatha likewise speak out against calls for international economic sanctions against the apartheid regime, and Buthelezi frequently tours other countries to campaign against sanctions.

In late September, the PFP, Inkatha, and other liberal white groups and individuals formed the Convention Alliance, which has the declared aim of promoting "compromise" and negotiations among all South African political groups.

Although the ANC had issued a statement strongly criticizing the Convention Alliance, PFP leader Frederick van Zyl Slabbert visited Lusaka, Zambia, October 12-13 to raise the negotiations proposal with ANC leaders. ANC Secretary General Alfred Nzo told reporters afterward, "The ANC does not consider that there has come into being a conducive climate to reach a negotiated resolution of the crisis." Nzo added, referring to the Convention Alliance, "This is an area where the ANC strongly feels that Buthelezi ought not to have been involved."

As the South African struggle has deepened, Buthelezi's true role as an opponent of the liberation struggle has increasingly become exposed. This has been borne out by the growing support for the UDF and ANC among Zulus themselves. While just a few years ago African opinion polls in the Durban area indicated significant support for Buthelezi, this has since declined considerably. A recent survey conducted in Durban ranked Buthelezi a distant fourth in popularity, behind imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela, UDF leader Rev. Allan Boesak, and Bishop Desmond Tutu.

More and more Zulu-speakers are agreeing with the ANC's assessment, as expressed in the September 1984 issue of its monthly magazine, *Sechaba*, that Buthelezi is "proving by word and deed to be an efficient instrument of the racist minority and illegal regime of South Africa in its futile attempts to confuse and mislead the people of South Africa in their struggle for national and social liberation. These attempts are in the long run aimed at disrupting the efforts being made to achieve the broadest unity in action amongst our people, as well as diverting them from the path of the revolutionary armed struggle as led by the vanguard of the South African liberation movement — the African National Congress." From *Intercontinental Press*

## 2 weeks to complete \$125,000 fund

Continued from back page

*tiva Mundial* on the anti-apartheid struggle, or the publication and distribution of *Nicaragua: the Sandinista People's Revolution* by Pathfinder Press.

The fund makes it possible to offer special \$1.00 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *PM* to workers on strike. Because of this special offer subscriptions sold to striking workers have increased dramatically.

For example, five striking cannery workers in Watsonville, California, bought *PM* subscriptions, and 15 subscriptions were sold to striking farm workers at the Whitewing ranch in Arizona. Nine General Dynamics workers in Detroit and St. Louis obtained *Militant* subscriptions, and 15 unionists striking against Hormel's meat-packing plant in Minneapolis are now subscribers.

Supporters of the fund should now seek pledges and contributions from coworkers who read the *Militant* and *PM*, as well as from activists in the anti-apartheid movement, and other readers of socialist publications.

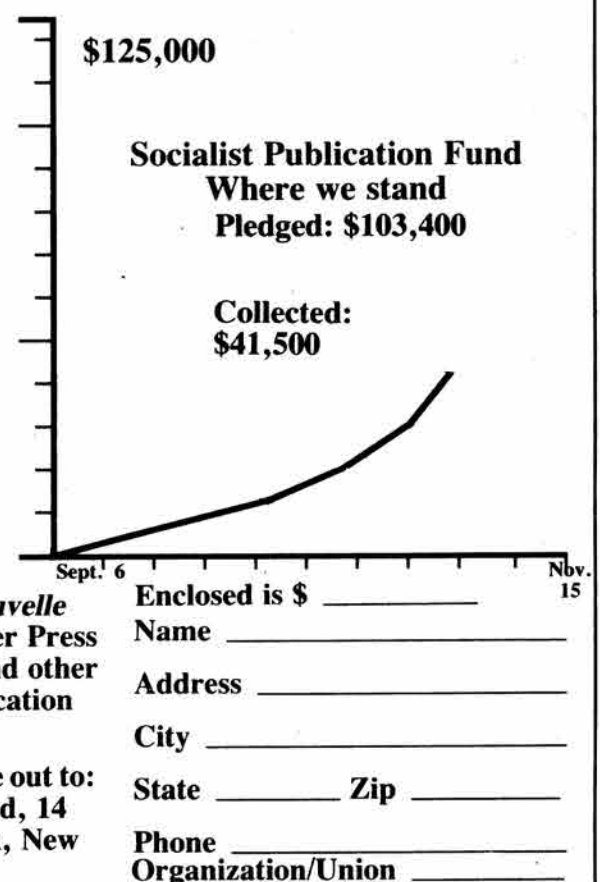
*Militant* readers were recently sent a letter explaining the importance of contributing to the fund. The response thus far has been highly encouraging. In two days we received donations from 12 readers totaling \$325.

What is needed over the next three weeks is a sustained effort by every supporter of the *Militant* to help raise the funds needed to bring the Socialist Publication Fund drive to a successful conclusion.

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

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

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



## Barricada Internacional

*Barricada Internacional*, the weekly official voice of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, is now available in Spanish and English. The price is 6 months for \$12.

Send check or money order to:  
Barricada Internacional  
Apdo. No. 576  
Managua, Nicaragua.

## Salvadoran workers in U.S. protest apartheid

The Salvadoran Labor Center in Los Angeles released a statement in solidarity with the people of South Africa on the occasion of the October 11 anti-apartheid day of protest.

The center is made up of former union leaders from El Salvador who were forced to flee the repression in their country and now live in the United States. Among them is Alejandro Molina Lara, who spoke before dozens of U.S. trade unions in 1983 as a representative of FENASTRAS, El Salvador's largest union federation.

The statement reads: "We understand well the pain and suffering of South Africans, since our own people are also suffering tremendous hardships."

"The South African people are subjected to a racist regime, which uses apartheid to divide the people. This oppressive system forces 90 percent of South Africans to live in virtual slavery."

"Meanwhile, in El Salvador, our people are subjected to a military dictatorship which has lasted over 50 years. This cruel dictatorship protects the interests of the minority. This minority is composed of a handful of upper-class families (the 'fourteen families'), who act like the white racists in South Africa. They have condemned our people to a virtual slavery with the aid and assistance of the U.S. government."

"The dreams of Salvadorans and South Africans are the same."

"• To share the natural resources of the country;

"• To share the land among those who work it;

"• To achieve equality under the law;

"• To have a job and a future."

"Both our peoples have tried every legal and peaceful avenue to change our destiny and that of our children."

"But both our peoples have been met with brutal resistance by the governments of our countries."

"As the days pass, these peaceful attempts to change evolve into open revolt. Our ideals of independence, justice, freedom and peace cannot be silenced, and it is impossible to live under conditions of constant oppression. These are the reasons why the solidarity of people around the world help us to defeat these unjust systems."

"Every civilized society holds that every citizen has the right to life, liberty, and security."

"Every civilized nation holds that no one shall be submitted to torture, to cruel or inhuman punishment, or to arbitrary arrest. But the 'democratic' government of José Napoleón Duarte of El Salvador makes a mockery of these standards."

"The same thing happens in South Africa, which confirms that the struggles of our two peoples are one and the same."

For more information about the Salvadoran Labor Center write them at P.O. Box 62322, Los Angeles, Calif. 90062.

## SWAPO leader tours U.S.

BY KAREN RAY HORNER

SEATTLE — Andimba Toivo ja Toivo, the secretary general of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), spoke here October 6 and 7 as part of a 10-city tour sponsored by the National Congress of Black Lawyers.

SWAPO is leading the struggle for the liberation of Namibia — a South African colony. That liberation fight is closely tied to the freedom struggle in South Africa, Toivo explained. SWAPO and the African National Congress maintain close ties in the battle against the South African regime.

Toivo was a founding member and first president of SWAPO. For the crime of organizing Namibians

against the illegal South African occupation of their country, he spent seven years under house arrest in northern Namibia, and later served 16 years in Robben Island prison in South Africa. Toivo was released in 1984 after an international protest campaign.

SWAPO is appealing for support. There are more than 20,000 Namibians living in SWAPO refugee centers in Namibia and Angola. Money can be sent to: SWAPO Office, P.O. Box 953, Luanda, Angola. For more information on what kind of material aid is needed, write to: SWAPO Office, 801 2nd Ave., #1401, New York, N.Y. 10014.

## International actions

On October 11 in Montreal, Canada, Jeunes Contre Apartheid (Youth Against Apartheid) organized a rally and sit-in of 250 people at ALCAN, a leading Canadian-owned mining company with operations in South Africa. Twenty-three people were arrested in the protest, which made front-page news.

In Stockholm, Sweden, the Isolate South Africa Committee organized a rally that was addressed by Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme, the archbishop of Sweden, and the head of the Liberal Party. Representatives of the African National Congress and the South West Africa People's Organization, which is leading the struggle of the people of Namibia against colonial rule by South Africa, also spoke to the rally.

## More on Oct. 11 actions

More reports on anti-apartheid activities held on National Anti-apartheid Protest Day, October 11:

**Honolulu:** Three days of activities culminated in an October 11

rally of 300 people at the Prince Kuhio Federal Building. The rally was organized by a coalition of community, student, and religious groups. The Honolulu City Council had declared October 11 Anti-apartheid Day.

In Nashville, Tennessee, 450 students from Tennessee State University, a Black college, led a march to Fisk University, the Maharey Medical Center, and Vanderbilt University. The march ended in a rally with community groups at the Legislative Plaza to demand the State of Tennessee divest.

A newly formed coalition in Oklahoma City, including the YWCA, Urban League, and student groups, organized noon vigils in solidarity with political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia.

## K.C.: Black, farm, labor leaders welcome ANC representative

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Labor, Black, and farm protest leaders gathered here October 7 to hear Shuping Coapage, a representative of the African National Congress' Observer Mission at the United Nations.

"Apartheid cannot be reformed; it must be dismantled and destroyed," Coapage told 100 people at a breakfast meeting chaired by Rev. Fuzzy Thompson, head of the Kansas City Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

In the audience were three farm-protest organizers from the North American Farm Alliance, Roger Allison, Merle Hansen, and Darrell Ringer. They were joined by Perry Wilson, Sr., and Perry Wilson, Jr., leaders of Missouri Groundswell, and by a number of other farm activists.

Harry Spring, head of the Greater Kansas City Central Labor

Council, and Matt Snell, chair of the Kansas City United Auto Workers CAP Council, led a labor delegation that included a number of local union presidents and other union members.

Rev. Sam Mann, vice-president of Kansas City SCLC; Rev. Mac Charles Jones, president of the Black Community coalition; Rev. Daniel Childs, from Kansas City NAACP; and Mickey Dean, chair of the local anti-apartheid coalition, were there along with a number of other Kansas City ministers and members of civil rights organizations.

Following the breakfast, Coapage spoke to meetings at Kansas University in Lawrence, Kansas, and the University of Missouri in Kansas City.

## Campus protests force divestment

According to the *Student Anti-apartheid Newsletter* published by the American Committee on Africa, anti-apartheid pressure forced total divestment at the University of Minnesota (\$21 million) and the University of Miami (\$17 million).

This makes 30 schools that have either partially or totally divested since the April 1985 protests. It involves more than \$140 million in investments that universities and colleges have pulled out of companies that do business in South Africa.

The newsletter reports that more and more universities are being forced to accept total divestment. This includes Columbia University that divested \$33 million on October 7; the State University of New York, \$11 million; Ohio State University, \$10.8 million; Arizona State University, \$3.1 million; Rutgers University, \$7.5 million; Barnard College, \$945,000; and California State University-Northridge, \$2.3 million.

# UMWA sponsors tour of Black S. African miners

BY DeANN RATHBUN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The strike was scheduled to begin with the 8 p.m. night shift on September 1. In preparation, the mine management installed electric fences around the barracks where South African miners live, cut telephone lines, and surrounded public phone booths with security police.

Fifteen minutes before shift change, police threw tear gas into the barracks. As the miners fled to escape the fumes, police unleashed dogs and charged with their nightsticks. The miners were forced from the barracks into the mine shaft.

Once underground, they were made to work at gunpoint. Some were surface workers; many had no safety equipment.

This was how South African mining companies responded to the strike call by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), according to Mannoko Nchwe, a research and information staff person for the NUM. She recounted these facts at a press conference here October 21 at the headquarters of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). The UMWA is sponsoring the NUM delegation's tour of the U.S.

She explained that the NUM placed three principal demands before the mining companies. The first was an across-the-board 22 percent raise that would have increased wages for Black surface and underground workers. These wages are far below what white mine workers earn.

The second demand was that the companies observe May Day as a paid holiday. Third, that the NUM be included in the discussions held between the Chamber of Mines and the white miners' unions around the issue of job reservation, in which certain jobs are reserved for whites only.

Out of 11 mines, NUM members sustained the strike at seven sites for three days. Because South African and mine security police brutally crushed the miners' resistance at the other four mines, the NUM was forced to suspend the strike and seek some relief in court.

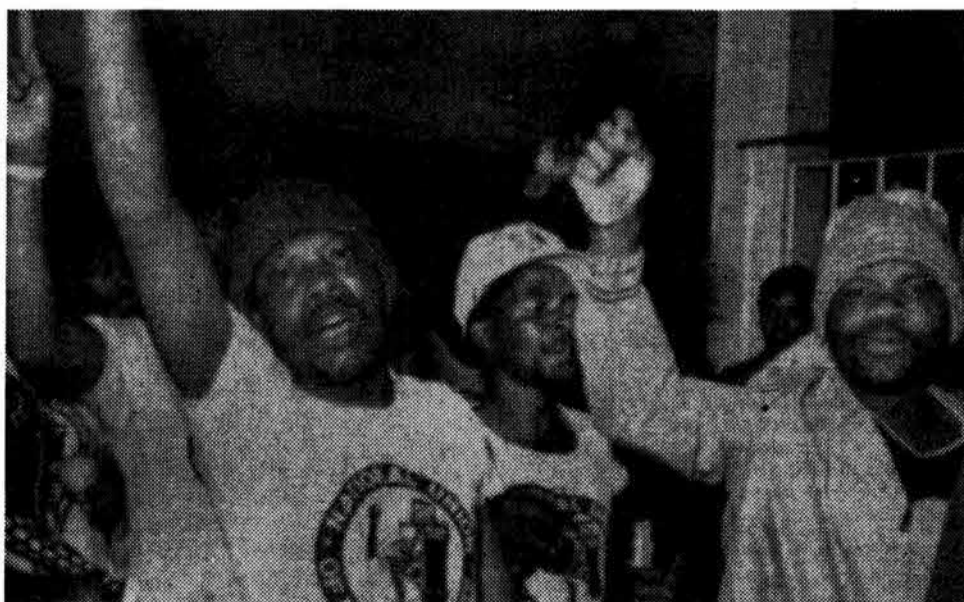
Regardless of the outcome of the October 24 hearing before the Industrial Court in Pretoria, the strike is expected to resume since the dispute still exists. If the court does not rule for the NUM's right to strike without intimidation by the owner, Nchwe explained, "we know that it will be a stiff battle between us and the mine bosses. But we won't be deterred."

The widespread use of migrant labor in the mining industry poses particular problems for the union. These workers, who contract their labor for a year, live in company housing, and leave their families behind, are often deported to the Bantustans or neighboring states if they get fired during union disputes. And until the union was formed, this system kept miners isolated even from the surrounding communities.

During the strike, Nchwe explained, "for the first time they had the people of the communities outside the mines becoming their second families. People were preaching solidarity for the miners' strike. There were even community organizations that formed miners' strike committees that worked to raise the consciousness of the people about the consequences of being a migrant laborer, and of being a miner."

"It was incredible, unbelievable... strong relations have been established through the strike, and we believe it is not going to end with the miners strike," she said.

Solidarity in the form of humanitarian aid has come from miners and other work-



Members of the National Union of Mineworkers

ing people around the world. Such aid is important because South African labor laws prohibit the establishment of strike funds. This has left thousands of victimized miners, as well as their families, in dire straits.

"What we want to establish," said Nchwe, "is some kind of aid to the families and to the miners."

Recently, miners organized by the steelworkers union in Canada, along with the Canadian Labor Congress, hosted the NUM delegation on a 21-day tour of their country. Over \$10,000 was pledged as a start.

Further, she pointed out, "even miners who come from very poor countries like Nicaragua and the Caribbean countries have set up strike committees. They wish

to do something for us, the South African miners, and it's very important. It shows that miners everywhere are the same."

Solidarity in the form of pressuring the apartheid regime is also important. "The more labor gets involved, the more pressure South Africa will perceive, leading to more serious and real changes. Everybody should get involved in putting pressure on the government, the companies, the co-owned South African and American companies."

Joe Corcoran, UMWA spokesperson at the press conference, explained the special importance of this visit.

"One of the things we hope to point out to our members is that by and large we deal with the same companies. Specifically, our

Continued on Page 9



# Nicaraguan leaders host meeting for U.S. supporters

Nicaraguan leaders at meeting of 800 supporters October 25 in New York. Left to right, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Nora Astorga, UN Ambassador Javier Chamorro, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, President Daniel Ortega. Far right, AIM leader William Means asks question.

BY PAT GROGAN

NEW YORK — Eight hundred Central America solidarity activists from all over the country jammed the auditorium of the Ethical Culture Society here October 25 for a discussion with leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution.

The entire Nicaraguan delegation to the United Nations 40th anniversary commemoration, led by President Daniel Ortega, was on hand. Supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution were invited to this *Cara al pueblo* by the Nicaraguan embassy.

In Nicaragua a *Cara al pueblo* (Face the People) is a kind of town meeting, where all present have the opportunity to ask questions, present their views, and hear leaders of the revolution explain policies and decisions.

The main purpose of the meeting was to help arm antiwar activists with the truth about the state of emergency measures enacted recently in Nicaragua.

Among the Nicaraguan leaders at the meeting were Carlos Tunnermann, Nicaragua's ambassador to the United States, Magda Enriquez, who is in charge of the North American section of the Department of Foreign Affairs; Rosario Murillo, secretary general of the Sandinista Association of Cultural Workers; Miguel D'Escoto, minister of foreign affairs; Nora Astorga, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Javier Chamorro, ambassador to the United Nations; and Edgar Parrales, ambassador to the Organization of American States.

For three hours the delegation answered questions on subjects ranging from the new state of emergency measures, autonomy for the Atlantic Coast indigenous peoples, the status of women, the draft, relations with the Soviet Union and Cuba, the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, and many other topics.

Among many expressions of support for the Nicaraguan revolution at the meeting was a message of solidarity from the Puerto Rican independence fighters who were recently arrested in an FBI raid.

## Emergency measures

A Milwaukee trade unionist and a Nicaraguan active in the New Jersey solidarity movement both asked for clarification on the reimposition of the State of Emergency in Nicaragua. They said they needed information to answer the charges being made that the measures were used to suppress the labor movement and the people.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Nora Astorga was the first to reply. "These are not measures against labor," she explained, but measures to protect the greatest conquest of working people — the Sandinista revolution. "As a country in a state of war, we have to take measures to defend our freedom, to defend our revolution, to defend our self-determination," she said.

President Ortega answered the U.S. government's charge that the reason he had canceled a planned speaking tour of the

United States was fear of having to explain the State of Emergency to the people of the United States.

"The State Department leaked the story that we didn't want to confront the American people on account of the State of Emergency. We have the proof that this is false," he said, referring to the meeting.

Ortega explained that the State Department kept refusing to grant the Nicaraguan delegation permission to travel outside of New York City until just hours before they left home. This forced them to cancel their planned trip.

The battle against U.S.-backed mercenary forces, Ortega explained, "is being waged with the support of the Nicaraguan people. We are arming our youth, our workers, our campesinos, so they can win this battle."

Ortega said his government would not permit the CIA to destabilize the revolution. An objective of the U.S. rulers is to try to provoke a collapse of the economy, "but if they think the people are going to rise up against the revolution because of the economy, they are very mistaken."

"The people are completely clear that it is the revolution that has brought schools, health centers, and agricultural machinery to parts of the country that never had them before . . . and that it is the U.S.-paid mercenaries that have destroyed these things — and killed our people and our children," he said.

"So, of course the people are unhappy. But they are unhappy with the policies of the U.S. government."

## 'We won't be another Chile!'

Ortega said the Sandinista leaders had drawn some lessons from the tragedy of Chile, where a CIA-organized destabilization campaign was followed by a bloody coup in 1973 against the Popular Unity government of Salvador Allende.

"Even though . . . the CIA was at that time openly organizing destabilization," Allende's government did not take the necessary steps to stop them, Ortega said.

"You all know the result," he continued.

"The plan for the destruction of a popular government actually succeeded, and the blood of the Chilean people practically flowed through the streets."

To a storm of applause and chants of "No pasaran!" Ortega said the Nicaraguans chose "to keep our revolution alive."

Twice during the meeting the Nicaraguan delegation rose to salute members of the audience.

Once was when Ron Kovic, a Vietnam veteran confined to a wheelchair, said, "We will not allow the same government that sent me to Vietnam to take another generation and send them to fight in your country."

The delegation rose again when Cynthia Pollack took the microphone. She is the mother of Sandy Pollack, who was an antiwar activist and director of international solidarity for the U.S. Peace Council before her death in a plane crash near Havana last January.

William Means, a representative of the American Indian Movement, saluted the Nicaraguan people and the Sandinista leadership. "At no other time in this century, in no other place in this hemisphere, has a government sat down with the indigenous people and tried to overcome this tremendous problem of genocide."

