

Mich. labor rally for a free S. Africa

BY KATE KAKU

DETROIT — More than 1,000 trade unionists and community people gathered together here October 26 at the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 600 hall for a Michigan Labor Rally for a Free South Africa.

Horace Sheffield, president of the Detroit Area Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), chaired the rally. Bob King, president of UAW Local 600 at the Ford Rouge plant, welcomed everyone on behalf of the membership of Local 600. Tom Turner, president of Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO, encouraged labor to get involved in defending the rights of Blacks in South Africa.

Jeanette Methobi, representative from the African National Congress (ANC), brought fraternal greetings from the freedom fighters of South Africa.

She said that the people of South Africa have declared war against apartheid. She also pointed to the worldwide outcry against apartheid and the international isolation of the regime in South Africa.

She said, "The struggle of the people of South Africa is not just a racial struggle, but a struggle for democracy and for freedom. We will not rest until Nelson Mandela is free. We will not rest until the apartheid system is completely dismantled. I am here to pledge that the ANC will continue to make apartheid ungovernable." She received a standing ovation.

Leo Robinson of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 10 in San Francisco, California, brought greetings from his union and from the North Bay Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. He asked for a moment of silence for Benjamin Moloise, executed by the apartheid regime, and Jackson Taylor, member of the International Longshoremen's Association in Baltimore, Maryland, who was killed by a police car while picketing.

Robinson pointed to ways in which his union is helping the struggle of Blacks in South Africa. His local has pledged \$2,000 a year to the ANC.

Robinson also pointed to the direct connection between labor in the United States and South Africa. "The chairman of the board at Ford promised \$245 million to invest in South Africa. Then they came back and closed the Ford Fremont plant. GM did the same thing."

U.S. Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) in-
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GD strike settled in close vote

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DETROIT — Members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) voted 2,227 to 1,943 November 12 to accept a contract with General Dynamics (GD), ending an eight-week strike that halted production of army tanks at five plants in Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Local 1200 members from the Warren tank assembly plant outside Detroit packed the union hall for a meeting to discuss the agreement. Many arrived wearing "vote no" T-shirts and stickers. The local voted 933 to 240 to continue striking.

Speaking to the press as the totals were announced, Local 1200 President Jim Coakley pointed out that "at three locations all leadership was advocating that they accept this agreement. Even with that, it barely passed."

"The rank and file is very adamant," he said, "not only on the economic issues, but things such as wage progressions, where new hires come in at 40 percent lower than other people. That's wrong. We should not have that in this union."

"Our demand was for parity [in wages and benefits with workers at Chrysler, which owned the tank plants until 1982]," he continued. "Not only did we not get parity, we are going to fall further behind."

Local 1200 organized a strike solidarity rally November 6, which drew 500 unionists. Speakers included Tom Turner, president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, Anita Hicks, president of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 457; Bob Lendt, director of UAW Region 1B; Perry Johnson, director of UAW Region 1; and Marc Stepp, UAW International vice-president.

At the time the rally was held, GD was threatening to discipline over 100 workers with nine-month suspensions for strike-related activity.

"We shall not talk about anything until everyone who has been charged, the 101, have been fully exonerated, and they too can go back to work when everyone else goes back to work," Stepp assured the rally.

The ratified agreement rules out any firings or disciplinary layoffs now, but allows the company to keep disciplinary letters