He pointed out that working with the Sandinista leadership "was not a new path for us" and recalled the historic letter of support from Sandinista National Liberation Front founder Carlos Fonseca to the American Indian Movement in 1973.

Ortega closed the meeting by expressing the "gratitude of the Nicaraguan people for all those who were working day in and day out" against Washington's war and said he was confident that together they would succeed in bringing the truth about the Nicaraguan revolution to the United States.

"That's why it's important for North Americans to continue to travel to Nicaragua, to talk to the people, to go where you want, to understand our reality," he said.

"We don't have great economic or military powers." But, he added, "the truth, and history — that's on our side."

## Pittsburgh march against apartheid

PITTSBURGH — Chanting "Freedom, yes, apartheid, no — Nelson must be let go!" 500 protesters marched from the Hill district, a Black community, to the downtown Federal Building. The demonstration was the broadest outpouring of support for the freedom struggle in South Africa yet organized in the city. More than 30 groups participated.

The October 19 march was sponsored by Pittsburghers against Apartheid (PAA). Founded several years ago, PAA has organized picket lines to force department and jewelry stores to stop selling the Krugerrand — a gold coin sold by South Africa. It also organized a successful campaign to oust the South African consul from Pittsburgh and forced the city to divest its funds from companies doing business in South Africa.

Heading up the march were the mayor of Pittsburgh, Richard Caligiri; Jake Miliones, president of the Pittsburgh school board and of the PAA; and Dennis Brutus, exiled South African poet and chairman-elect of the University of Pittsburgh's Black Studies Department.

The majority of the demonstrators were young Blacks, many of them from the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie-Mellon University. Students from several other campuses also participated along with contingents from Alderice High School's International Affairs Club and Peabody and Schenley high schools.

Small contingents of trade unionists reflected the growing involvement of the labor movement in the anti-apartheid movement. Union endorsements of the demonstration included the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Pittsburgh Area Council, the International Union of Electronic Workers District 1, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees 1199-P, Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, Service Employees International Union 585, United Electrical

Workers District 6, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. All were represented at the march.

The international headquarters of the USWA had contributed 5,000 leaflets to the PAA to build the demonstration. These were distributed by unionists at mills, plant gates, and union meetings throughout the area.

The highlight of the demonstration was a rally at the federal building.

## Speeches by Nicaraguan leaders in 'IP'

In face of a continuing U.S.-organized mercenary war against the Nicaraguan people, Nicaragua's leaders have proclaimed a state of emergency. The big-business news media in the United States immediately went on a propaganda blitz to present this as a repressive, "totalitarian" move.

The upcoming, November 18, *Intercontinental Press* features the full texts of two speeches by President Daniel Ortega and Interior Minister Tomás Borge answering these charges and explaining the reasons for the state of emergency.

Ortega, in an address to the United Nations, outlined Washington's military, economic, and political aggression against Nicaragua; the toll it has taken in lives and economic losses; and the U.S. government's flagrant disregard for international law.

Borge, in a speech in Managua, revealed further efforts by U.S.-financed counterrevolutionaries to carry out sabotage and terrorist actions. The emergency measures, he

said, are "an expression of the determination of the revolution to block destabilization efforts led by the U.S. government."

The current, November 4, *IP* includes a background article on the Guatemalan dictatorship's efforts to fashion a civilian facade, as well as on the popular protests against its austerity measures.

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# Nicaragua deals new blows to 'contras'

Continued from front page

This offensive, too, has been broken, said Cuadra. Sandinista troops are still routing the mercenaries from both areas.

Cuadra explained that while the counter-revolutionary troops within Nicaragua are incapable at the present time of mounting a new offensive, they will continue to carry out terrorist attacks on civilians.

It was precisely to block the development of such terrorism in the cities that the state of emergency measures were taken. In a press conference October 21, Nicaraguan Vice-president Sergio Ramírez explained what the measures are and to whom they apply.

There is no state of siege, martial law, or curfew, he explained. Citizens are going to work, to school, to night spots, and sports events as usual, freely circulating on the streets. The National Assembly is continuing its work to draft a constitution. Political meetings, demonstrations, and religious processions, if granted permits, are perfectly legal, and a number have taken place since the measures were enacted.

The state of emergency provisions, he explained, "are aimed, simply, at putting powers in the hands of the revolutionary state that allow it to counteract the activity of those who think they're immune, who think the revolution's hands are tied, who are devoted to activities that are against the laws of the country, and who want to destabilize internal order."

Ramírez was referring both to bombing conspiracies planned by the mercenaries for urban centers and to related provocative actions by the businessmen and landlords of COSEP, the capitalists' association here; by the newspaper *La Prensa*; and by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

COSEP leaders have tried to organize

public rallies in honor of dead mercenary leaders. Obando y Bravo, called "our cardinal" by the FDN counterrevolutionaries in Honduras, has openly campaigned against the Nicaraguan draft at a series of masses conducted across the country.

The state of emergency measures strengthen the ability of Nicaraguan security forces to move swiftly and effectively against these kinds of counterrevolutionary activities.

This offensive, too, has been broken, said Cuadra. Sandinista troops are still routing the mercenaries from both areas.

## Examples

Ramírez gave several examples. One measure allows the police to search a private home for weapons or documents related to counterrevolutionary activity without first obtaining a warrant. It does not extend to the police the right to warrantless searches in other types of criminal investigations.

Another measure suspends the right of a person arrested for counterrevolutionary activity to habeas corpus. Prisoners charged with other crimes retain this right.

A third measure suspends the right to a trial for those detained on charges of carrying out counterrevolutionary activity until a thorough investigation of their actions has been completed.

The right to strike is suspended. The right to hold political meetings and carry out demonstrations is suspended wherever such actions can be used by counterrevolutionaries to set up a confrontation with the government.

At a breakfast with journalists here October 23, Bayardo Arce, vice-coordinator of the executive committee of the FSLN National Directorate, dispelled other



Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Three Nicaraguans who admitted being part of plan to bomb public sites in Managua, shown here at October 18 press conference after being captured. Emergency measures will reinforce military victories against U.S.-organized mercenaries and block such CIA-inspired terrorist acts.

rumors about the State of Emergency. He said press reports about arrests of opposition union and big-business leaders were false. The government had, he said, called in leaders of several ultra-left sectarian groups who are part of the workers' movement, as well as leaders of right-wing capitalist parties, to discuss with them the meaning of the new measures. But no one was arrested.

Arce called the petty-bourgeois left groups "myopic" for failing to see that their recent attempts to mobilize workers in street actions and strikes for higher wages — in the middle of a war — not only disrupt production, but open the door to provocations by the CIA. He noted how effectively the CIA manipulated strikes to help undermine and ultimately overthrow the regime of Salvador Allende in Chile in 1973.

Asked whether the Sandinistas regretted the State of Emergency after seeing the hostile reaction of some European governments, Arce said that solidarity and aid from other governments is important to the revolution, "but the desire of our own people to combat the counterrevolution is more important to us."

## A move from strength, not weakness

An editorial column in the October 24 *Barricada*, daily paper of the FSLN, took up the charge that the measures were imposed out of weakness on the part of the revolutionary government. The column was titled, "Finish off the enemy on every front."

It explained, "The State of Emergency is not a sign of weakness or questioning of people's power, but just the opposite: it is decreed in a moment when we are gaining strategically in the war against the mercenaries."

These terrorists, the column continued, "are going into a retreat. They have lost the initiative and are pulling back in the face of the fire from the people's rifles."

In this context, "the State of Emergency

is the legal instrument which the revolution makes use of in an act of legitimate defense to corral the enemy, hinder its freedom of flight, and deal it the final blow."

Because it is the young draftees of the Sandinista army who have been in the forefront of dealing these blows, the column explained, internal enemies "lurking in certain newspapers and pulpits" have focused their attacks on the draft, "trying to use the justified anguish of parents over the fate of their draft-age sons for ends that are absolutely counterrevolutionary."

"It would be naive," the column continued, not to connect the military actions of the mercenaries with the propaganda actions of their allies inside the country, or to deal with these allies any less decisively.

## Nicaraguan people support revolution

The column also took up the charge that the State of Emergency reveals a lack of confidence in the masses on the part of the revolution's leadership. "The people know this is their revolution because they made it themselves," the column said. "It is a common error in the capitalist press to start from the fact that there is discontent among the people with problems of supplies and services and make that the measure of how strong the revolution is."

"There is discontent, for sure. We have serious problems and we have made errors in the mechanisms of supplies and services, for sure. But our people know perfectly well how to single out the principal source of the problems, which is none other than the fact that this young revolution, since its very birth, has not been allowed a moment's rest, but rather has been the victim of aggression."

There is "an irrefutable proof" of the revolutionary leadership's confidence in the masses, the column concluded — the fact that "there are 200,000 guns in the hands of the people organized in the Sandinista People's Militia." These arms "are the real guarantee of the revolution's survival."

## 'Measures will disrupt terrorists, not us'

BY BILL GRETTER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "There's a lot of talk about our State of Emergency in the international press. People who don't have a thing to say about martial law in the Philippines criticize us," Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado commented at the Tricotextil factory here. "Even some friendly governments don't understand why we had to do it."

"We don't need anybody's advice on our decision," he told the workers. "We don't have to justify it to anybody — except you."

Tirado, a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, toured this nationalized factory October 22. He met with union leaders and plant administrators, and spoke to an assembly of workers.

Tricotextil produces knitted fabrics and casual clothing. The majority of workers are women. The factory is the country's model textile plant. Tirado praised the workers' success in surpassing their production goals, even in the present situation of trade embargo and war, with the resulting disruptions and shortages.

Tirado explained that the cause of the State of Emergency is, above all, economic and military, not judicial. He summarized the escalation of U.S. aggression against Nicaragua, including the trade embargo and "humanitarian aid" to the counterrevolutionaries attacking the country.

Because Nicaragua is dealing big blows to these terrorists, he said, the U.S. government is giving them more money.

All of this is not empty talk, Tirado pointed out. The U.S. government will exploit any opening to destroy the revolution. Washington is now spending \$100,000 a day to cause Nicaragua losses of \$800,000 a day.

Workers agreed that the expanded State of Emergency would increase their ability to block this counterrevolutionary activity. Jorge, a worker in the dyeing department, explained that the workers would be unaffected in their daily lives.

"The State of Emergency will disrupt the terrorists, but it won't disrupt the rest of us," he told me. "It's a way to get the situation back to normal."



Militant/Bill Greter

Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado (right) with workers at Managua textile plant. Workers backed emergency measures aimed at blocking counterrevolutionary activity.

## N.Y. meeting for Central American unionists

BY FRED MURPHY

NEW YORK — A capacity crowd of well over 100 persons filled the hall of Local 802 of the musicians' union here October 26 to hear three trade-union leaders from El Salvador and Guatemala report on the situation facing working people in their countries.

Two union leaders from Nicaragua — Denis Meléndez of the Sandinista Workers Federation and Irene Zúñiga of the National Employees' Union — had also been scheduled to appear but were prevented from doing so by last-minute delays by the U.S. State Department in granting them travel visas. Organizers of the meeting have denounced this obstruction and are urging trade unionists and other supporters of democratic rights to send messages to the State Department urging the immediate extension of visas to Meléndez and Zúñiga.

Also unable to take part, owing to pressing union business in her country, was Leonor Meza, secretary of women's affairs for the United Federation of Honduran Workers.

The October 26 meeting here was part of an East Coast tour by the Central American trade unionists being sponsored by the N.Y. Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador and by other local groups of labor officials and solidarity activists.

In opening the meeting, Henry Foner, president of Local 1 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, pointed to the "double responsibility" the tour organizers were taking on: first, "the responsibility of bringing this message from Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras to the American people, to the workplaces and union halls"; secondly, "the responsibility to change the policy of the AFL-CIO, which links American labor to the worst tyrannies in the world instead of with the struggles for democracy in the world."

Top AFL-CIO officials — including federation President Lane Kirkland — had actively sought to block the Central American unionists' tour from taking place or gaining official labor sponsorship.

First among the touring unionists to

speak was Francisco Acosta, a U.S. representative of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENASTRAS). He pointed out that Salvadoran workers are among "those who pay" for the luxuries enjoyed by U.S. capitalists — "for each one dollar the U.S. invests in Latin America, three dollars come home in profits to the United States. So we are the ones who pay for the huge buildings on Wall Street, for the big hotels here in New York City. We are those who earn \$3.29 a day, not an hour, to make Levis jeans with our cotton and our labor, jeans that we are not able to afford to buy for ourselves."

Acosta appealed to U.S. workers to recognize that "we are neighbors" and that workers in semicolonial countries such as El Salvador are not the ones responsible when jobs are lost in the United States owing to bosses' moves to seek cheaper labor costs abroad.

He also reported that Salvadoran unionists have carried out 88 strikes this year despite the massive repression under the

Continued on Page 13

# 22 Salvadoran rebels freed

BY MARGARET JAYKO

Twenty-two left-wing political prisoners were released from El Salvador's jails on October 24 as part of an exchange between the government and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). The government was also forced to allow 96 wounded rebel fighters — victims of the U.S.-financed war against the Salvadoran people — to leave the country. They were first taken to Cuba and will then go to Europe for medical treatment.

In return, the FMLN released Inés Duarte, the 35-year-old daughter of El Salvador's President José Napoleón Duarte, and her 23-year-old friend, Ana Cecilia Villeda.

They had been kidnapped by the Pedro Pablo Castillo Front of the FMLN in the capital city of San Salvador on September 10. The FMLN also freed 23 mayors they had taken prisoner in the last several months.

The prisoners held by the FMLN were released unharmed, and testified that they had not been mistreated.

For those who had been held in the jails of the U.S.-backed Duarte regime, however, incarceration was quite different. Torture is common in El Salvador's jails, and many political prisoners are murdered

while in the custody of government security forces.

Originally, the FMLN had demanded that several more of its prisoners be released in the exchange. But government spokespeople said they couldn't find them. The assumption is that they are among the thousands of people murdered by the cops, soldiers, and officially sanctioned death squads.

Included on the FMLN's original list of those to be released was Commander Yanet Samour Hasbun, a member of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), one of the five organizations that make up the FMLN. She was arrested in December 1984 and subjected to torture at the hands of the National Guard. The government claims it is not holding her.

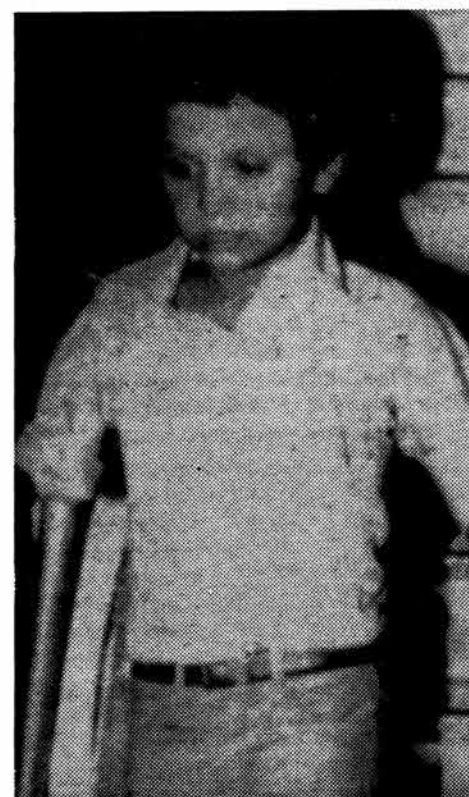
Among those prisoners who were released was Nidia Díaz, a leader of the Central American Revolutionary Workers Party (PRTC). She was one of the FMLN's representatives at the first set of talks with the Duarte government last October. Díaz was wounded when she was captured in battle last April and has been denied proper medical care.

Also released was Américo Mauro Araujo Ramírez, the second-in-command of the Communist Party of El Salvador.

The Committee of the Mothers of the Disappeared, one of El Salvador's most active human rights groups, bought an advertisement in the newspaper *El Diario del Mundo* about the kidnapping of Duarte's daughter.

After expressing hope for her quick return, the statement read, "We hope Mr. Duarte will open his heart at this time: that he will free our imprisoned and disappeared relatives; stop the arbitrary arrests and tortures; stop the bombing and strafing of the civilian population; stop the persecution of the refugees; not forget the murdered, wounded, and captured of Colomoncagua [a Salvadoran refugee camp in Honduras that was attacked by Honduran soldiers] ... that he stop the violence which hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans suffer; that he sit back down at the negotiating table to build a peace with justice."

The evening of the kidnapping, FBI-trained Salvadoran hit squads went into action in San Salvador, raiding homes and arresting people. ANDES, El Salvador's teachers' union, issued a statement September 13 denouncing the arrest of two teachers who were dragged from their homes at dawn by armed men during these sweeps.



Oscar Pérez, 13 years old, who lost right arm in government mortar attack, is one of 96 rebel fighters permitted to leave El Salvador for medical treatment. In addition, 22 political prisoners were freed in exchange for release of daughter of El Salvador's President José Napoleón Duarte.

## Notables take court action to bar author's deportation

BY HARRY RING

A group of noted writers have made a court challenge to the threatened deportation of writer Margaret Randall, who faces exclusion under the reactionary McCarran-Walter Act. This act permits the deportation of those noncitizens the government deems to be "communist," "anarchist," or simply people with the wrong ideas.

Those challenging the victimization of Randall include Norman Mailer, Arthur Miller, Alice Walker, Kurt Vonnegut, and Grace Paley.

The suit was filed in federal district court in Washington, D.C., October 28, two days before the government's deadline for Randall to leave the country. The action was taken by the Center for Constitutional Rights in cooperation with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Randall was born in this country. Her husband, one of her children, and her parents are all U.S. citizens.

In the 1960s, while living in Mexico, she applied to obtain Mexican citizenship so she could work there. A U.S. embassy official wrongly advised her she could do so only if she gave up her U.S. citizenship, which she did in 1967.

Author of 40 books, Randall lived most recently in Nicaragua, where she wrote a book about women and the revolution, *Sandino's Daughters*. Earlier, she lived and wrote in Cuba.

Last year she returned here and has been living in Albuquerque and teaching at the

University of New Mexico.

The deportation order against her came in response to her application for permanent resident status.

In denying her application, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) cited the fact that Randall had criticized the U.S. role in Vietnam, the 1970 killing of the four Kent State students and, in a poem about the crushing of the Attica prison rebellion, had referred to this country as "Amerikkka."

As further evidence of why she should be kicked out, the INS cited an article praising a speech by Fidel Castro.

The writers who brought the suit challenging her exclusion charged that the INS action denies them their constitutional right to associate with her.

The government has regularly used the McCarran statute to deny entry visas to those seen as holding "subversive" ideas.

Among those so excluded have been Nobel Laureate Gabriel García Márquez, Canadian writer Farley Mowat, Salvadoran FMLN leader Rubén Zamora, and others.

Many prominent figures have rallied to Randall's defense. Some of these are E.L. Doctorow, Edward Albee, Holly Near, Studs Terkel, and Gay Talese.

An appeal for support to this fight by Edward Albee and writer Grace Paley rightly declared: "We need a loud outcry in opposition to the indirect control of the freedom to write and the freedom to speak which this case involves."

## N.J. unions back anti-apartheid rally

Continued from front page

port the rally and contributed \$100 to help pay its expenses.

The Newark coalition involves a number of unions, including the International Union of Electronic Workers and the Amalgamated Transit Union, as well as the UAW, Teamsters, and many others. Political groups active in the coalition include the People's Organization for Progress, Young Socialist Alliance, and International Youth Organization. These forces, as well as students at Rutgers University, participate in weekly coalition meetings held at Newark City Hall.

The coalition is distributing 100,000 copies of a leaflet for November 9. It lists more than 100 endorsers of the coalition, including community organizations, churches, elected officials, and trade unions.

Assemblies on the issue of apartheid have been held in Newark high schools, with the support of the board of education, and students have responded enthusiastically.

Meanwhile, the pressure of anti-apar-

theid sentiment was reflected in the October 17 decision by Rutgers University trustees to divest the university's \$4.8 million of stock in companies doing business in South Africa. Lisa Williamson, a spokesperson for the Rutgers Coalition for Total Divestment, which conducted a 32-day sit-in at the university last spring, responded, "We're very, very pleased."

At the October 26 state union gathering, Leslie Roberts of District 65 told the *Militant* that "nothing is going to turn back the clock in the struggle to create a nonracial society based on one person, one vote in South Africa."

"It may take time," he added, "but ultimately 24 million Black South Africans and their allies among the white community will prevail."

More information on building the November 9 demonstration can be obtained from UAW District 65, AFL-CIO, 455 Green St., Woodbridge, N.J. 07095. Telephone (201) 636-9200.

Mary Roche is a member of Teamsters Local 877.

## Minn. farmers stop foreclosure

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS  
AND KAREN STOCKERT

BREWSTER, Minn. — The Production Credit Association (PCA) has given up its attempt to foreclose the machinery and livestock of Bobbi and Alfred Polzine after more than a week of protests by farmers.

The Polzines' farm is located a mile south of Brewster in southwestern Minnesota. In April the PCA refused to renegotiate a spring operating loan and slashed the assessed value of their land from \$1,500 to \$700.

On September 30, after the Polzines fell behind on their debt payments as a result, the PCA got a court order allowing it to begin repossessing machinery and livestock.

Bobbi Polzine is a leader of Groundswell, a farmers organization that has fought for parity prices and a moratorium on farm foreclosures.

Fifty farmers and supporters of the farm movement attended the September 30 hearing. Immediately afterward, they rallied at the Polzines' farm to show their support.

Answering an appeal from Groundswell, dozens of farmers came to the Polzine farm each day to prevent the foreclosure. They dug a ditch 15 feet wide, 10 feet long, and 4 feet deep. They put the machinery in a shed and welded it together. They blocked a rear entrance to the farm grounds with a flatbed truck and an old stockcar.

Rallies and nightly watches were organized at the farm. Farmers who spent nights by the machinery kept warm by building bonfires. They passed the time talking and drinking coffee.

Representatives of the American Indian Movement (AIM) visited the farm to show support. Bobbi was awarded the Eagle Feather, making her an honorary AIM member.

On October 4 the PCA tried to regain the offensive. They called a news conference for the local media at the Holiday Inn in Worthington, where the PCA has its offices. They said "six good farmers" were going to expose the "bad Polzines."

Groundswell countered by planning a rally on the farm and a car caravan to the Holiday Inn. The statewide media were asked to attend the PCA news conference, where "60 good farmers" would defend the Polzines.

The PCA cancelled the news conference. It tried to smear the protesting farmers as violent. "In every protest we are not armed," answered Bobbi Polzine. "Our side is the peaceful side of the protest. What they are doing to the farmers is violent."

The National Farmers Organization, the Farmers Union, and the American Indian Movement issued statements in opposition to the foreclosure. The PCA began to negotiate with the Polzines, resulting in an agreement October 9.

The Polzines had to sell 160 acres of

their land to the PCA, but the PCA agreed to rent them the acreage for at least one year. The remaining 80 acres were refinanced at a lower interest rate, and part of the debt will be put off until after the harvest and the sale of their cattle.

The balance of the loan was deferred until 1992 with no interest.

Bobbi Polzine said, "They had to stop the foreclosure and repossession. It shows that if you fight back, you can win."

## Detroit solidarity rally for General Dynamics strikers set for Nov. 6

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DETROIT — Support is growing in the area for United Auto Workers (UAW) members who have been on strike at two General Dynamics Corp. (GD) plants here.

UAW members are also on strike at GD plants in Lima, Ohio, and Scranton, Pennsylvania.

On November 6, UAW Local 1200 strikers will be hosting a strike solidarity rally open to the community at the Retailers hall in Madison Heights.

Among the featured speakers will be UAW International Vice-president Marc Stepp; Tom Turner, Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO president; Robert Lent, director of UAW Region 1B; and, via video, Owen Bieber, UAW International president.

Twenty strikers from Local 1200 passed out leaflets publicizing the upcoming solidarity event at a meeting October 26 sponsored by the Labor Committee for Free South Africa.

Community supporters of the GD strikers picketed the Warren, Michigan, city hall near the plant all day October 21 and 22. They demanded that the city halt truck traffic on residential streets near the plant. The unionists explained that trucks entering the back gate of the facility are endangering children.

On October 20, 400 Local 1200 members gathered to discuss the strike. They were joined by members of UAW Local 2075 in Lima, Ohio. At the Ohio plant, GD is threatening to begin production by using strikebreakers. Local 1200 pledged assistance to their sister local's attempt to halt this union-busting move.

### New International

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# Gov't attacks federal unions

BY SUSIE WINSTEN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Three national union presidents were found in violation of the Hatch Act, October 22, because of their support for Democratic Party presidential candidate Walter Mondale in the 1984 election.

An administrative law judge of the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) ruled that Kenneth Blaylock, president of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE); Moe Biller, president of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU); and Vincent Sombrotto, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), be suspended from government employment for 60 days.

The suspensions are based on the judge's ruling that the three violated the Hatch Act — a 1939 law that prohibits federal government employees from running for elected office and campaigning, raising money, or distributing literature for candidates.

This is the second prosecution of a union official under the act. The first one was in 1982.

Last February, the MSPB, a judicial structure set up to administer disciplinary charges involving government workers, offered to drop the charges in exchange for the resignation of the union officials. The three are full-time staff members of their respective unions and are officially on unpaid leave of absence from the government.

Instead of resigning when the board de-

manded it, they elected to argue their case and strongly condemned the government's action. Biller said at the time that the board's actions were "part of a continuing antilabor attack."

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland told reporters in February that the charges against the three "strike at the most basic principle of free association" and were designed to limit the rights of union leaders and diminish the strength of the labor movement.

In a statement released to the press after the ruling, AFGE President Blaylock said, "This decision is clearly unconstitutional. It violates first amendment rights supposedly afforded all Americans. As a union president, I am clearly required by law to represent the interest of my members. AFGE, as a union, has decided to endorse a candidate. I must speak for the organiza-

tion and the membership."

He also attacked the Hatch Act for its "singling out of federal workers for denial of basic political rights."

Biller pointed out that the judge's decision was designed to "prevent postal workers from organizing themselves effectively to make their needs and views known in the political system."

"We must continue to press this fight against Hatch Act censorship," he said.

NALC leader Sombrotto condemned the decision for denying "postal and federal employees the right to express freely their opinions in favor of political candidates who they believe will best serve the interest of the entire country, as well as their particular interests as workers and union members."

The union officials have until November 21 to appeal the decision to the full MSPB.

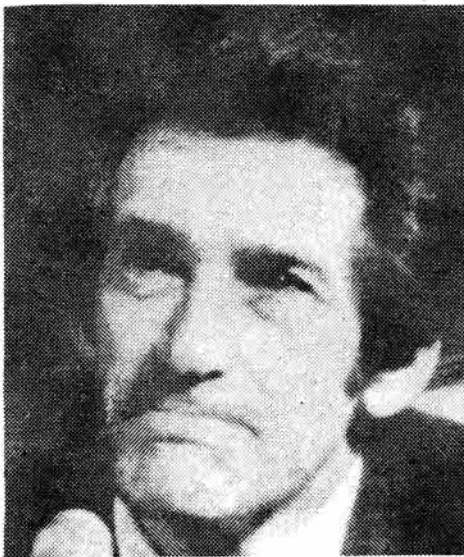


Moe Biller, president of American Postal Workers Union

## AFL-CIO debates Central America issue

Continued from front page

Most of them work closely with the AFL-CIO's International Affairs Department, the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), and the African American Labor Center. The majority also belong to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Their presence and the debate over Washington's Central America policy are reflections of



Kenneth Blaylock, head of the American Federation of Government Employees.

the growing pressure for international trade union solidarity.

Kirkland's opening speech, however, did not touch on the growing worldwide anti-apartheid struggle that U.S. trade unions are becoming part of. Nor did his speech refer to the debate in the AFL-CIO officialdom over Central America.

Instead, the speech took note of the continuing attacks on labor and the decline of union membership since the merger of the AFL and the CIO 30 years ago.

He attacked the Reagan administration and the National Labor Relations Board. The loudest applause came when he commented that the "trade union movement was not created by the National Labor Relations Board — this yellow-dog board. We are going to outlast the bastards and sign up their undertakers on our way forward to the future."

Kirkland's speech reaffirmed support to the Democratic Party and he pledged to continue "supporting the friends of labor and opposing the enemies of labor. But it is getting harder and harder," he said, "to tell them apart."

Despite this, Kirkland strongly endorsed the support the AFL-CIO gave Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale in the 1984 presidential elections. Kirkland claimed that labor had registered important

gains during that campaign. One of the first resolutions approved by the convention was the continued early endorsement of capitalist candidates in elections as a way to have more influence inside the Democratic Party.

Kirkland also pushed for the perspective laid out in the AFL-CIO's recently adopted document "Changing Situation of American Workers and Their Unions." He particularly stressed the report's findings dealing with the decline of union membership in industrial unions and highlighted the AFL-CIO's growth among white collar workers.

In strong protectionist terms, he pointed to the huge U.S. foreign trade deficit. He said that the \$140 billion in corporate investment outside of the U.S. was the main reason for the decline in the number of industrial workers in this country.

One of the first resolutions adopted by the convention on its opening day was a strong anti-imports resolution.

At the start of the convention session, some 24 trade unionists from the Caribbean, South America, and Central America were introduced on the convention floor. They included two unionists from El Salvador and two members of the anti-Sandinista Council of Trade Union Unification (CUS) from Nicaragua.

## UFCW walks out at meat plant

BY BIANCA GARCÍA AND JEANNIE FRANKEL

VERNON, Calif. — Eleven hundred members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 274 struck the Farmer John meat-packing plant here October 1.

This strike is the latest confrontation in an ongoing struggle nationally between the meat-packing industry and workers organized by the UFCW.

The current contract between Local 274 and Farmer John, signed three years ago, instituted a two-tier wage system and froze wages.

The union is demanding an end to the two-tier wage system and wants joint administration of the medical and pension plans. The union also wants a \$2.25 per hour wage increase over the next three years.

Back pain, arthritis, serious cuts, and brucellosis (hog fever) are common work-related health problems for workers in the meat-packing industry. Pickets who we interviewed cited numerous cases where the company wanted workers to pay all or most of the medical expenses incurred as a result of on-the-job sickness or injury.

The company has continuously refused to recognize the formation of a union safety committee.

About eight months ago, workers were told to sign a form saying they had read and understood a pamphlet on safety. The pamphlet, which was in English only, explained how to "work safely." The form exempted the company from any liability if the worker were injured on the job and gave the company the right to fire him or her for being "accident prone."

One young Black worker, who was hired a year ago, characterized management's treatment of the workers as degrading. He said further that although most of his co-workers are Latino, the company never publishes or explains things in Spanish.

Farmer John is the only animal-slaughtering meat-packing plant on the West Coast. Their gross profits last year were in excess of \$100 million.

Although a court order has restricted pickets to no more than five at the main gate, over 100 workers were at other locations around the plant.

The plant is shut down and the union is asking all supporters of the strike to boycott Farmer John products. Messages of support or contributions can be sent to: UFCW Local 274, 6801 E Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90040.

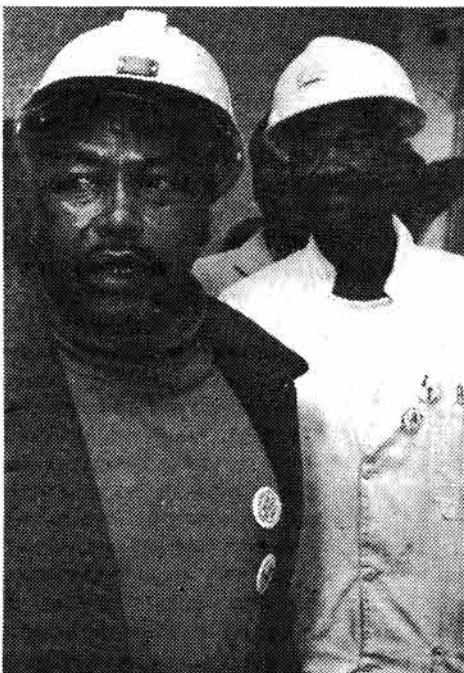
## Black South African miners speak in L.A.

BY FRED HALSTEAD

LOS ANGELES — Two members of the South African National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) visited here October 25 to meet with area unionists.

They ended a six-week tour of the United States and Canada organized by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), and by the Canadian Steelworkers' union and Canadian Labor Congress.

They were here to appeal for humanitarian aid for the thousands of Black mine workers fired from their jobs and evicted from their living quarters during the South African miners' strike last September.



NUM miners at union headquarters in South Africa.

Abey LeRoux, regional chair, and Manoko Nchwe, a staff person for the NUM, were accompanied by two International representatives of the UMWA, Gary Schaye and Nomonde Ngubo.

The UMWA is stepping up its anti-apartheid campaign "in our own interest," said Schaye. UMWA members in Kentucky are currently on strike against the A.T. Massey Coal Co., which is trying to break the union, lengthen the work day, and eliminate elected safety committees.

The union is exposing the complicity of the Massey owners with apartheid in South Africa.

At a press conference here LeRoux was asked what he thought of the so-called Sullivan principles since the company he works for in South Africa has pledged to adhere to them. Companies adhering to the Sullivan principles supposedly don't discriminate. LeRoux said he never heard of these principles while he was in South Africa, and that Blacks are still barred from being trained as skilled workers, being cer-

tified as miners, and from supervision.

Nchwe explained that mining in South Africa is done largely by migrant labor, and that these workers have about three weeks a year to be with their families.

"Apartheid," said LeRoux, "is disgusting and should be treated with the disgust it deserves."

NUM members also spoke at an afternoon meeting at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union hall in downtown Los Angeles and at the Shipyard Workers Local 9 hall in the harbor area that night.

It is not legal for the NUM to set up a strike fund in South Africa, but humanitarian aid to help feed and house the miners and their families who are victims of last September's attacks by the mine bosses can be received.

Unionists were asked to raise money for humanitarian aid and send it to: South African Miners Fund, c/o United Mine Workers of America, 900 15 St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

## UMWA tour of South African miners

Continued from Page 5

labor strife right now is focused on the A.T. Massey Coal Co., which is wholly owned, 50 percent Royal Dutch Shell and 50 percent Fluor Corporation," by companies that do business in South Africa.

"What we're trying to point out is that ultimately the kind of labor policies that come from these companies in South Africa impact on workers in the United States. It's very much in our interest that the NUM upgrade their standard of living and get the kind of job protection and rights

that they deserve. Because ultimately we get played off by international conglomerates who have no allegiance to any particular country. We're all in this together."

"Obviously the government allows for greater repression in South Africa," he added, "but our government allows for a certain level of repression here, with respect to strikes and labor problems. We want to make it very clear that we understand that we're striking Royal Dutch Shell and we're striking Fluor Corp."

# North American farmers, unionists tour Nicaragua

## Witness U.S.-backed war, Sandinista land reform

BY JOHN GAIGE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "So we can tell our friends back home why they give land to farmers in Nicaragua and they take it away in the U.S." That's what John Enestvedt, a retired Minnesota farmer still active in the farm movement, said when asked by a reporter here why he came to Nicaragua.

Enestvedt was part of a 10-day study tour of Nicaragua's agricultural reform that included ten farmers, a farm worker, and four trade unionists from the United States and Canada. The tour ran from August 29 to September 8. It was hosted by Nicaragua's National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) and sponsored by the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA). NAFA is a coalition of U.S. and Canadian farm groups that fights for the interests of working farm families.

Four of the tour participants were from Quebec. Eight were U.S. farmers from California, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Virginia. The unionists were members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), United Auto Workers (UAW), and International Association of Machinists (IAM).

Almost all the farmers on the tour are active in the protest movement to prevent the forced foreclosure of U.S. and Canadian farms. Some have had decades of experience in this struggle.

### Anxious to learn from Nicaraguans

Participants were anxious to learn firsthand about the agrarian reform from Nicaraguan farmers and farm workers. The reform was initiated by the Sandinista government immediately after the July 19, 1979, revolution.

Before the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) took power, Nicaragua was ruled with an iron fist by the Somoza family dictatorship. The Somozas and their U.S. imperialist backers used their grip on the government to seize control of the lion's share of the country's wealth, which comes primarily from agricultural production. Life for the vast majority of farmers and farm workers was miserable.

With the overthrow of Somoza and the establishment of a workers' and farmers' government, the U.S.-backed rule of terror was ended.

The Somoza family lands were nationalized. Thousands of small farmers and farm workers received land as well as credit and other aid from the government so that they could make a go of farming. With government encouragement and assistance, many farm families have formed co-ops. And the working and living conditions for farm workers have improved.

The question most tour members wanted answered was: is it true that in Nicaragua today farmers are encouraged to produce, instead of being forced off the land?

We also wanted to learn about the impact on workers and farmers of the U.S.-sponsored war against Nicaragua.

### 'Important to learn about Nicaragua'

Leaders of UNAG welcomed us when we arrived at the Managua airport. A television press conference was held on the spot.

UNAG Vice-president Wilberto Lara told us that it's important for farmers from Canada and the United States to learn about Nicaragua. It's especially important, he said, "that you also know the damages done by the *contras* [counterrevolutionaries] financed by the U.S. government — damages that directly affect the farmers of Nicaragua."

Hal Hamilton, a dairy and tobacco farmer from Kentucky and a board member of NAFA, said, "In the U.S., farmers are losing farms" at a rapid rate due to "a combi-

nation of a debt that cannot be paid and low prices."

"We came to learn," said Hamilton, "from the struggles of the Nicaraguan people to overcome obstacles and develop their country."

Bobbi Polzine, a founder and leader of Groundswell, a broad-based farm organization in Minnesota, echoed Hamilton's remarks. "I am happy to be in your country as a guest of UNAG to learn your farming methods and the basic problems of the producers because we face falling land prices and low farm prices in the U.S.," she said.

### First stop: Ometepe Island

Our tour began with a one-hour voyage to the island of Ometepe in Lake Nicaragua. Our tour guide was Lisa Rosenthal, a U.S. citizen who works for UNAG.

UNAG President Daniel Núñez traveled with us on the boat to Ometepe. So did other UNAG leaders, as well as farmers and technicians from Europe who were either visiting Nicaragua or working on agricultural projects here.

Justo Pastor Cairillo, president of UNAG in Ometepe, welcomed us to a meeting with Ometepe farmers. Ometepe is 92 square miles. It has a population of 30,000. Ometepe's 300 farm families produce tobacco, basic grains, cattle, bananas, and spices. We were the first international delegation to ever visit Ometepe.

Cairillo told us about the problems these farmers face. "We have many difficulties because we are on an island. Transportation is a problem, not only over the water, but over the land. The revolutionary government has given us many answers and help in spite of the war. But even with all the help and work, we still have serious problems. You see how long it takes to get here by boat. Our small fleet of boats is not enough."

Addressing the farmers from other countries, Núñez said that every one of the farmers in Ometepe "carried on their backs a story of struggle" because the "U.S. government put a heavy burden on the backs of Nicaragua and all of the Americas for over 50 years."

"We sacrificed 50,000 lives to go forward" and overthrow Somoza, said Núñez. "Many times people ask why we have to suffer aggression so many times from the U.S. government. The answer is the U.S. government . . . wants to maintain Nicaraguans and the Americas as slaves."

"They took our gold and our natural resources and exploited our work force. In return we got illiteracy, infant mortality, and assassinations of our peasants," he continued.

"We are suffering one of the most shameful aggressions in the 20th century. The U.S. sends airplanes, tanks, and guns to kill us," Núñez said, instead of "medicines, doctors, teachers, plows, or tractors."

"We are winning the war," he affirmed, "with our youth, women, old people, and children."

Every international delegation that comes to Nicaragua, Núñez emphasized, helps to break Washington's economic embargo.

We asked Núñez more about the shipping problem on Ometepe. Most shipping in Nicaragua is still in the hands of big business, he told us. He urged international solidarity to help provide more boats for these farmers.

Over lunch, we continued the discussion in smaller groups.

Lisa Ahlberg, an ACTWU member from Minnesota, asked one farmer about changes on the island since the revolution.

"Before, we had one health clinic here," he responded. "Now we have one hospital and several clinics. The hospital was do-

nated by Finland. Before, we had a primary school and no high school. Now we have two high schools."

### Rural Workers Association

On the second day of the tour, we visited two different complexes of a state farm near Jinotepe. It had 3,910 acres of coffee and 1,020 acres of plantains.

En route, Melba, a staff person in UNAG's national office, told us that Nicaragua has two seasons: a rainy one from May through October and a dry one from November through February. She said that this year a drought during the rainy season hit the Pacific Coast and 884 acres of crops were lost in the region.

At the first complex, Leonel told us about the Rural Workers Association (ATC), Nicaragua's farm workers union. He is the general secretary of the ATC for this complex.

"The ATC grew out of the struggle for land" before the insurrection, he said. "At that time, workers were demanding land to produce on and an end to the exploitation they suffered."

Workers on the plantations of the Somocistas "could be fired even after working for 40 years. Workers who asked for their rights could be beaten or put in prison."

"Since the triumph," he added, "the ATC has been fighting to get social benefits, wages, health benefits, security, and the right to have permanent work. All the leaders of our organization are workers — from the top to the base."

Leonel said that many of them had worked on this farm before the revolution. The state taking over the farm was "a great victory," he said. The union is now consolidated, and the workers discuss the production plans for the enterprise with the government.

"With some private farms, we still have problems," Leonel told us. "Some producers don't let us organize, or form a union. They try to dissolve the union by threatening to fire us for demanding our rights," he said.

On this farm, he said, the workers are fighting for a people's store that would



Right, Leonel Valdiria Cooperative.

bypass the private merchants so "we can protect workers' real wages." Leo explained that "blue jeans, for example cost 20,000 córdobas a pair on the black market. In the people's store, they cost 2,000 córdobas." (\$1 = 28 córdoba)

The workers' main objective is to raise production. They also "organize in other sectors of the country to get people to harvest the coffee when the workers go to the war front," Leonel said.

Denise O'Brien, a dairy farmer from Iowa and leader of the Iowa Farm Union Coalition, asked, "Does the government make the farm owners recognize the ATC?"

Leonel answered, "Workers on the private farms who want to join the ATC get support based on the law." Farm workers have the right to organize unions and "fight to gain our rights," he added.

Don Laude, a UAW member from Minnesota, asked, "Have living conditions improved since the revolution?"

"Yes," said Leonel. "Farm workers today get better salaries and have access to land, permanent jobs, and people's stores."

Ben Layman, a Virginia farmer, asked about the difference in wages before 1979 and now. Under Somoza, Leonel said, a male farm worker would get 36 córdobas a week and women only 18. Now women get the same as men — 1,373 a week. Even taking into account the very steep inflation rate, aggravated by the war, this is a substantial increase.

Walking through the neatly planted coffee rows, Leonel told us this coffee could be harvested in October — "the first harvest from seedlings planted in 1983."

### Former National Guard base

At the second complex of the state farm we met under a large open-air shelter with dozens of farm workers. This farm had been owned by Somoza and was a base of the National Guard, who tortured many students and workers in the area.

"At the time of the triumph, this farm was abandoned and confiscated," Francisco, the general secretary of the ATC for this complex, told us. Then "the workers began to organize themselves."

We asked about the use of chemicals in the crops and safety precautions.

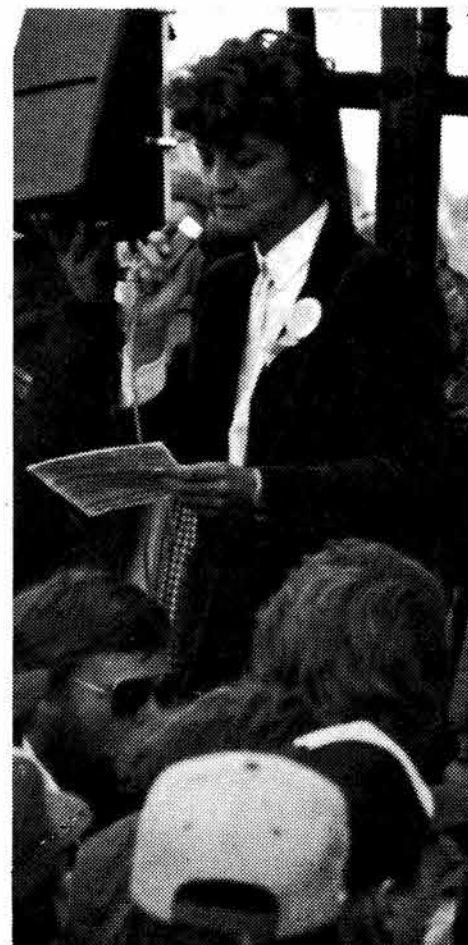
One ATC leader responded, "Because of the U.S. blockade, we get our fertilizers from different places. It depends on what we get. We have been applying urea, that is all we have. Urea is not really recommended for use now. It is for later in the rainy season."

"The policy of the government and the revolution is to protect the workers," continued. "We follow the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but we have problems with the equipment. We are using the best available because of the embargo and the aggression."

Ed Fashing, a Missouri farmer, gave some Spanish-language primers to children at the meeting. His daughter had asked him to give them to Nicaraguan children. "I know about your very important literacy campaign," he told them.

### Francisco and Javier: private farmers

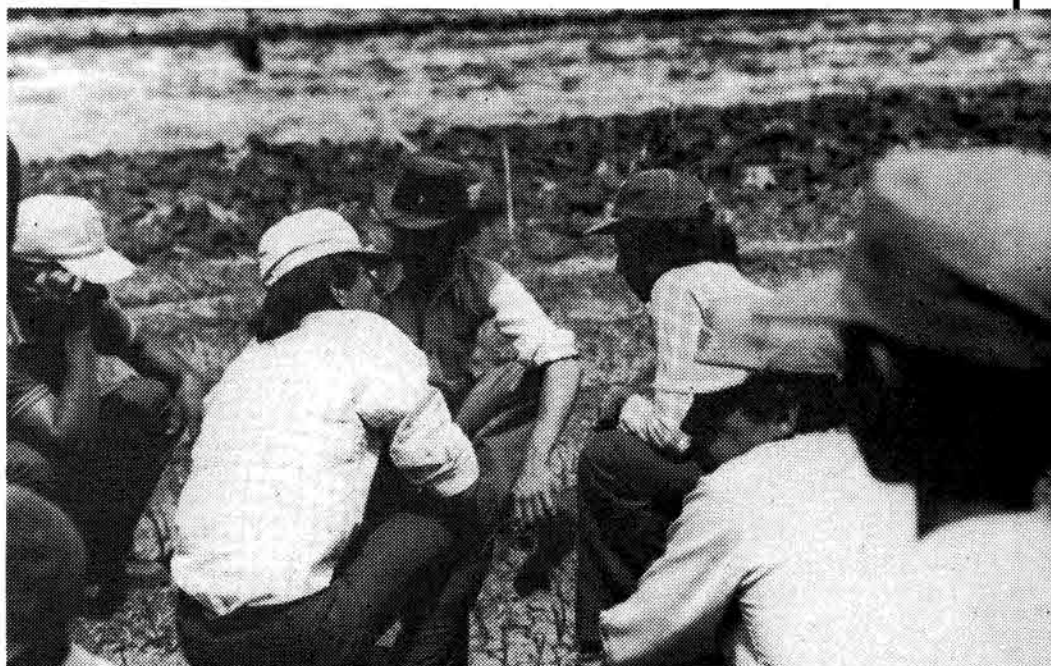
Next we visited two medium-sized private farmers who hire wage workers. We met Javier and Francisco, both UNAG



Militant/Peggy Winter  
Bobbi Polzine, leader of U.S. farm protest group Groundswell, participated in tour.



gn in Carazo reads, "FSLN fulfills its historic pledge — land to the campesinos."



Militant

members, on Javier's front porch.

Javier, one of the 26 sugar cane farmers in the region, told us he also raised corn, sorghum, and cattle on 595 acres. He has two tractors.

Francisco, who grows sugar cane on 170 acres, told us, "Many times it is said that the government is taking our land, but that is not true. All the producers who produce efficiently can own as much as they want. We have incentives in dollars for cattle producers, depending on the quality and weight of the cattle. We have the same for cotton."

We asked them about the prices they get for their crops.

Francisco responded that in Nicaragua "there is high inflation. The revolutionary government is trying to level it to the costs of production," but it depends on the international prices.

"We were getting a good price [for cattle] when selling to the U.S. before the embargo," he said. Now it's lower.

"We are free to sell to whomever we want," Francisco said, "the government or the open market" — whichever is the best buyer.

We then discussed Francisco and Javier's view of the relationship they have with the workers they employ.

"I have 20 workers," Javier said. "You could speak with them, but Saturday is payday and they only work a half day. They're gone now."

Francisco answered, "It depends on the relationship of each farmer with the *campesinos*. The feeling still exists among some large farmers that workers are inferior." In UNAG, "we try to unify with the workers. I can invite you to my small ranch, to share thoughts, speak with the workers, ask if the wage is just. We have a friendly relationship because we know that without the force of the workers we cannot produce. We have no machinery. In order to produce we need manual labor."

I asked: "What tax do you pay, and is it based on land, income, or production?"

Francisco answered, "We pay 1 percent on the value of the land." There is also a tax scaled to how much profit you make, he said. Small- and medium-sized farmers pay no profit tax. "And there are indirect taxes on luxury items," he added.

"If you have a minimum salary of 240,000 córdobas a year, you pay no tax," he said, and there is easy credit for small farmers.

#### Rebuilding national cattle herd

On the third day, we met with Roberto Guerrero and Hermogenes Rodríguez at UNAG's national office.

Guerrero told us about the efforts of UNAG and ranchers to rebuild the national cattle herd.

Prior to the triumph over Somoza, Guerrero said, "the large cattle ranchers took their cattle and money out of the country" because they did not support the approaching revolution. Now, he said, one of the *contras*' objectives is to reduce cattle production. "Unfortunately, the border lands are the best for cattle-raising," he told us. That's also where the *contras*, based in Honduras to the north and Costa Rica to the south, focus their attacks.

"Because of contra activity we have had to bring the cattle into drier areas. Therefore, we are producing less. The *contras*

steal cattle and take it to Honduras and Costa Rica" and resell it, Guerrero said.

The slaughterhouses used to be owned by Somocistas. Now they are owned by the state.

One of the long-range goals of the revolution is to become self-sufficient in milk production. Nicaragua continues to import milk, Guerrero said, but, he added, "milk production is increasing." One goal of UNAG is to help the small and medium farmers increase efficiency in this area, while the agrarian reform institute, MIDINRA, continues to develop the state dairy farms.

"A special commission sets the price for milk. It includes representatives from UNAG, MIDINRA, and COSEP's UPANIC," said Guerrero.

UPANIC is an organization representing capitalist farmers that is hostile to the revolution and the agrarian reform. It is part of COSEP, the Nicaraguan capitalists' association.

#### Role and structure of UNAG

Rodríguez described the role and structure of UNAG.

UNAG's structure is based on a national assembly "of all the producers from all over the country." From this, he said, comes a national council, national board of directors, and executive bodies. There are corresponding assemblies, councils, and boards of directors based on Nicaragua's six regions and three special zones.

UNAG, he said, keeps growing. It now has 130,000 members. It participates in government commissions for each commodity, which discuss prices and other matters.

Jean Claude, a Quebec farmer and leader of the Quebec Farm Survival Association, asked how UNAG was financed. Leo Ars, a retired Pennsylvania farmer living in California, wanted to know if UNAG was autonomous from the government.

"UNAG was formed in 1981 with big support from farmers," Rodríguez explained. "It was a product of the triumph of the revolution because farmers helped topple Somoza."

"The farmers' struggle was not and is not separate from the struggle for national liberation."

"UNAG is financed through dues paid according to whether they are small, medium, or large farmers," Rodríguez added. And it gets "tremendous support internationally."

"UNAG has participated in the decision-making of the country," Rodríguez continued. One of the most important aspects of this is "the redistribution of the land to those who never had land — a historical promise of the FSLN which goes back to the time of [Augusto César] Sandino," he said, referring to Nicaragua's national hero, who led the guerrilla forces that drove out the U.S. Marines in 1934.

"The first action of the revolutionary government was to confiscate all of the land and goods of Somoza. All of it went immediately into the hands of the state," Rodríguez said. Then some farm workers asked for land, which the government granted. In this process, Rodríguez emphasized, "we always respect whether the farmers want land in co-ops or individually."

We asked about plans for the unutilized

land in the country.

"Our first objective is to eliminate the counterrevolution," said Rodríguez. Then the unexploited land and rivers can be dealt with.

#### Two kinds of co-ops

On the fourth day, we took a bus through the fertile Sébaco Valley. We stopped to visit the Luis Aguilar School of Agricultural Mechanization. The school offers training in mechanics, welding, and other skills. It can take up to 50 students. The big majority of the students are farm youth who will return to work in rural areas.

Moisés Palacios greeted us at the Leonel Valdivia co-op near Chaguitillo. The co-op has 56 members. They farm 272 acres of vegetables and basic grains.

This co-op is a Sandinista Agricultural Commune (CAS) co-op. There are approximately 500 of this kind of co-op in Nicaragua. In these, farmers hold collective title to the land and farm it together. They get help from the government through cheaper agricultural inputs, bank loans, and medical services.

The other kind of co-op — the more common kind — is the Credit and Service Association (CCS). There are about 2,500 of these. They bring together private farmers to contract seeds, fertilizers, services, loans, and marketing facilities with the government through MIDINRA. These farmers still hold title to their land and farm it on their own. Both types of co-ops get preferential aid from the government.

"This co-op actually began July 14, 1979, five days before the triumph," Palacios told us. The owner had abandoned the farm.

"The owner knew what was coming and left in May. The workers took the land and began to farm. We needed to eat."

Profits in the co-ops are divided, Palacios explained, "according to the participation of each member. If one works 300 days a year and another 350 days, the second person gets more. If you work the same, you receive the same."

"Since 1980," he continued, "we have made profits. Just this year, from April until now, each person has received 28,000 córdobas" for their personal use.

In order to have cash for future investments, the co-op can get low-interest bank loans. Co-op members don't invest their personal profits because "no one is [necessarily] permanent in this co-op. People can stay here as long as they want and leave voluntarily. They don't want to invest their profits if they're not permanent," Palacios said. Young men who go into the military service take their money with them, he added.

There were 12 women members of the co-op, Palacios told us, but now there are more women working since the men have gone to the war front. "Women have equal rights in Nicaragua — and they have the right to produce," he added.

Pierre Blickensdorfer, a beef producer from Quebec, presented Palacios with a T-shirt that said, "Farms, not arms." He explained, "Because of credit problems, I lost my farm. I have come here to study the solutions your people have found."

"I am proud to be with you today. We see what you have done, your experience, and your work. We are impressed with your well-organized and well-cultivated

fields. We want to put as much pressure as we can" on the U.S. government.

"We obtained what you see here through years of armed struggle in which everyone participated," responded Palacios. "We are still fighting, and we will fight until the end against any aggression."

#### El Espino: target of contras

On the fifth day, we went to a northern resettlement camp in El Espino. We were on a mountain plateau in the midst of a stretch of 29 new houses at the Mauricio Cajinas co-op. Looking beyond the mountain valley, we could see Honduras.

"In 1982 we were given all the land we needed, and we began farming. In 1983 the *contras* attacked us very badly and we had to be relocated," said Eduardo Vallejas, the coordinator of this CAS co-op. "The government has built this camp where we are living now."

As he was speaking we heard gunfire in the distance.

"We divide up in groups and look for *contras* in the morning and maintain watch when we farm," Vallejas said. The co-op was ambushed by *contras* once.

We were curious to know if the co-op members would return to their original home when the war ended. "I don't think so," he responded. "Here we have a good harvest, and land. Most of the housing was destroyed by the *contras*."

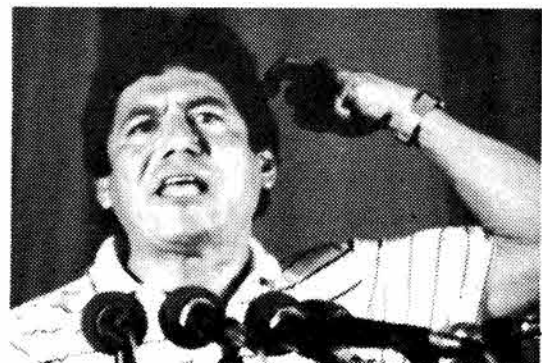
We asked if they were happy with the new government. "Yes, the revolutionary government is helping us, even with the aggression, even with all the limitations," Vallejas told us.

#### Literacy campaign

Near San Luis, which is south of Estelí, we visited the Carlos Alberto Vázquez co-op. It has 23 members who used to be landless farm workers.

We had a discussion with them about the importance of the literacy campaign for running the co-op. "Even before the triumph, Carlos Fonseca, the founder of the FSLN, saw the necessity of bringing education to the peasants," Hermando Mendoza, a member of the co-op, said. "That is why he fought very hard for a free country — so we could be taught. He taught farmers how to read and write when he was in the mountains," Mendoza continued. "Right after the triumph, one of the first things was the literacy campaign. In 1980, the youth made a commitment to go to the mountains, to the villages, and to the cities to teach people to read and write. We followed up the literacy campaign with adult education."

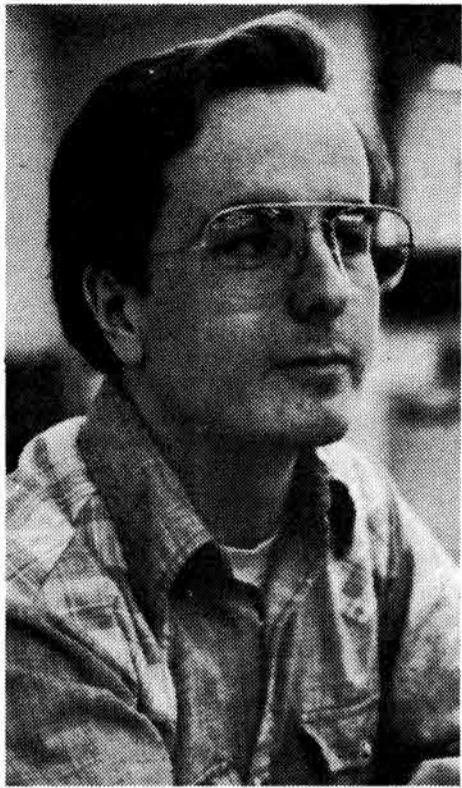
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Militant

Daniel Núñez, president of Nicaragua's National Union of Farmers and Ranchers, which hosted U.S. and Canadian farmers' visit.

# Pitts. socialist debates incumbent mayor



Mark Weddleton

BY BARRY SHEPPARD

PITTSBURGH — The final weeks of the mayoral race here have seen a step-up in opportunities for the campaign of Socialist Workers Party candidate Mark Weddleton.

On October 26 Weddleton participated in an hour-long debate on WAMO radio with the other mayoral candidates, including Democratic incumbent Richard Caliguiri and Republican Henry Sneath.

Caliguiri defended his record as mayor of "the country's most livable city." The media here hails what the mayor terms Pittsburgh's "renaissance," and indeed

## Miami judge rules against socialist

BY HAROLD MANNING

MIAMI — A federal judge here ruled against Socialist Workers Party mayoral nominee Harvey McArthur who sought exemption from a state election financial disclosure law.

McArthur had filed suit for exemption on the basis that disclosure of the names of contributors to his socialist campaign would make them subject to victimization.

McArthur was represented by University of Miami law professor Stephen Maher, in collaboration with the American Civil Liberties Union.

In a 1982 ruling the U.S. Supreme Court exempted the Socialist Workers Party from a similar Ohio disclosure statute.

In the McArthur case, District Judge James King accepted the argument of the city attorney that there was no need for an exemption because the election is "nonpartisan" and McArthur's party affiliation will not appear on the ballot.

But McArthur is campaigning as the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party and his socialist views are well known in the city, including to the cops and violence-prone right-wingers.

In court the city attorney argued that McArthur would face no more harassment than Mayor Maurice Ferre, who is seeking reelection.

Yet in the past two years the SWP headquarters has been bombed and numerous telephone threats have been received.

And while McArthur's case was in court, he was arrested in downtown Miami as he distributed campaign literature and sold the *Militant*. He was taken to the county jail in a police van.

He was charged with "obstructing a sidewalk."

The October 13 Miami *Herald* noted that "though other people, including Jehovah's Witnesses, shopkeepers and hot dog vendors, were hawking or handing out literature on Flagler Street, only McArthur was arrested."

McArthur and his supporters have conducted an energetic campaign and, despite discrimination, have won media exposure. He has utilized his campaign to help build anti-apartheid actions and opposition to the U.S. war in Central America.

downtown Pittsburgh glitters with spectacular new office buildings, and others are being constructed.

But there is another Pittsburgh. Vast steel mills, sprawling across the river banks of the city of three rivers, are shut down, some closed permanently.

Others operate on a minimal basis, with a tiny fraction of their former crews. Ex-steelworkers can be found working in other plants at half, or even less, of their former wages, or in minimum wage jobs. Layoffs have hit other industries as well.

The unemployment rate is officially at 11 percent in Pittsburgh proper and is even higher in some of the surrounding towns. Black unemployment, officially, is at 28 percent.

Republican Sneath attacked Caliguiri on the question of unemployment, but of course offered no solutions.

Socialist candidate Weddleton called for an end to the national war budget and for using these funds for a vast program of public works to meet pressing needs and provide jobs. "Steel is needed here and throughout the world," he said, "and it should be taken out of the hands of private profiteers and nationalized."

Weddleton was able to effectively tie in this question with U.S. support to South

Africa and with the U.S.-sponsored war in Central America, as well as the need for independent working-class political action.

Following the radio debate, Weddleton joined a spirited rally of some 400 Teamsters from around the state who came to support 95 of their brothers and sisters fired by Gimbel's department store a year and a half ago in a union-busting move. The protesters then marched to Gimbel's in downtown Pittsburgh. A demonstration was held there supporting a boycott of the store until it agrees to recognize the union again and rehires the fired workers.

Another issue that emerged in the campaign is the lack of Black representation in city government. This year the Democrats refused to nominate any Black for the city council.

Attempting to capitalize on this situation, the Republicans did nominate one.

In the Black community a demand that has been winning more and more support is the idea of electing the city council by district to insure Black representation. The Weddleton campaign is supporting this demand.

The Socialist campaign has also been successful in getting statements by Weddleton printed in the two major dailies, the *Post Gazette* and the *Press*, in the form of letters to the editor.

One of these countered the racist cam-

paign in the media against Palestinians, Nicaragua, and Minister Louis Farrakhan, who is scheduled to speak in Pittsburgh on November 14.

Another letter challenged a media anti-union campaign that blames the problems steelworkers face on the United Steelworkers of America and the problems of the city's transportation system on the bus drivers' union.

Supporters of the socialist campaign succeeded in integrating all this work with building the October 19 march against South African apartheid and with the sales effort to get out the *Militant* and the *Young Socialist* and distribute socialist books. Campaigners are also building an upcoming labor-sponsored tour of representatives of the union movement from El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Weddleton also spoke at a candidates' night sponsored by a neighborhood group in the Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh.

He will participate in a televised debate between the candidates at the University of Pittsburgh on October 30.

Weddleton will speak at a city council hearing against a repressive and racist proposal currently before the city council to impose a curfew on the city's youth, supposedly because young people are "too loud." Everyone age 17 and under would have to be indoors by 10 p.m.

## Striking farm workers attend campaign rally

BY BARBARA GREENWAY  
AND GLENN ORLIC

PHOENIX — A campaign dinner and rally for Elen Lauper, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor, was attended by 60 people, a good turnout for a socialist gathering of this kind here.

The participants included 20 striking farm workers, as well as young activists in the anti-apartheid movement.

Two high school students from Mesa drove 20 miles to attend the event. They plan to write an account of it for their school paper and invited Lauper to speak at their school.

Also attending for the first time was a Mexican family who campaign supporters met at a Mexican Relief Fund event. They were attracted by the Socialist Workers stand in favor of canceling Mexico's foreign debt.

As a result of the rally, two young people from Tucson asked to join the Young Socialist Alliance, and several others expressed interest in working with the YSA and the socialist campaign.

In addition to Lauper, the meeting heard

a number of guest speakers.

These included Santiago Vega, a member of Students Against Apartheid at Arizona State University; José, a member of the Arizona Farm Workers strike committee at the Whitewing Ranch; Judith Curtis-Mardon, a National Organization for Women member and longtime fighter for abortion rights.

A special guest speaker was Héctor Marroquín, a leader of the YSA who is fighting the threat of deportation to Mexico because of his socialist beliefs.

Curtis-Mardon voiced her support for the Lauper campaign.

"As someone fighting for abortion rights," she said, "the best advice I can give you tonight is to jump in and help Elen's campaign. She is the only candidate who really cares about women's rights and the farm workers' fight, and the only one who would do something about it."

The striking farm worker, José, urged the audience to support the fight against Valley National Bank, owner of the struck Whitewing Ranch. The bank has stubbornly refused to discuss the brutal condi-

tions experienced by the mainly immigrant workers at the ranch.

As part of her campaign, Lauper has actively supported the fight for sanctuary for Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees and against the current federal prosecution of those helping them.

Lauper was denied ballot status, with the claim of "insufficient" valid petition signatures. But, as a write-in candidate, she has joined in a number of candidate debates and has won participation in several TV election programs.

During the final two weeks of her campaign, Lauper will participate in two Militant Labor Forum panels, one on the Third World debt crisis, the other on the AIDS scare.

## Socialist: 'Not one penny for apartheid'

BY R.C. GORDON

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The mayoral campaign of Phil Duzinski, a textile worker and member of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, became known as the campaign demanding "Boycott South Africa. Not one penny for apartheid!"

Duzinski's supporters made a special effort to reach working people in this city with the facts about the brutal apartheid system in South Africa. They explained that forcing U.S. corporations to divest their holdings in South Africa would be an important aid to the freedom struggle there.

Duzinski pointed to some of the big North Carolina banks and businesses such as North Carolina National Bank, R.J. Reynolds, and the University of North Carolina system that have millions of dollars backing the white South African government.

Supporters of the socialist candidate campaigned at plant gates, speaking to textile workers, tobacco workers, and others.

Duzinski, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, spoke before the Executive Board of the union's Local 1391T in Greensboro. This local represents workers at the big Cone Mills White Oak plant, which has nearly 2,000 workers.

Duzinski also spoke to 50 students at Dudley High School and participated in a march of 2,500 students at North Carolina A&T State University demanding an end to U.S. support to apartheid in South Africa.

Supporters of the socialist candidate campaigned door-to-door and introduced people to the *Militant* newspaper and the Greensboro Militant Bookstore.

More than 20 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 300 single copies were sold during the campaign.

## N.J. farm workers vote for union

BY DOUG COOPER

PHILADELPHIA — "The first union-representation election for farm workers in the history of New Jersey" was held September 29 in the kitchen of the Levin Farm labor camp, a confident Pepe DiStefano told an October 12 Militant Labor Forum here. "The Farmworkers Organizing Committee won it unanimously."

The election at the Levin Farm in Rosenhayn, New Jersey, was conducted by the state board of mediation after a judge ordered that it be held.

DiStefano described the victory as just a first step. The Levins, who own the 300-acre vegetable farm and employ 14 Puerto Rican farm workers, have resisted the workers' demands every step of the way. Now they are trying to avoid bargaining with the Farmworkers Organizing Committee (Comité Organizador de Trabajadores Agrícolas, COTA).

The Levins are being represented in their antilabor efforts by attorney Rushton Ridgway, the chairman of the county Democratic Party.

In nearby Vineland, a union election is scheduled for the end of October at the Molinelli farm.

DiStefano described the conditions facing about 20,000 farm workers who pick millions of dollars' worth of fruits and vegetables each year in four South Jersey counties. "Farm workers who live in camps mainly live in old chicken coops, with 10 or 15 men in each. Most have hot water and lights but no telephones or washing

machines.

"On some farms the workers put in 75 to 80 hours per week. Sixty hours per week is the average, with no overtime pay.

Pesticide poisoning is a major problem. But, said DiStefano, "if a worker reports being poisoned in July, an inspector comes out in October."

Until recently the federal government set no standards for the living and working conditions of farm workers. On October 19 Secretary of Labor William Brock issued guidelines asking state governments to require farm owners to provide toilets and other sanitation facilities for field workers.

It is the wretched conditions of farm workers that are forcing them to fight back. The Farmworkers Support Committee (Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas, CATA) has 1,650 members organized in Farm Committees here and in Town Committees in Puerto Rico, where the bulk of the members are from.

COTA has signed up several hundred farm workers in South Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania.

CATA and COTA are beginning to reach out to workers in the mushroom sheds of Chester County, just southwest of Philadelphia. At Phillips Mushroom Palace in Kennett Square, youth from the ages of 12 to 14 years work up to 20 hours a day for minimum wage.

A union-representation election was held at one company in early August, but the results have not been made public yet by the state labor relations board.

# SWP candidate defends Nicaragua

Continued from front page

when the government has armed the people?" she asked. "How can it be a dictatorship when unions are growing, encouraged by the government; when land is being distributed to those who work it; when indigenous people are being given autonomy; and women are being given equal rights? In Nicaragua there is authentic democracy where the majority — the workers and farmers — have political power."

González pointed to the attacks on democratic rights the U.S. government is carrying out against working people in the United States. One example was the recent state court decision to rule a referendum off the ballot that prohibits the city from as-

sisting in the building of a homeport for nuclear warships.

Over 100,000 people, González explained, signed petitions to place that referendum on the ballot. "The court in this ruling has said that working people here or anywhere else in the country have no right to decide or even discuss any questions having to do with war or military preparation for war," she said.

"While Reagan accuses the Sandinistas of persecuting the church," González said, "the U.S. government has infiltrated churches here in an effort to indict priests, ministers, nuns, and religious workers for the 'crime' of giving sanctuary to political refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala."

"Through demonstrations, picket lines, and support for initiatives such as the Nuclear-Free Harbor initiative, we can mobilize to oppose the bosses' policies of supporting the apartheid regime and waging war against Nicaragua and mobilize against their attacks on our rights at home." Through these struggles, working people here, she said, "will see that our future lies not with U.S. bosses and their political parties, but in solidarity with the struggles of the working people of the world."

Solidarity was a major theme of the rally. Rashaad Ali, the SWP candidate for city council president, called for solidarity with the struggle of the Black majority in South Africa.

Ali blasted the apartheid regime's recent hanging of freedom fighter Benjamin Moloise as an example of the terror practiced by the ruling class internationally.

He hailed the growing anti-apartheid movement in the United States. Ali pointed to the significance of the unions taking a leading role in this movement.

The most active campaigners for the SWP candidates have been members of the

New York City chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance. Speaking in Spanish, YSA leader Yolanda Rieke explained why she supports this campaign and why she joined the YSA.

"I joined the YSA because I think this society needs a change, a revolutionary change, and a socialist change," she said. "We have learned from the revolutions in Cuba and Nicaragua, which are an example for people all over the world. Young people of today are the future of tomorrow. That's why we need to fight today to make sure that we have a future tomorrow," stated Rieke.

Messages of support from two of the 13 Puerto Rican independence fighters arrested in the August 30 FBI raids in Puerto Rico were read to the rally. González has made defense of these prisoners a part of her campaign.

In his letter to the socialist candidate, Luis Alfredo Colon, currently being held in Danbury Federal prison, wrote: "Problems will only be resolved when the government is changed, only when the workers and the poor rule and administer our people's government structures. . . . I call on all Latinos to vote for Andrea González."

From federal prison in Otisville, New York, Filiberto Ojeda wrote: "We can feel the intense support for the South African people, against apartheid, and against the Yankee aggressions against Nicaragua and El Salvador. We Puerto Rican fighters know that we are not alone, and we feel this solidarity in the spirit of those with whom we make common cause."

Colette Pean, one of the eight Black activists known as the New York 8+, who the government tried to frame up on conspiracy charges, explained the importance of their case.

"Our trial ended in acquittal on the conspiracy charges," stated Pean. "However,



Militant/Lou Howort

Andrea González

after we beat them on the main charge, they decided to proceed with my trial." Pean's trial date is set for November 18. (See accompanying article.)

The government is demanding a handwriting sample from her. "I'm not cooperating with their attempt to criminalize me by giving them my handwriting sample," stated Pean. For this she is being held in contempt of court and thrown into prison until her trial begins.

Pat Hayes, SWP candidate for Brooklyn borough president and a member of United Auto Workers Local 595, spoke about the growing demands by employers for ever-deeper concessions from workers and the beginning signs of a fightback against this. He pointed to the importance of solidarity in this fight. "We need to solidary with workers in other industries. We need to solidary with farmers in this country. And we need to solidary with workers in other countries who are under attack from the very same ruling class," stated Hayes. He urged working people of New York City to participate in the highly important November 9 statewide anti-apartheid demonstration that will take place in New Jersey.

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign are encouraged to come to an election night victory party on Tuesday, November 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Socialist Books, 79 Leonard St. in Manhattan.

## Central American unionists tour

Continued from Page 7

U.S.-backed Duarte regime.

Miguel Cifuentes, a representative of the National Committee of Trade Union Unity in Guatemala, spoke next. In explaining the history of the oppression and suffering the Guatemalan people continue to face, he pointed out that "since the time when the Spanish conquistadores came to America, we have had in our whole history in Guatemala only 10 years of democracy."

Like Acosta, Cifuentes emphasized that U.S. and Central American workers "have a common enemy — the U.S. corporations."

Marta Alicia Rivera, representing the National Association of Salvadoran Educators, spoke last. She reviewed recent struggles by teachers and students in El Salvador, including a militant march last June demanding the rebuilding of the National University, largely destroyed during a four-year occupation by the armed forces.

Rivera concluded by talking of the problems of poverty and unemployment faced by many working people in the United States. "The U.S. government has no role to play in Central America," she declared. "It ought to be here, solving the problems the U.S. people face. Let's see what we can do together, Central American workers and U.S. workers."

Also speaking briefly at the rally were Rigoberta Menchú, an Indian peasant woman from Guatemala who takes part in the Representation of the United Guatemalan Opposition, and N.Y. State Assembly member Roger Green of Brooklyn.

Music was provided by a trio of Brazilian folk musicians led by Thiago de Mello, a member of Local 802 of the musicians' union in New York.



Militant/Lou Howort

Colette Pean

## N.Y. 8+ defendant jailed for 'contempt'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — In a continuing attack on democratic rights, NY 8+ defendant Colette Pean was incarcerated in Metropolitan Correctional Center October 29 on civil contempt charges. Pean had refused to submit to the government's demand that she provide them a handwriting sample. Through this maneuver, the government hoped to frame her up on the same charges for which the other NY 8+ defendants had already been acquitted — conspiracy to commit robberies and jailbreaks.

Pean will remain imprisoned until her trial begins on November 18. Three months ago her case had been separated from that of the other NY 8+ defendants when it was discovered that her court-appointed attorney was practicing law illegally.

While being acquitted on conspiracy charges, the other NY 8+ defendants were convicted last August of possessing weapons and using false identification. These charges could bring up to 10 years in prison.

On October 17 — exactly one year after

their arrest by hundreds of New York City cops and FBI agents operating in the Joint Terrorist Task Force — the judge, Robert Carter, announced "interim sentences" for the defendants of 10 hours a week of community service for the next three months. A "final" sentence is supposed to be issued next January 16.

This was an important victory. However, it led to a renewed slander campaign by city hall and the city's big-business media against these political activists.

The day after Carter's decision, Mayor Edward Koch blasted the lenient sentences. "Koch rips 'soft sentence' for cons in Brink's Link" was the sensationalized headline in the October 19 *New York Post* article. "They are terrorists," stated Koch. "If he [Judge Carter] doesn't send people who carry machine guns . . . if he doesn't believe that such people ultimately belong in jail and not just doing community service, I will be shocked. I will be disappointed."

Several days later the editors of the *Daily News* also slammed Judge Carter's ruling in an October 21 editorial, entitled

"What's a judge for, anyway?" The *News* editors warned that since the defendants possessed weapons, it would be "dangerous" not to send them to prison.

In response to these slanders, several Black community leaders held a well-attended news conference October 23 on the steps of city hall.

Father Lawrence Lucas of the Resurrection Church slammed Koch's statement. "The mayor's words once again highlight his hypocrisy of racism," stated Lucas. "The city would have to be a gigantic jail if all, including cops, having unregistered guns or falsifying I.D.'s were put in jail."

Father Lucas also read a statement in support of the NY 8+ written by New York Supreme Court Judge Bruce Wright.

Brooklyn State Assemblyman Roger Green accused the mayor of trying "to whip up and galvanize right-wing reaction" in response to this decision. Green condemned the mayor's attempt to "retry the defendants in the streets."

Michael Vaughn, chairperson of the NY 8+ Defense Committee, warned about the government's ongoing campaign against "terrorism." "It is very easy now to continue to wave a flag and fan the flames of hysteria around 'terrorism,'" stated Vaughn. "All you have to do is call someone a terrorist long enough and loud enough and that proves that they are, skip a jury, and proceed to the execution."

"Who is more dangerous to our society, a small group of political activists, or an official apparatus by our government to stifle all dissent and terrorize the dissenters," said Vaughn. "These conditions must be answered now, because the Joint Terrorist Task Force is still in existence, and there is a new cry to increase the budget for combating 'domestic terrorism.' No one will be safe from 'guilt by accusation.'"

"We should not have been given any sentence, because we are not criminals," stated Roger Wareham, a NY 8+ defendant.

Wareham expects to see further provocations and slanderous attacks against the defendants during the next several months.

Supporters of democratic rights are urged to be in the courtroom November 18 at 40 Foley Square, Room 518 to solidarize with Colette Pean when her trial opens.

## Court bars New York nuke vote

BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK — The state courts have barred a referendum for a nuclear-free harbor from the New York City November 5 ballot.

On October 24, a state supreme court judge declared the initiative void while conceding sufficient signatures of registered voters had been gathered to qualify it for the ballot. He arrogantly insisted that the city's voters have no right to take a stand on an issue of "national security." On October 30 he was upheld by the state appeals court.

If it had been approved by the voters, the referendum would have prohibited the city from assisting Pentagon plans to build a \$100 million navy base in Staten Island as homeport for the *USS Iowa* and six support ships designed to carry nuclear weapons.

In a decision bristling with jingoism, Judge Charles Kuffner declared New York voters could not be permitted to democratically decide the issue because there must be "an unfettered ability to defend our-

selves from predatory foreign forces."

The referendum was placed on the ballot after 102,624 petition signatures were gathered.

A public opinion poll conducted in early October by the Mobilization for Survival, a peace grouping, showed that 48 percent of registered voters opposed the nuclear base, 37 percent were in favor, and 15 percent were undecided. The poll has an error margin of 4.5 percentage points.

Incumbent Democratic Mayor Edward Koch bitterly opposed the measure and pressed the court action against it.

Socialist Workers mayoral nominee Andrea González assailed the court decision. "The ruling," declared González, "has made clear to everyone the government's opposition to workers and farmers deciding any questions that affect our lives. For the ruling class, working people are cannon fodder for Washington's wars."

González urged her supporters and all others in the city to continue the fight against the nuclear homeport.

# 2nd anniversary of revolution in Burkina

Tour to W. African country reveals gains made by one of poorest countries in world

BY PAT WRIGHT

Burkina Faso is a West African country where the people are involved in a process of abolishing imperialist domination and developing their country.

I spent two weeks there recently — my first visit to Africa. The visit gave me a deeper understanding of the gigantic and difficult tasks this revolution confronts.

I had seen poverty before in the United States, Mexico, and in revolutionary Nicaragua. But not like this. The Burkinabè revolution is showing how a revolution makes it possible for any people, no matter how poor and oppressed, to fight, advance, and take their destiny into their own hands.

Formerly known as Upper Volta, Burkina Faso was the victim of more than a century of foreign domination. A per capita income of \$100 per year makes it one of the poorest countries in the world. More than 92 percent of the 7 million Burkinabè people are illiterate. More than 90 percent still live and work on the land. Only 60,000 are wage earners.

## Burkinabè revolution

On August 14, 1983, progressive military officers and civilians with wide popular support overthrew the French-imposed neocolonialist regime and set up the National Council of the Revolution (NCR).

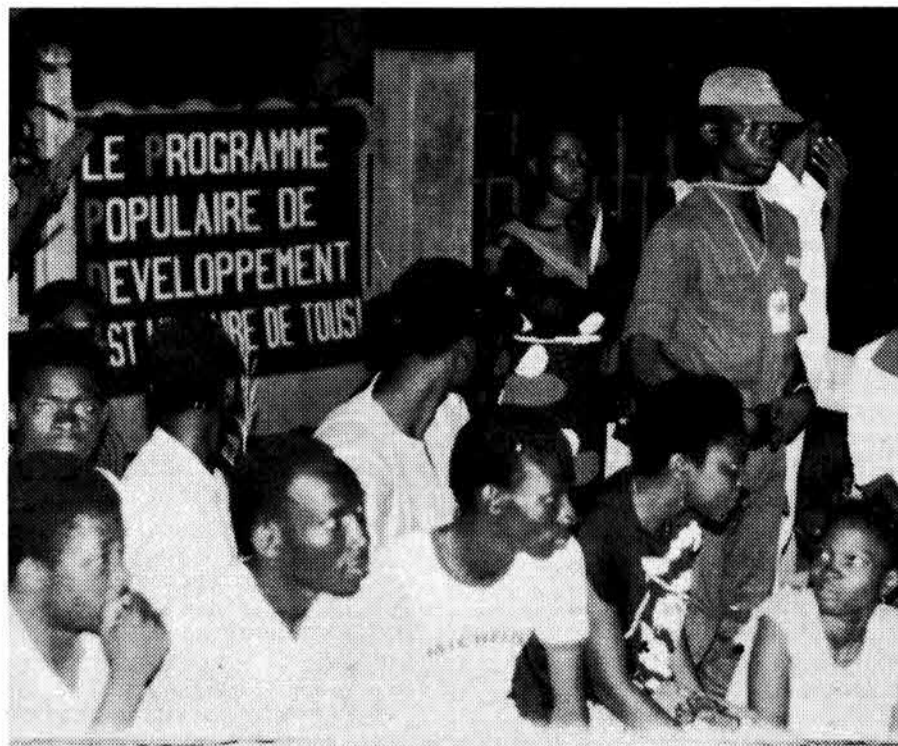
From July 30 to August 12, I was in Burkina as part of a tour organized in conjunction with the second anniversary of this popular democratic revolution.

The tour was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations.

Twenty people were on the tour, including representatives of the following U.S. organizations: All-African People's Revolutionary Party, African People's Socialist Party, African Nationalist Federation, and Socialist Workers Party.

A group of artists from the United States called Women of the Calabash, who had been invited by President Thomas Sankara to perform in Burkina Faso, were also on the tour. The Women of the Calabash sing and play African percussion instruments, such as the calabash — a gourd with strings of beads wrapped around it.

One of the things that most impressed



Militant photos by Pat Wright

Meeting of Committee for Defense of Revolution Sector 11 (left). CDRs are neighborhood-based organizations that mobilize Burkinabè people to defend revolution. At right, women militia members march in Grand Parade of Women, part of August 4 celebration of anniversary of revolution.



me was the role of women in the revolution. Alima Traoré, director of mobilization and organization of women on the national level, told us that women, who make up over half the population, are the poorest of the poor. They are mostly peasants and 98 percent illiterate.

Since the revolution, the health department and the Committees in Defense of the Revolution (CDRs) have worked together to provide health care, vaccinations, maternity education, and contraceptives.

## Women on the march

A highlight of the August 4 anniversary celebration was the Grand Parade of Women. By 6 a.m., tens of thousands had assembled for the parade. Hundreds of women were organized through the CDRs.

The CDRs are mass neighborhood-based

organizations that mobilize and educate people to defend and advance the revolution. Pierre Ouédraogo, national secretary of the CDRs, explained that they are being organized on all levels, and that participation in them is increasing.

Several groups of Young Pioneers, girls and boys organized by the CDRs, led the Grand Parade wearing the yellow, green, and red colors of the revolution. Women from the CDRs followed in traditional dress made especially for the celebration. Uniformed women in the police and the militia came next. They marched; rode bicycles and motorcycles; and drove tanks, armored cars, and jeeps.

They carried guns, bazookas, and other weapons. Some women who had just graduated from pilot training also marched in their pilot gear.

On the flatbed trucks that followed, women hailed advances in agriculture and progress in other campaigns.

The people were very proud of this parade of their daughters, mothers, sisters, grandmothers, and wives. One man commented to a member of our tour, "See how capable our women are?" The women driving the tanks and carrying weapons got the biggest applause.

The tanks were named after African liberation fighters such as Nelson Mandela, Amílcar Cabral, Kwame Nkrumah, and freedom movements such as the African National Congress (ANC) and South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and others.

## Holding back the desert

One of the campaigns highlighted at the second anniversary celebration was "For a Green Burkina." This is the campaign to hold back the advance of the desert.

Due to drought, brushfires, and the large-scale use of wood for cooking, much usable soil is being lost to the desert, which is expanding southward. This is a big problem since only 20 percent of Burkina's land is now considered suitable for agriculture. More than 90 percent of Burkina's energy supply comes from burning wood.

Banners and billboards all over town read, "1 Burkinabè, 1 tree," and "Brushfires — open door to the desert."

Everyone is urged to plant a tree — especially after special occasions such as the inauguration of the August fourth forest, which we attended.

Medals of honor were presented to workers and soldiers whose work had been outstanding the previous year. After the ceremony, the 500 people who attended planted trees in the forest.

Another campaign is to increase food production, with the goal of self-sufficiency. Hunger resulting from famine affects more than a million people in Burkina. Burkina must import much of its food.

This came about because the French colonialists forced the peasants to grow cotton for export instead of food for themselves. Today, cotton accounts for almost half of the country's export earnings.

As Lt. Moussa Diallo said to us, "We have enough cotton. We can't eat cotton; we have to grow grains."

So this year, the Sourou Valley project will put about 12,000 acres of land into the production of grains such as maize and sorghum. Plans are under way to extend the Sahel railroad in order to get food to the people in the north where serious famine conditions exist.

We visited an outdoor exposition at the House of the People which displayed some of the advances made over the last year to enhance the country's capacity to produce food. Numerous booths displayed new farm implements, agricultural techniques, and products people are learning how to make, such as soap, cloth, and food products.

One booth had a sign that read, "No kitchen without a better hearth." This is part of a campaign to preserve wood by teaching people how to use clay ovens, which makes wood last 50 percent longer when cooking.

## Revolutionary consciousness

We traveled outside the capital of Ouagadougou to Koudougou, a more rural area. There we had the opportunity to meet with a local CDR. I was struck by their revolutionary outlook and how conscious they are of their tasks.

I was told that opponents of the revolution had spread many lies about the CDRs to discourage support for the revolution. One woman said, "Don't believe anyone who tells you the CDRs are harmful to the people. In fact, they are good for the people. Women are participating in meetings for the first time in their lives."

On the last day of the tour we attended a meeting of the general assembly of CDR Sector 13, which meets at least once a month. About 150 people welcomed us with loud applause and chants against imperialism, neocolonialism, and apartheid. Every meeting we went to began this way. Each group represented on the tour was asked to bring greetings to the general assembly, which we had done many times before at other meetings.

A high point of the tour was an invitation to have lunch with President Thomas Sankara at the Palace of the Revolution.

After lunch and discussion, the Women of the Calabash performed. Tour members presented Sankara with gifts expressing our solidarity with the revolution.

At a going-away party given for us by CDR 11, each organization participating in the tour was presented with a bow and arrow — a token of solidarity with our struggle against capitalism and imperialism in the United States.

## Do you know someone who reads Spanish? 'PM' discusses youth meeting on debt

Half of the 130 million Latin Americans suffering from malnutrition are young. Some 45 million young people are totally or partially illiterate. In Venezuela, 82 percent of the unemployed are youth. In Trinidad and Tobago, the foreign debt equals \$1,300 per person, meaning an unbearable yoke on the aspirations and needs of the new generations.

This is the situation that was discussed at the Dialogue of Latin American and Caribbean Youth and Students on the Foreign Debt. The meeting took place in Havana, Cuba, September 11-14. Six hundred representatives from 35 countries, representing 306 student, political, religious, and workers' organizations, attended the gathering.

In the current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial*, an article by Paco Sánchez discusses the meeting and the proposals that were discussed to solve the debt crisis.

The same issue reprints a presentation at a similar meeting of trade unionists by Julio de Peña Valdez, Secretary General of the General Workers' Federation of the Dominican Republic. De Peña Valdez discusses the effect that the debt usury of the international banks has on his country.

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# Lindsey Scott supporters pack courtroom

BY ROGER BLAND

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A military review board in Washington, D.C., heard arguments in the case of Lindsey Scott, a Black marine framed up for the rape of a white woman in Virginia. A packed courtroom that included Scott's supporters from Virginia and Kentucky, as well as members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the NAACP, and the National Coalition of Black Lawyers, heard Scott's lawyers present the review board with the facts of the case on October 2.

The review board will give its decision within the next few months. The board's options include ordering Scott's release, ordering a new trial, or affirming the sentence — which would allow Scott to appeal his case to federal court.

Scott, whose case was reported in a recent segment of CBS television's "60 Minutes," has been imprisoned for two years. When his father phoned him with news of the hearing, Scott began a hunger strike to pressure the review board to set him free. In an interview with the *Militant* Scott said, "I'm tired. I want out. I want my freedom."

The military frame-up began in April 1983 when Scott was arrested and charged with the rape of a white woman at Quantico Marine Base, Virginia. Although she and Scott were neighbors who had often seen each other and who had spoken as recently as a few days before the attack, she was unable to identify him out of a lineup for weeks afterward. Forensic tests failed to link him to the crime; in fact, they strongly indicated Scott was not the assailant.

At the initial hearing, Lt. Col. Richard Harry, a 22-year Marine Corps veteran, was the magistrate to review the charges. Colonel Harry, realizing that the case evidence against Scott was virtually nonexistent, dismissed the charges and released Lindsey. The very next day, Quantico Commanding Gen. David Toomey fired Colonel Harry.

In October 1983 Scott was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 30 years at hard labor.

After his conviction, Scott fired his lawyer and started the appeal process in the military courts. "My first lawyer didn't do anything for me," Scott said. "He came into trial unprepared, he didn't subpoena any of the witnesses that I asked him to subpoena. He didn't fight for me at all."

In July 1984 a military review board ordered a hearing to determine if Scott had been given an adequate defense. Scott sat in solitary confinement in the Quantico stockade for six months before the hearing was held. At this hearing a positive alibi was presented that placed him 20 miles from the scene of the crime.

"A security guard at the store where I was shopping for a birthday present for my wife observed me for about 15 minutes. I fit the description of a shoplifter they were looking for," Scott explained.

Despite this the review board took no action on the case. Claiming that it did not have the power to release Scott, it referred the case back to General Toomey — who refused to drop the charges. A new hearing was ordered, for which Scott had to wait

## London: 100,000 march against nuke weapons

More than 100,000 people marched through London to Hyde Park on October 26 to demand nuclear disarmament.

The action was organized by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and was held in conjunction with a rally in The Hague, in which the Dutch antinuclear movement presented the government with petitions against the deployment of cruise missiles there.

"Ronnie! Ronnie! Ronnie! Out! Out! Out!" was a common chant at the Hyde Park rally by the youthful crowd.

Julia Green, who participated in her first demonstration, said that "it's no accident that millions of people are starving, and we're spending millions of pounds on arms."

A painter from Sidmouth who came to London for the action questioned the government's motives, asking, "If the government doesn't want war, why do they spend all this money on weapons?"

another seven months in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

While preparing for the October 2 hearing, Lindsey and his father James discovered that the Marines are issuing a pamphlet to recruits at Parris Island, North Carolina, where he was put through boot camp.

Scott told the *Militant*, "It has come to my knowledge that the recruits in boot camp are being shown a pamphlet distributed by their commanding officer relating my case to them, that I'm in prison serving 30 years, and that if they don't 'fly right' or if they don't 'control their behavior' this could happen to them."

"My case is being used to intimidate the young enlisted people coming into the Marine Corps. I'm being used as an example."

In September Scott also learned that a request for visits from representatives of the SCLC and the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) was denied to him by the prison commander. The SCLC and the NBIPP are now taking action to obtain a visit with Lindsey.

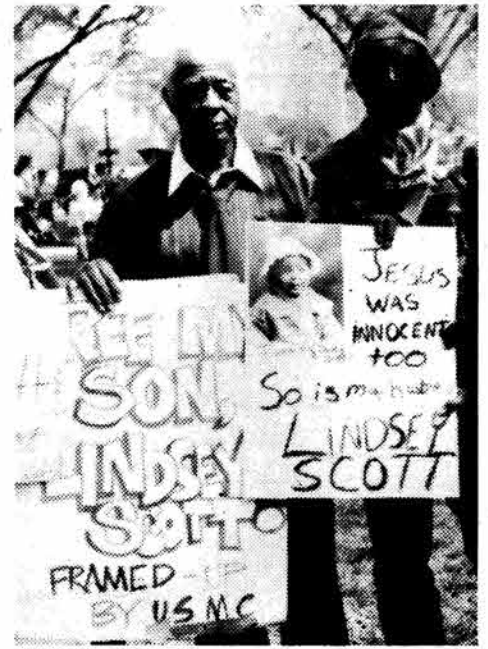
Scott said, "I believe as far as the military is concerned my case is no longer a question of guilt or innocence. It's gotten to a point where it's more political than anything else. I feel that I am a political prisoner and that I dared to stand up and fight back against the system."

"They thought because I was Black I would just lay down when I was accused of something I didn't do. But I chose to fight back. I did the only thing I could do. The only thing I wanted was justice."

Support for Scott's democratic rights must be mobilized to fight the racist military campaign against him.

The Kentucky Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression is organizing a defense campaign for Lindsey Scott. They can be contacted at P.O. Box 1543, Louisville, Ky. 40201.

Letters and telegrams should be sent immediately to Commandant P.X. Kelley, United States Marine Corps, Department of Navy and the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20350, with copies to the Kentucky Alliance.



Left, James Scott, Lindsey's father, at April 22 anti-apartheid, antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C.

# UAW Local 710 fights for their union

BY MARTY PETTIT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Two leaders of the Libby strike recently addressed the Militant Labor Forum here. Libby, a war industry welding plant, forced workers to strike on August 9 after they had worked without a contract for nearly eight months. Cecil Vaughan, the United Auto Workers Bargaining Chairman for the Libby unit of UAW Local 710, and Janet Woods, the acting Bargaining Chairperson both addressed the September 29 meeting. Woods has been acting chairperson since Vaughan was appointed to a post as a Jackson County legislator in July.

The two strike leaders described the adversarial relationship Libby has had with its workers since 1978, when the union filed a suit against the company for refusing to hire anyone but white males. Woods, a Black woman, explained that although Libby now hires Blacks, Hispanics and women, the bosses refuse to treat them as human beings.

Vaughan explained that the three previous contract negotiations had been tough. Then the original owner, H.A. Libby, died, leaving his son and a retired army colonel as owners. "They wanted to fight one more war: it happens to be with the workers at Libby! They want everything except the birthrights to our children. We said no!"

Two days after the final contract offer was rejected by a unanimous membership vote in January, the company came in with guard dogs and laid off the entire second shift. "They said, are you ready to surrender? We said no!"

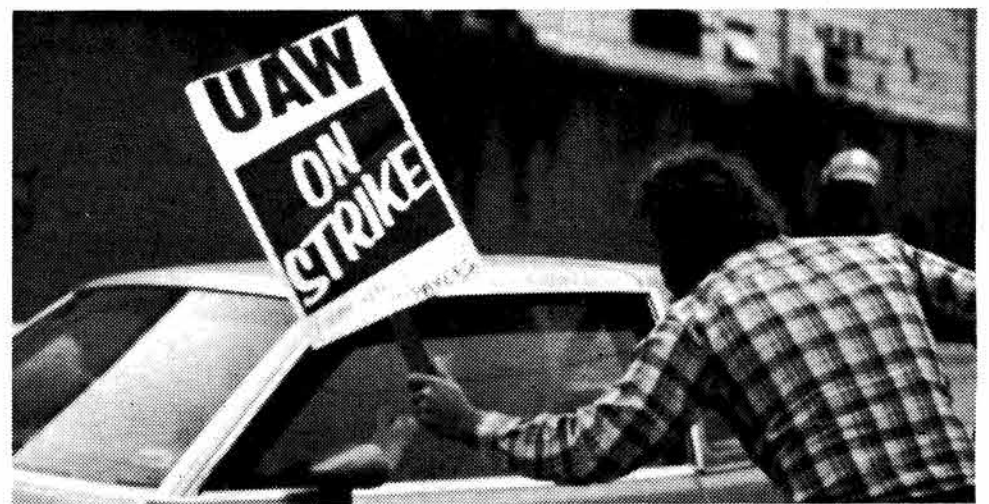
The company cleared the plant out over a health and safety grievance. By February 8, some 80 percent of the membership was on the street, laid off by the company. "This process woke the membership up. Workers were not ready to give up things won with workers' blood. Workers had learned what unionism meant whether they had previously worked on the railroad, at Ford Rouge, or wherever."

During this time a five-months pregnant woman was thrown against the wall by management when she tried to file a grievance.

Strikers also faced violent attacks on the picket line in front of the Stillwell Avenue Libby plant. Local 710 President Bob McCoy was attacked by club-wielding cops who cracked one of his ribs and left him with a very severe circular bruise two inches in diameter on his abdomen.

He was charged with two misdemeanor counts and has a court date in December. The union is currently considering filing police brutality charges against the cops.

Forty-two charges have been filed against Libby with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Vaughan said that the NLRB's response has been that "You should have signed that contract in January."



UAW Local 710 picket confronts scab driving out of Libby

Woods declared, "We are not only fighting Libby, but the Reagan administration and its appointed boards."

Vaughan pointed out that Libby had made a profit of \$56 million last year, and

that one source put the figure higher, at \$73 million.

He emphasized, "They are determined to bust the union and strip people of their dignity. If we lose this fight, you're next."

## Farmers, unionists tour Nicaragua

Continued from Page 11

We returned to Estelí that night. On the sixth day, we took a bus to Boaco. We visited a state-run cattle-breeding center for Brahmin, Angus, and Brown Swiss cattle.

"We are making an effort to bring the best reproductive cows to this project," one rancher from UNAG told us.

They want to establish a program of veterinary assistance and technical training.

We returned to Managua that evening. For the next two days, we had a series of meetings with representatives of the National Development Bank, the Center for the Investigation and Study of the Agrarian Reform, and the Sandinista Workers Federation. We also visited Texnica, a state-owned textile factory.

On the ninth day we made our last visit to a farm. This was the state-owned dairy farm near Chiltepe. It is a big, modern project. Luis, the director, told us that it stretched over 17,300 acres and had set a goal of having 18,000 milking cows.

This project is designed to help Nicaragua become self-sufficient in milk production and provide an alternative to importing powdered milk. Luis said the project was based on proven methods of production used in Cuba. "We are at 50 percent completion. We hope to finish next year, with peak production in six years," he said.

### Meeting with UNAG's president

To wrap up our tour, we met with UNAG President Núñez again at the organization's central office.

"I think it is most important that you came to our country. Your country is rich in resources — our country is poor in resources, but we belong to the same community. The most important thing is that

you discovered the identity of Nicaragua," Núñez told us after we gave him our impressions of the tour.

We learned that UNAG was kicking off an international campaign to get funds from farmers and others in Europe, Canada, and the United States. These funds would be used to purchase agricultural machinery and tools to be distributed from a center in the Sébaco Valley.

U.S. and Canadian farmers asked if it would still be useful to appeal directly to farmers for donations of used tools and machines. Núñez indicated that it would be helpful and would fit in with their plans for the center.

"I believe this revolution is becoming an example to people of different countries," Núñez told us. Why does Washington wage war against Nicaragua, Núñez asked. "Because the U.S. government knows that if the Nicaraguan revolution can consolidate itself, it will be an inspiring example to the struggling people of El Salvador and other countries in the region," he said.

"This is the first big revolution" in the Central American region "to liberate people from the monopolies and oligarchies," Núñez continued. These are the same monopolies that "are filling themselves with the blood of U.S. farmers."

"Nicaragua is your home," Núñez told us. "Our people will never forget the solidarity we are getting. We will work without rest."

At the end of the meeting, he gave us honorary membership cards in UNAG, signing and stamping each one. They will serve as a reminder of our 10 days of firsthand experience in revolutionary Nicaragua.

# THE GREAT SOCIETY

**Wrong offense** — The Air Force Academy busted its top junior cadet to enlisted rank and suspended him for a year for not immediately admitting he had bombed a window. Now if he had bombed the building and lied shamelessly about why he did it, he'd already be working at the Pentagon.



Harry Ring

**No sippin' around** — Remember that Atlanta Coke bottler who tried to fire a worker for drinking a Pepsi on the job? Now a Coke bottler in Northampton, Mass., has fired a data processing manager for refusing to break her engagement to a Pepsi accountant. She's suing for \$150,000 damages.

**Miami Vice** — The FBI says it's joined the probe of Miami area police departments in response to charges that cops have been involved in drug-related armed robberies, have stolen department money, and have sold police equipment to regular crooks. Eight cops have been tagged in the last two months.

**Sounds right** — The West Virginia State College campus is less than 300 feet from Union Carbide's plant at Institute. Says college president Thomas Cole: "This is leak city. There are small leaks, medium sized leaks, and humongous leaks." We checked that in the dictionary, which indicates humongous is apparently slang, combining huge and monstrous.

**Gallows humor** — A Florida competition for a new license plate design drew one suggestion for a sketch of a gagged man in an electric chair, with the message, "Florida Plays for Keeps." The state leads in executions.

**Thought they had a new**

**editor** — The story was an uneventful historical note, but the headline in the *Birmingham News* caught a reader's eye: "Documents Reveal Profit Motive in Colonizing by Germans."

**Other than that, he was OK** — That Dr. Billig who was booted out as chief heart surgeon at Bethesda Naval Hospital wasn't just incompetent. He also couldn't see. Billig is facing negligence charges in the deaths of five patients. Meanwhile, the officer who recruited him has been charged with dereliction of duty for neglecting to mention Billig had flunked the Navy eye exam.

**Somebody else, not them** — A bill barring smoking in various state buildings and other public places won a majority in the Massachusetts House after the House and Senate chambers were exempted from the provisions of the bill.

**Thought for the week** — "The 'going for coffee' syndrome has been blown out of all proportion. In my opinion, a secretary should use her precious energy to improve her position with the company in a constructive manner, not waste it fighting requests to serve coffee or tea." — *Letitia Baldrige's Complete Guide to Executive Manners.*

## CALENDAR

### 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

**War and Debt Crisis in the Americas.** Speakers: Bill Gottlieb, former staff writer for the *Militant*; Porfirio Acevedo, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union and Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

**Socialist Publication Fund Rally.** Speakers: Fred Halstead, author of *Out Now*, member Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. Reception and grand opening of socialist bookstore at 6:30 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: \$5. Ausp: *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

**Celebrate the Anniversary of the Russian Revolution.** Two classes by Fred Halstead. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 16, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Socialist Publication Fund Rally.** Speakers to be announced. Sat., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave. Ausp: Socialist Publication Fund. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

#### Socialist Educational Conference.

"Lessons For Today of Revolutionary Unionism of the 1930s." Speaker: John Studer, chairperson of Massachusetts Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 16 and Sun., Nov. 17, 3:30 p.m.

"Lenin and the Victorious Russian Revolution of 1917." Speaker: Valerie Johnson, Socialist Workers Party and member, Local 422 United Auto Workers. Sat., Nov. 16 and Sun., Nov. 17, 3:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave. Donation: \$2 per class. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

### MICHIGAN

#### Detroit

**USSR — Myth vs. Reality.** Speakers and slideshow: Diane Marcks, Bill Raatz, visited Soviet Union in 1984; Tim Craine, Socialist

Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 2., 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

**General Dynamics Strike Solidarity Rally.** Speakers: Owen Bieber, president, United Auto Workers, by video-tape; Marc Stepp, UAW vice-president; Tom Turner, Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO; Bob Lent, Region 1B UAW director; James Coakley, president, UAW Local 1200; Wed., Nov. 6, 7 p.m. Retailers Hall, 876 Horace Brown Dr. Madison Heights, Michigan. Ausp: UAW Local 1200. For more information call (313) 756-5570.

**Nicaragua, Firsthand Account.** Speakers and slideshow: Bobbi Spiegler, member UAW Local 1700; Naomi Craine, student at Renaissance High School and member of Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Nov. 9, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Open House Following New Jersey Anti-apartheid Demonstration.** Bookstore open all day, featuring many titles on freedom struggle in South Africa. Presentation by Ellen Haywood, national secretary, Young Socialist Alliance. Videos on freedom struggle in South Africa. Sat., Nov. 9, 141 Halsey St., (corner Raymond) Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance, Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### NEW YORK

#### Albany

**The Middle East: Who Are the Real Terrorists?** Speakers: George Chambers, Socialist Workers Party; Maria Muscarella, Palestinian Committee for Human Rights. Fri., Nov. 8, 8 p.m. 352 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

**Apartheid Becomes Unworkable, South Africa Becomes Ungovernable.** Speakers: Neo Mnumzana, chief representative of African National Congress Observer Mission to the UN; Hinyangerwa Asheke, deputy representative of South West Africa People's Organization Observer Mission to the UN. Wed., Nov. 13, 7 p.m. Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 441 Washington Ave. Ausp: Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. For more information call (518) 436-0562.

#### Manhattan

**South Africa and Ireland, Two Lands — One Struggle.** A meeting of the Columbia Coalition

for a Free South Africa. Speakers: representative of African National Congress; George Harrison; Laura Flanders. Films: *Generations of Resistance* and *The Last Hunger Strike*. Wed., Nov. 6, 8 p.m. Earl Hall, Columbia University. Ausp: Columbia Coalition for a Free South Africa.

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Greensboro

**Industry Offensive Against Textile Workers.** Sun., Nov. 3, 5 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

**Anniversary of the Russian Revolution and Creation of World's First Workers' and Farmers' Government.** Sun., Nov. 10, 5 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

### OREGON

#### Portland

**Defend Women's Right to Abortion.** Speakers: Gerry Federico, state cochair of Reproductive Rights Task Force of National Organization for Women; Mary Rohlfis, Portland organizer of National Abortion Rights Action League; Joan Benninger, education director of Planned Parenthood; Kate Sterry, coordinator of Portland State University Women's Center; representative of Portland Feminist Women's Health Center; Deborah Higdon, Socialist Workers Party and member, International Association of Machinists Local 63. Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Pittsburgh

**Who Is to Blame for Terrorism in the Middle East: the Role of Israel and the United States.** Speakers: Chris Hoepfner, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. 402 N Highland (next to Sears in Liberty). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

### UTAH

#### Price

**Socialist Publication Book Rally: the Fight for Freedom in South Africa.** Speakers: Jackie Floyd, national leader of Young Socialist Alliance; Joe Geiser, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Price. Sat., Nov. 9. Reception, 6:30; program, 7:30 p.m. 23 S Carbon, Rt.

19. Donation: \$2. Ausp: *Militant*. For more information call (801) 637-2694.

### Salt Lake City

**Fighting for Freedom from South Africa to Central America: Youth Join the Battle.** Speakers: Jackie Floyd, national leader of Young Socialist Alliance; Mike Saperstein, co-coordinator, Central America Solidarity Coalition; representative, Casa El Salvador; Bob Hoyle, 1985 Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**Eyewitness Report: the Human Cost of Washington's War Against Nicaragua.** Slideshow and presentation by Janet Melvin. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Foreign Debt Crisis.** Speakers: Cecillio Morales, fellow, Council on Hemispheric Affairs; David Pepper, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

**Rail Workers Under Attack.** Speakers: DeAnn Rathbun, member United Transportation Union, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Wed., Nov. 6, 7 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

### WISCONSIN

#### Milwaukee

**Benefit for the Socialist Publication Fund.** Speakers: Omari Musa, National Committee member of Socialist Workers Party, former staff writer for *Militant*; others. Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m., party to follow. 4707 W Lisbon. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Publication Fund. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

**Classes:** 1. "History of the Freedom Struggle in South Africa." Sun., Nov. 10, noon.

2. "The Struggle in South Africa Today and the U.S. Anti-apartheid Movement." Sun., Nov. 10, 2:30 p.m. Speaker: Omari Musa. Donation: \$1 for each class. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

## IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist bookstores.

**ALABAMA:** Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**OHIO:** Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161.

**Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 451-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 1701 W Bancroft St. Zip: 43606. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

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

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

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

**Dallas:** SWP, YSA, 132 N. Beckley Ave., Zip: 75203. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Salvadoran refugees face trial in N.J.

BY BARBARA MUTNICK

NEWARK, N.J. — Last August Ramon Flores, a young Salvadoran, ventured two blocks on foot from St. Michael's Chapel in Piscataway, New Jersey, to pick up his daughter at a nearby day camp. Ramon and five members of his family had been in public sanctuary at St. Michael's for a year.

Before he made it to the day camp, two Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) agents leapt from their car, stopped him, and asked, "Do you remember us?"

The agents — John Nixon and Lee Morgan — then arrested Ramon.

Ramon remembered the agents well.

A year earlier, posing as volunteer church activists from Phoenix, Arizona, these same men had transported Ramon and his family from Phoenix to Albuquerque. The agents had infiltrated the sanctuary movement, which was helping the Flores family remain in this country after fleeing imprisonment and torture in El Salvador. Had they remained there they would have almost certainly faced being killed.

Following the murder in 1980 of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero by government-backed death squads, Ramon, his wife Victoria, and their three young children — then aged six, three, and one year — were arrested as part of a wave of repression against protests.

Broad-based pressure — plus a bribe Ramon's family raised to pay off a judge — won Ramon's release after a year in prison and almost daily torture.

He was flown to Mexico and reunited with his wife, who had been released earlier. His children were located and rescued from an orphanage where they had been told their parents were dead.

The family was put in touch with the sanctuary movement. They made their way from Mexico to Arizona and finally to the chapel in Piscataway.

Ninety-nine percent of the congregation at St. Michael's voted to make their church a sanctuary. Support poured in for the family, especially from nearby Rutgers University — from the Black student groups, Central American solidarity groups, and many others.

Last January the congregation refused to hand over the family to the INS, which launched a national crackdown on the sanctuary movement, indicting 16 sanctuary workers and detaining more than 60 Central American refugees.

From that time on the Flores family and St. Michael's pastor, Rev. Henry Atkins, lived daily with harassment and the threat of arrest.

Once they arrested Ramon, the INS began intensifying the pressure.

They told Ramon and his lawyers that he would be speedily deported to El Salvador if the other two adults in the family — his wife Victoria and brother Roberto — did not report to the INS for a deportation hearing. Faced with this blackmail, they did so. They were released without bond.

Although supporters quickly raised \$5,000 bond for Ramon, the INS would only release him after he revealed his real name (Flores is an assumed name) and until Atkins handed over papers indicating Ramon's true identity. "I neither cared nor knew anything of such papers," Atkins said.

Within the next month or two, a date will be set for a hearing. The three Salvadorans will apply for political asylum.

Atkins told the *Militant* that at present,

"99 percent of Salvadorans and 98 percent of Guatemalans who apply for political asylum are refused. If you are refused, you're deported to your country of origin, and in El Salvador, people are tortured or even killed — right off the plane."

Ramon, Victoria, and Roberto are going to present their case for political asylum and will educate people on the U.S.-backed state terror in El Salvador.

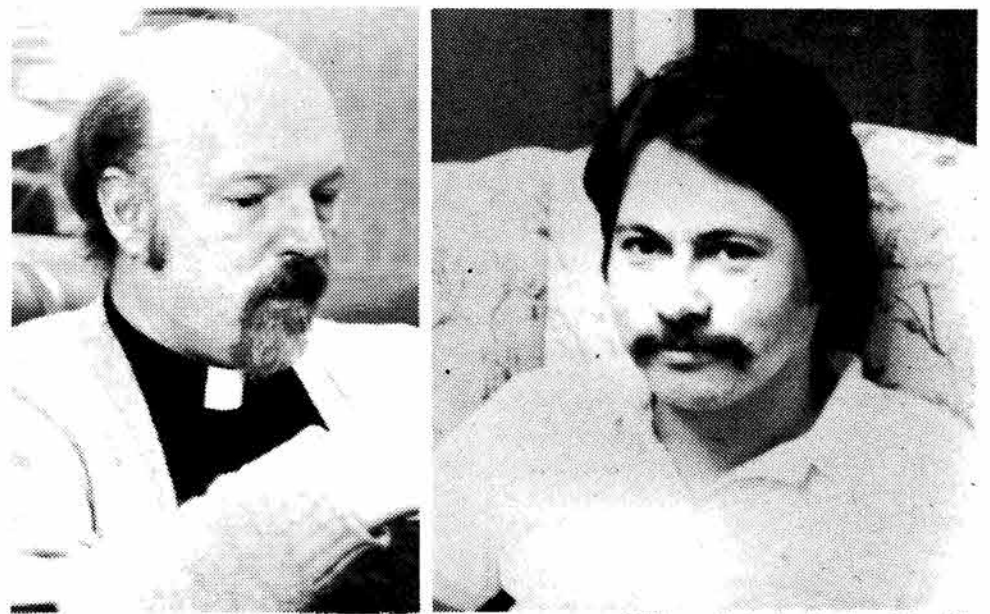
They will use their trial to help encourage other churches and synagogues to become sanctuaries.

Atkins said that the government is using intimidation to try to divide the sanctuary movement. The Flores family, he explained, has been subpoenaed to appear as witnesses in the trial of sanctuary workers in Tucson, Arizona.

Almost all the Central Americans who have been arrested since January throughout the United States are individuals who came through Phoenix, and, like the Flores family, had contact with INS agents Nixon and Morgan, and one other agent, Jesus Cruz, Atkins said.

"Obviously what the government wants to do is place Central Americans in the position of having to testify against North American activists," he said.

"But," he continued, "we see our political task as taking the initiative in these trials and to find every way to use them to explain the struggle in El Salvador." Atkins said they knew this would be a tough job in the trial itself, "since the judge has



Militant photos by Barbara Mutnick  
**Right, Ramon Flores.** After fleeing government and right-wing terror in El Salvador, Ramon was arrested in New Jersey by immigration cops who had earlier infiltrated groups providing sanctuary for Central American refugees. **Left, Rev. Henry Atkins** whose church voted to give sanctuary to Ramon.

already ruled out testimony about repression in El Salvador, and about our religious convictions."

Atkins said they were planning speaking engagements and to step up their work around the demand to win asylum for Ramon, Victoria, and Roberto Flores.

Protest statements can be sent to Attor-

ney General Edward Meese, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530, and to the INS, 970 Broad St., Newark, N.J. 07102.

Statements of support and much-needed contributions can be sent to the sanctuary at St. Michael's Chapel, 40 Davidson Rd., Piscataway, N.J. 08854.

## Wheeling-Pitt workers approve contract

BY MARY NELL BOCKMAN

PITTSBURGH — Striking workers at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel voted October 26 to approve a new contract and return to work. The vote, 5,924 to 789 in favor of the agreement, ended an 89-day walkout by the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). The Steelworkers struck the seventh-largest steel producer when faced with the company imposition of a 30 percent wage and benefit cut in July. This was the first USWA strike against a major steel producer since 1959.

The new contract sets a basic wage rate at \$10.06 an hour. It includes cuts in insurance and company contributions to the pension plan, as well as other concessions by workers amounting to 16 percent across the board. The wage and benefit package of \$18 an hour is \$5.50 below the industry average.

An unspecified number of jobs will be eliminated through combinations and the closure of at least one of the nine mills Wheeling-Pittsburgh operates.

Paul Rusen, chief negotiator for the USWA, admitted, "This contract does not contain all the things we're used to." He added, "It was the best agreement the union could reach."

His attitude was echoed by union officials and steelworkers throughout the Mon-Ohio valleys, who felt the company and the banks would shut the mills down permanently if the contract were not ratified.

Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel filed for a Chapter 11 bankruptcy in April, claiming it owed \$514 million to 24 major creditors and must be reorganized. In July it received federal court approval to tear up the USWA contract and impose an immediate \$6-an-hour cut in wages and benefits.

The company announced an end to the pension plan; reduction in vacation time, holidays, and medical payments; elimination of the grievance procedure; and it instituted a base rate of \$8.10 an hour.

A letter to union employees announcing the new wage structure asserted the right to alter work rules and labor costs as the company "deemed necessary."

Workers at Wheeling-Pittsburgh had already given up \$141 million in concessions on three previous occasions since 1982. Over half of the USWA members are laid off. When the company again insisted that workers bear the burden of the company's bank loans and bloated executive salaries, the union said no.

USWA members realized that they were fighting not just for their jobs, but for all Steelworkers, who face a major battle when the master agreement with the big steel producers expires in August 1986.

The threat represented by the attempt to crush the union at Wheeling-Pittsburgh drew together many unions from around the country in a joint effort to help out. They took up plant-gate collections and sent buses to solidarity rallies for the steelworkers. Thousands turned out to demonstrate at Wheeling-Pittsburgh plant gates, with unions from as far away as Michigan and Illinois organizing caravans so that their members could attend.

The strike was strongly backed by USWA officials at all levels.

Coal miners, electrical workers, steelworkers, teachers, and garment workers took the issues to their unions and fellow workers. This solidarity pressured the governments of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio — the three states where the plants are located — into granting unemployment compensation on the basis that the company's actions constituted a lockout.

Not a single member of the USWA crossed the picket line during the strike despite a so-called open door policy by management.

Throughout the strike company officials

and the banks kept the pressure on the union. They unsuccessfully sought to block unemployment compensation. They terminated medical insurance and stopped making pension payments. These actions were accompanied by threats to liquidate the company unless an agreement was reached.

Despite the concessions in the new contract, management was unable to accomplish what they set out to do in filing bankruptcy. They were forced to retreat in the face of a solid strike and broad support from the labor movement.

But the battle at Wheeling-Pittsburgh is not over. The banks have voiced opposition to the new contract and demand still more concessions. The pension program, which the company has underfunded by \$400 million, faces an uncertain future as the Federal Pension Benefit Guarantee Corp. takes control of it. Many workers are uncertain that the mills will stay open.

The U.S. Steel Corp. announced that it will seek to obtain concessions equal to those in the Wheeling-Pittsburgh settlement when the new contract negotiations open with the USWA.

## Watsonville cannery strike

Continued from back page

sion, unsanitary, and unsafe. Net pay came to less than \$3.30 an hour.

When they demanded a living wage, one of the workers, Rosa Avila, was told by a supervisor that "Mexicans don't deserve to be paid more."

That's when she and the others walked out.

**UFW, community back strike**

Many of the workers point out that this example of solidarity with "la raza" (Mexicans and Chicanos) is a very strong element in the strike. It has been a factor in the community as well, where the strike has gained strong support.

The United Farm Workers (UFW) union is a strong supporter of the strike. As one 40-year veteran of farm workers' struggles, Tomas Alejo, told the *Militant*, "We are supporting the workers who are on strike because we have years of experience fighting for our rights, for the farm workers' union. We have gained a lot, and for this reason we are going to win here."

**Solidarity**

But the solidarity has reached further than the Mexican and Chicano community in Watsonville. Over 2,000 strikers and

supporters from all over Northern California rallied in Watsonville on October 6. Machinists, service union workers, Teamsters, 300 members of the UFW, teachers, high school and college students, anti-apartheid and Central America solidarity activists, and others came to show their support.

The Watsonville strikers received a letter from Ross Clayton of Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers in Austin, Minnesota. Local P-9 is on strike against Hormel, the meat-processing corporation. The letter said, "It's good to know that people are standing up for their rights and dignity, because it seems nowadays everybody is trying to get rid of any union they can. Trouble is we're not going to let it happen."

Strikers receive benefits of \$55 a week, but Lydia Lerma, head of the union's food committee, said that without the generosity of the local community and the regional efforts to collect food, strikers and their families would go hungry.

Solidarity messages and contributions may be sent to Teamsters Local 912, 163 West Lake Ave., Watsonville, Calif. 95076.

## Springsteen refuses to cross picket line

At a concert in Cleveland, Ohio, recently, rock musician Bruce Springsteen arrived at Cleveland Municipal Stadium for a sold-out performance.

He found that Local 85 of the Service Employees Union, which represents ushers, ticket takers, and others at the stadium, was on strike.

Springsteen told concert officials that under no circumstances would he cross a picket line for a performance.

Management quickly reached an agreement with Local 85, and the concert went on as planned for the 71,000 fans waiting in the stadium.

## Reagan at United Nations

"The torch of peace." "The star of freedom." "Internationalist spirit." "Preserving lives." "The dignity of the individual." "All God's children." "The miracle of life."

One after another, pious phrases streamed out as Ronald Reagan addressed the United Nations General Assembly October 24. In between the puffs of hypocritical hot air, Reagan promised to continue the U.S. nuclear arms build-up and Washington's escalating involvement in wars against the peoples of Nicaragua, Angola, and other countries.

The speech was peppered with outright lies. Take Reagan's assertion that "we occupy no country."

Tell that to the people of Puerto Rico, held as a colony by Washington; to the people of the Virgin Islands; to the people of Grenada, living under a government imposed by a U.S. invasion; to the people of Honduras, occupied by thousands of U.S. troops and turned into a base for the U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua; to the people of El Salvador, victims of a war organized by U.S. military advisers; to the people of Cuba, forced to accept a U.S. naval base on their territory.

Tell it to the people of Guam, the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Mariana Islands, Samoa, Midway Islands, and other Pacific islands under Washington's colonial domination and military occupation.

Tell it to the native people of Hawaii, whose land was stolen from them by U.S. troops in 1894 and turned into the hub of Washington's Pacific empire. Tell it to the people of the Philippines, where a U.S.-backed dictatorship provides bases for the U.S. Air Force and naval fleet.

Tell it to the people of South Korea, where U.S. troops help keep a hated dictatorship in power.

Reagan portrayed governments that refuse to follow Washington's dictates — the Soviet Union, Nicaragua, Angola, Cuba, Ethiopia, and others — as threats to peace and violators of human rights.

The brutal dictatorships in South Korea and Taiwan were hailed as models.

And not one word was said in criticism of apartheid or of the South African government, which is trying to

drown the antiracist struggle in blood. There was no word of support for the Black youth who are fighting and dying to raise the torch of liberty in their country.

On the contrary, Reagan promised U.S. support to the apartheid regime's efforts to subjugate the independent Black nation of Angola.

According to Reagan, Angola — an underdeveloped country bordering on the South African-ruled colony of Namibia — must be punished for seeking and getting Cuban troops to protect its independence against the apartheid regime's massive war machine.

Support to South Africa shows the kind of freedom Washington stands for — the right of big business to freely exploit the virtual slave labor of workers and farmers. At the UN, Reagan offered "peace" to the people of the world if they accept that slavery and threatened war if they refuse.

The masses of South Africans who are fighting to rid their country of the apartheid regime have said no. So have the Nicaraguan people who are determinedly defending their hard-won freedom against Washington's mercenary war.

Their determination to be free is being echoed by growing numbers of oppressed people around the world.

Increasing numbers of U.S. working people are refusing to be taken in by the U.S. government's war propaganda.

The union movement, voicing overwhelming popular sentiment, has said no to Washington's support of the racist regime in South Africa.

And a growing number of unions, farmers, and other working people are speaking out in opposition to Washington's dirty war in Central America.

Despite popular opinion, the U.S. rulers are maintaining their ties with the apartheid regime and continuing the mercenary war against Nicaragua. This gives the lie to Reagan's claim made at the UN that "here the people rule."

Despite Reagan's hypocrisy and threats, and despite the U.S. government's bloody actions, the slaveowners of the world are being dealt new blows.

## Political rights of unionists

The government's message was clear and to the point: "Your union cannot be involved in politics. If you want to keep your government job you had better stay out of politics."

That's what lies behind the 60-day suspensions from government jobs of Moe Biller, president of the American Postal Workers Union; Kenneth Blaylock, president of the American Federation of Government Employees; and Vincent Sombrotto, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

The unionists were charged with violating the Hatch Act for urging union members to back Walter Mondale, the Democratic Party candidate, in the 1984 presidential elections. (See article on page 9.)

They were suspended from their jobs in spite of the fact that they have been on unpaid leaves of absence from the government for years.

It is not an accident that the three targeted for prosecution are leaders of the unions that organize the largest number of government workers. The message was meant to be heard by all 1.3 million members of those unions — and other working people too.

The Hatch Act prohibits federal government employees from running for office or campaigning for candidates in elections.

Backers of the act claim it prevents workers from being forced by their supervisors to hustle funds and votes for a candidate or face losing their jobs.

But the administrative law judge who handed down the conviction in this case got to the heart of the matter when he said, "Who can doubt that these unions, having as they do an extensive membership, pose a major force toward influencing political action?"

Recently, the Supreme Court ruled that the Hatch Act also prohibits federal employees' unions who have endorsed a candidate from organizing voter registration drives.

The Hatch Act was one of a number of antilabor measures passed in 1939. Those attacks were meant to stall the

growth and power of the union movement, which had expanded rapidly in the 1930s. The drive by the government and the employers to weaken the unions was part of the preparations for Washington's entry into World War II.

The handful of billionaire families who rule the U.S. try to thwart attempts by the workers to exercise their potential power.

When workers strike for higher wages and improved working conditions, various federal, state, and city governmental agencies from the courts to the cops are quickly lined up against us. Hundreds of teachers, for example, were arrested this fall under such notorious anti-union laws.

A whole series of state and federal laws are especially designed to outlaw strikes by government workers and handicap their ability to organize.

The Hatch Act prosecutions are an example of how the government tries to trample on the basic right of working people to be political.

Unionists have the right to be active in politics. They have the right to speak out against the reactionary policies of the government on affirmative action, abortion rights, health care, and against its dirty war against Nicaragua, as well as other social and political issues.

Blaylock, for example, is a member of the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. In February he visited El Salvador and Nicaragua as part of a trade union delegation.

Workers and farmers can only advance our interests through political action organized independently of the employers and their parties — the Democrats and Republicans. The fear that workers and farmers will take that step is what lies behind laws like the Hatch Act.

The union presidents are appealing the suspensions. Their case is being backed by the AFL-CIO. The stakes in this fight are high. The attempt to intimidate government workers should be met by a loud outcry from all union members and supporters of democratic rights.

## Tragedy in Chile: How imperialism toppled Allende

BY GEORGE KAPLAN

When the workers' and farmers' government in Nicaragua declared a state of emergency October 15 the U.S. government charged that democratic rights were being crushed.

In fact, the Sandinista government acted to make certain that Washington and its allies would never succeed in reestablishing a bloody dictatorship like the one the Nicaraguans overthrew in 1979. The state of emergency, the Sandinistas explain, is to protect the power and rights won through the revolution by the workers, farmers, and their allies.

The Nicaraguan leaders remember Chile, where Washington undermined a popular, democratically elected government and helped impose a bloody military dictatorship.

In the fall of 1970 Salvador Allende Gossens, a Socialist Party leader and longtime supporter of the Cuban revolution, was elected president of Chile. Allende's victory reflected a radicalization of the Chilean masses.

During the first year of his Popular Unity government, a number of far-reaching reforms were carried out. For-

## OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

eign holdings in copper, nitrate, and iron were nationalized, as well as many banks and textile mills. Steps were taken to implement a land-reform law passed under the previous Christian Democratic government.

The Popular Unity government was committed to abiding by bourgeois legality. When violent right-wing attacks and sabotage became severe, the government did not respond strongly.

The imperialists and the Chilean capitalist class had no allegiance whatsoever to bourgeois legality. From the beginning they plotted to get rid of Allende. The U.S. corporation International Telephone and Telegraph conspired with the Nixon administration to try to prevent Allende's election. Allende's opponents murdered the army commander in hopes of sparking a military coup.

The U.S. government opened up an economic war against Chile. It used its influence to block the refinancing of Chile's foreign debt. World Bank credits for Chile dropped from an annual average of \$230 million to \$27 million.

U.S. trade with Chile was slashed. The U.S. cut off shipments of spare parts and wheat. U.S. copper companies claimed they were not being paid fairly for the nationalized mines and tried to block Chile from marketing copper. U.S. technicians were pulled out of the mines to sabotage their functioning. The U.S. sold off some of its copper reserves, driving down the price on the world market. The bourgeoisie decapitalized industries, sabotaged production, hoarded goods, and withdrew money from the banks.

Right-wing actions against the government began to grow and involve larger layers of the middle class. In October 1972 small shopkeepers went on strike against government searches for hoarded goods. Upper-class and middle-class women demonstrated against shortages.

Fascist movements began to grow. Rightist forces carried out bombings and assassinations. The bourgeois media poured out provocative lies against the government and against workers' and farmers' struggles.

Right-wing bosses' strikes, spearheaded by the truck owners, paralyzed the economy.

U.S. aid to Chile was cut, with two exceptions. U.S. military aid and training for the Chilean armed forces continued. One million dollars was also made available to finance counterrevolution.

Most of this was channeled to the American Institute for Free Labor Development, which is sponsored by top AFL-CIO bureaucrats and funded by the CIA.

The money helped finance and organize the truckers' strike and other rightist activities.

This culminated in September 1973 in a bloody military coup. Thousands of workers and people from poor neighborhoods were massacred along with revolutionaries from other countries who had been granted political asylum by the government. Allende was killed as he defended the national palace against attacking troops.

It was a terrible setback not only for Chile, but for the oppressed and exploited masses throughout the world.

These tragic events showed the crimes that imperialism was capable of committing to defend its interests. They showed the danger of relying on the capitalists to abide by the bourgeois-democratic rules of the game that they loudly claim to support.

A good source of information about the U.S. destabilization of Chile is *Fidel Castro on Chile*, an Education for Socialists publication distributed by Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. It costs \$5, plus \$.75 for postage and handling.

# Rosario Murillo — 'A woman to be proud of'

"Mrs. Ortega, I would like to know if you have any personal goals as first lady of Nicaragua?" a member of the audience asked Rosario Murillo on a recent Phil Donahue show.

This was the answer:

"I am the secretary general of the artist's federation in Nicaragua and am an artist myself, a poet. I am a member of Congress and of the Sandinista Assembly, and I am



## WOMEN IN REVOLT Pat Grogan

also the editor of the cultural supplement to *Barricada* [the official newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front]. And, of course, I am the mother of eight children, too."

"You are a woman to be proud of," replied the woman from the audience.

The woman who asked the question was surprised, as well as pleased, by Murillo's answer. She had assumed that "first ladies" in Nicaragua were like most other first ladies.

Nancy Reagan, for example, had the same week made this memorable comment at the First Ladies Conference on Drugs: "Mothers are like tea bags, we don't know our own strength until we are in hot water."

Murillo was in the United States as part of a Nicaraguan delegation to the 40th anniversary commemoration of the United Nations. She appeared on the Phil Donahue show along with Daniel Ortega, president of Nicaragua, to whom she is married.

In a particularly insulting exchange, Phil Donahue questioned Murillo on whether or not some of her children had been born before her marriage. He said that the question of course had "nothing to do with morality" but was a "question of the style of her relationship" with her husband.

Murillo explained that her marriage took place after the Victory. But Donahue was confused. He assumed that the "victory" she referred to was in the 1984 elections where Daniel Ortega, representing the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), was elected president.

Donahue assumed that when a "first lady" talks about victory, she must mean her husband's triumph in the elections.

He took a while to catch on that she was talking about the 1979 victory of the Nicaraguan revolution — a struggle in which 50,000 men, women, and children gave their lives to bring down the hated U.S.-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza and bring to power a government that defends the interests and rights of the Nicaraguan people.

Murillo's appearance on the Donahue program was one of dozens of small incidents that gave people in this country a glimpse at the tremendous advances being made by women in Nicaragua, advances in the attitude toward women and in the role women play in helping to lead the Nicaraguan revolution.

Another was in the press packets released by Nicaragua's UN mission on the occasion of the 40th anniversary commemoration.

Generally, packets like these contain biographical information on the heads of government and their spouses — usually the first lady.

Nicaragua's press packet, however, had biographical information on two revolutionary leaders: Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, and Rosario Murillo, secretary general of the Sandinista Association of Cultural Workers.

Murillo's biography listed two pages on her background, work, and accomplishments as a poet and as a revolutionary, beginning in 1969 when she joined the underground movement against Somoza. It pointed out that she coordinated the underground magazine of the FSLN, *Lucha Sandinista* and was imprisoned several times by the Somoza dictatorship.

Murillo's experience reflects the major role women played in the struggle against Somoza. For example, women made up over 30 percent of the Sandinista fighters by the final stages of the revolution and played a leading role in underground organizing activities. Many women were imprisoned.

Her experience also reflects the leading role being played by women today, as commandantes, ministers, leaders of the mass organizations. It spotlights the deep commitment of the Nicaraguan revolution to women's rights and the tremendous strides forward despite the hardships of fighting the U.S.-organized war against them, and the legacy of poverty and destruction inherited from the Somoza regime.

It is indeed something to be proud of.

# Boston racist violence 10 years after desegregation

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — It was a flare-up of racist violence that brought memories of the past, of the anti-Black terror that swept parts of this city during the tumultuous first

## AS I SEE IT

days of court-ordered school desegregation here more than a decade ago.

Jim Julian, a local disc jockey for WILD radio, and his intern, Derrick Mason, had just come from the Charlestown Navy Yard September 28.

Then they stopped at The Godfather, a sub shop and pizza parlor, for a bite.

Julian is white, Mason, Black. With them was Julian's 14-year-old son, James.

They ate, got into Julian's van. It was dark, around 8 p.m., when, says the deejay, a shot rang out.

"It sounded like a cannon," he said.

Then, a little hell broke loose.

Charlestown was a center of racist resistance to school desegregation when it began there in 1975. Racist gangs, encouraged by local politicians and winked at by the cops, terrorized Black students being bused in and white students and families who complied with the court order.

Ten years later, a mob was surrounding Jim Julian, his son, and Derrick Mason.

Julian revved the van to escape, but got trapped in a web of blind alleys.

Somebody, somewhere, called the cops.

Before they got there, amidst shouts of "you nigger-

lover" and "get that nigger out of there" from the crowd of 50, a stone smashed through the window of the van.

Julian told Mason and his son to hit the deck. They escaped injury.

The cops arrived. The mob dispersed. And Jim Julian's face was dripping blood as he picked glass out of his hair. Later, doctors put 19 stitches in his face.

More than injured, Julian was angry.

The cops arrested nobody. One officer told him they feared a "riot" if they'd busted somebody.

A decade ago, it would have stopped there.

But Jim Julian put up a big stink.

In the past 10 years, something has happened in Boston.

The racist movement, coached by elected officeholders, coddled by the cops, and sanctioned by media, had been unable to thwart the desegregation of the schools.

It had been beaten years ago by a powerful pro-Black rights countermobilization in the streets and by the daily demonstrations of Black students who boarded the buses and refused to be driven back by bricks, bottles, and insults.

This struggle won increasing solidarity nationally, isolating the racists. It drew upon the sympathy of working people repelled by racist violence, including white workers.

The rulers of the city of Boston were forced by such actions to heel their dogs.

The change in Boston is not that racist attacks have ceased or that foes of desegregation have given up, but that direct violence against Afro-Americans, and whites like Jim Julian, now spurs widespread anger among

working people.

And Jim Julian's anger made the news.

Including his blast at the cops for their kid-gloves treatment of the thugs.

Five days after the attack two of the racist goons were nailed.

They face maximums of 7½ and 30 years in prison, have to raise \$50,000 in bail, and are in hot water for violating bail arrangements for previous dope-pushing charges.

Some whites in Charlestown have protested the attack, as have Blacks who now live in previously all-white projects, which slowly became desegregated in the wake of the busing victory.

Editorials in the dailies have likewise condemned the assaults. And more than a few readers of the liberal *Boston Globe* might have caught the paper blushing.

It had originally interviewed one of the attackers in an early story as a "bystander" who tried to blame Julian for picking a fight, only to learn later he was a ringleader of the mob and is now in jail.

There's still a ways to go.

More than a few punks left to arrest, prosecute, and throw in the slammer — which would send a message to them and their ilk that working people won't tolerate racist violence.

Julian, still dissatisfied with this dearth of arrests, is demanding an investigation of police conduct — or lack of it — at the scene of the attack.

And then, there's the next step.

Jim Julian wants to return to The Godfather with his friend Derrick Mason for another pizza.

## LETTERS

### "Told strikers' side"

It is well known here in Crossett that "a New York paper" is "the only paper that told the strikers' side" even though it is not well known that the name of the paper is the *Militant*. The staff of United Paperworkers International Union Local 369 Xeroxed "maybe a thousand" (their words) copies of the September 27 *Militant* story on the Local 369 strike "at the constant requests of people." On several occasions copies of the story were seen taped on the stores of downtown businesses. An owner of a gift shop was asked what she thought of the story being posted on her window. She replied, "It's okay. I put it there."

"Even New York does better" was often hurled into the embarrassed face of our initially reticent local press. It eventually did a good job of reporting formal union statements.

A new reader of the *Militant* here said, "At least we learned who our friends are."

Jerry Fanning  
Crossett, Arkansas.

### Australian SWP

I read your article on the Australian SWP divorcing itself from the Fourth International.

As a corollary it is high time the SWP looked to reconciliation with Soviet supported parties.

After all, Stalin is dead. Most importantly the new leadership in the USSR seems committed to raising the standard of living of the masses. At long last it is acting against the class system in that country.

A favorable response to reconciliation might be some overdue recognition of Leon Trotsky in the USSR.

Charles Long  
Stevean Point, Wisconsin

### On strike 14 months

Here in San Francisco, 42 members of Local 2 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union have been waging a militant strike for 14 months against the exclusive Commercial Club. Recently, cops arrested several of the most militant picketing strikers for allegedly violating an

antinoise statute. Across the street a construction crew using jackhammers apparently escaped the cops' attention. This is a classic example of how the bosses will selectively enforce laws which are not directly related to the class struggle (such as racketeering, drugs, and now antinoise) to deal blows to the labor movement.

The strikers, mostly Asian men over 40, remain undaunted, defiant, and determined to beat back the club's attempt to impose severe wage and benefit cuts.

Kevin McGuire  
San Francisco, California

### Ohio farm forum

A "Farm Forum" sponsored by the Ohio Alliance for Farm Unity was called to discuss the impact of the farm crisis on northwest Ohio. Held in Napoleon, Ohio, October 2, it was the third regional conference organized by the alliance, and the first one in this part of the state. About 60 percent of the 45 people in attendance were farmers, with most of the rest being ministers and others who work

closely with farmers.

We heard several presentations including a panel discussion led by leaders of different farm organizations. The video *Harvest of Pain* was also shown.

The Ohio Alliance for Farm Unity draws together the major farm organizations in the state — the Family Farm Movement, Farm Bureau, National Farmers Organization, Farmers Union, and the Grange — as well as a number of key church groups, including the Ohio Council of Churches, and several social service groups. A number of the farmers who were at the meeting are local officials of the various farm groups.

Gary Boyers  
Toledo, Ohio

### WBCN hits apartheid

In a special day of programming entitled "Commercial Free for a Free South Africa," WBCN-FM, one of the most popular rock stations in the Boston area, devoted all of the time it would normally air commercials to informing its listeners about the situation in

South Africa.

On October 15 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., interspersed between the music and the news, were a series of interviews and information spots. Interviews were held with rock stars who have taken a stand against apartheid and participated in the "Artists United Against Apartheid" Sun City video. Among these was Jackson Browne, who pointed out the connections between the United States' racist policies toward South African Blacks and toward Black people in this country. He also explained that he has travelled in Central America and that Reagan should impose sanctions on South Africa, not Nicaragua.

Ellen Berman  
Boston, Massachusetts

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.

## Watsonville strikers stand firm

### Solidarity march backs Teamster strike at Calif. canneries



Solidarity march passed by pickets at struck cannery, surrounded by cops. Injunction limits number of pickets to four. Ninety percent of strikers are Chicano and Mexican, the majority women.

Militant/Linda Joyce

BY LINDA JOYCE

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — After over six weeks on strike, cannery workers here, members of Teamsters Local 912, are holding firm. Watsonville, a town of 24,000 about 50 miles south of San Jose, is known as the frozen-food capital of the world.

Of the 1,700 workers on strike against two canneries, 90 percent are Chicano and Mexican and 5 percent Filipino. The overwhelming majority are women. The workers are holding out against a concessionary, two-tier wage contract; union-busting tactics; and virtual martial law conditions in the vicinity of the canneries.

The two struck canneries — Richard Shaw Frozen Food Inc. and Watsonville Canning and Frozen Foods — are among the 16 largest frozen-food processors and packers in the world. All 16 of these plants are located in California, and they employ close to 15,000 workers. All are organized by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The plant owners' aim is to force workers to accept contracts that would slash wages in half, cut out benefits for the majority of workers, make drastic work-rule changes, and gut seniority rights. The bosses are blaming imports of broccoli, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts as a cover in their drive to weaken the unions and squeeze more profits out of cannery workers.

The secretary-treasurer of the Teamsters local, Richard King, explained to the *Militant* that all the other plant owners appear to be ready to accept contracts that would freeze wages at the current standard of

\$7.06 an hour. "Only these two Watsonville companies are holding out — they want to go back to where we were 30 years ago," he said.

On October 19 strikers joined in a downtown rally to commemorate the National Day of Justice for Immigrants and Refugees. From that rally 300 people marched to the Watsonville Canning Co. in solidarity with the strike. As the marchers rounded a corner, we faced a dramatic sight — lines and lines of cops ringing the cannery and menacing us with their clubs.

#### 'Bosses, cops, hijacked town'

The four lone strikers allowed by a court injunction to picket the gates were almost completely hidden by the rows of police. The marchers challenged another injunction that prohibits strike supporters from coming within 200 yards of the cannery. And although the situation got tense, we passed within a few feet of the cops without incident.

Cops have been arresting people on the slightest pretense and checking identification of anyone who appears Mexican if they walk near the plants. One striker, Manuel Calvario, is being held in jail in lieu of a quarter-million dollars bail for allegedly throwing a Molotov cocktail at a scab bus.

Fire destroyed a warehouse at Farmers Cold Storage next door to one of the canneries, and even though these canneries are under 24-hour guard by public and private security, the bosses are blaming the strikers for the incident.

Cops from several counties have been called in, including the California Highway Patrol, for what they term "mutual aid." As one strike supporter commented, "The cannery owners have hijacked the whole town and the police are helping."

#### Strikebreakers quit, back union

The bosses are finding it hard to keep up even minimal production. On October 18, over 30 strikebreakers spoke to the news media from the union headquarters after quitting work at Watsonville Canning.

They explained that they were not told of the strike situation when hired to work in Watsonville. When the bosses could find no one who would scab from Watsonville, they went out to a wide area and brought in strikebreakers in sealed buses having plywood over the windows.

The workers explained that conditions inside the plant were in a state of confusion.

Continued on Page 17

## Sanctuary trial begins in Arizona

BY BETSY McDONALD

PHOENIX — Jury selection has begun in a trial of sanctuary workers that opened October 22 in United States District Court in Tucson, Arizona.

Jim Corbett and Rev. John Fife — founders of the sanctuary movement — are on trial along with nine other sanctuary workers, including two Roman Catholic priests, a nun, and six lay church workers.

On March 24, 1982, Corbett and Fife led the congregation of Tucson's Southside Presbyterian Church in publicly declaring their church a sanctuary for refugees from repression in El Salvador and Guatemala. The 11 defendants have been aiding refugees fleeing the U.S.-supported violence against the peoples of Central America since that time.

The federal government has charged them with 67 felony counts, including "smuggling, transporting, and concealing illegal aliens, encouraging illegal aliens to cross the border, and conspiring to transport, smuggle and conceal illegal aliens."

Each charge can carry a prison term of up to five years.

Prosecutor Donald Reno denies that the Central Americans were fleeing political repression, torture, and death. Rather, he contends that they were running from poverty, not strife, and wanted to enter the United States to seek work, not refuge.

U.S. District Judge Earl Carroll, who is presiding at the trial, rejected the pretrial efforts of the defendants to introduce evidence concerning the repression in El Salvador and Guatemala. Nor will he let them use their moral and religious convictions as a basis for their defense.

Approximately 270 churches have endorsed the sanctuary movement, a reflection of what one of the defendants, Sister Darlene Nigorski, said: "People are getting to know what is really going on in Central America."

The federal government considers revealing the truth about the U.S. role in the Salvadoran and Guatemalan regimes' terror as a "threat to the sovereignty of the United States."

That is how James Rayburn, an agent of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), justified his 1984 proposal that the INS infiltrate the sanctuary movement.

His proposal led to the creation of "Operation Sojourner," the INS undercover operation. One of the documents on file in court said the undercover operation would result in the "successful prosecutions that

would disband the underground railroad and stop the illegal activities being engaged in by its members."

"Operation Sojourner" began on March 27, 1984, when "Agent 98," Jesus Cruz, infiltrated the movement. The undercover work of Cruz and three other agents, posing as sanctuary workers, led to the indictments on Jan. 14, 1985, and to the detention of scores of Central American refugees. (See story on New Jersey sanctuary movement on page 17.)

Cruz is slated to be a key prosecution witness in the trial that is expected to last for several months.

## Big effort needed to reach fund goal

BY FRED FELDMAN

The Socialist Publication Fund needs your help.

At present, both pledges to the \$125,000 fund and the collection of contributions are running behind schedule. A big effort is needed to reach the \$125,000 goal.

The most immediate task in achieving the fund goal is to increase the pledge level by some \$22,000 to reach \$125,000. Payments on these pledges need to be greatly stepped up.

The Socialist Publication Fund rallies being held in many cities will play a key part in making possible a successful completion of this fund-raising effort.

The editors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the biweekly international news magazine *Intercontinental Press* will be giving the keynote talks at many of these rallies.

*Militant* editor Malik Miah will speak at the Socialist Publication Fund rallies on November 9 in Baltimore and November 16 in Detroit. Managing editor Margaret Jayko will be the featured speaker November 16 in St. Louis. *Perspectiva*

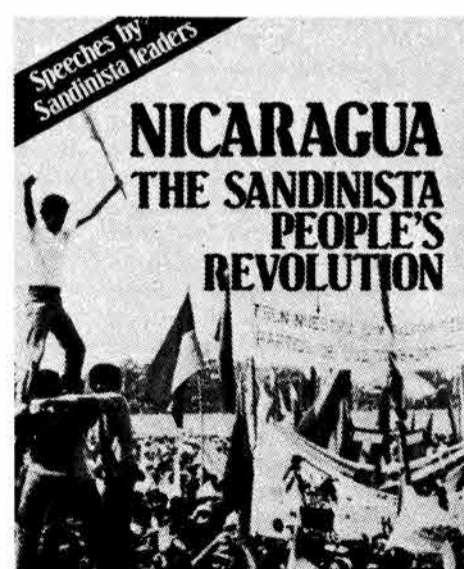
*Mundial* editor Martin Koppel will speak at the November 16 rally in Denver. *Intercontinental Press* editor Doug Jenness will speak in San Jose on November 23 and in San Francisco on November 24. Ernest Harsch, managing editor of *Intercontinental Press*, will be featured at the November 16 rally in Boston.

Mac Warren, National Organization Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, will address the rally in Los Angeles November 9.

Events are highlighting the importance of socialist publications. A growing number of anti-apartheid fighters in this country rely on the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* for information about the growth of the movement. The *Militant* and *PM* counter White House lies about the State of Emergency in Nicaragua.

The fund is vital to maintaining the day-to-day operation of these publications. Without the fund, it would not be possible to take steps forward like the publication of special issues of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva*.

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Contributions to a previous Socialist Publication Fund made possible publication of *Nicaragua: the Sandinista People's Revolution*, a collection of speeches by leaders of revolution.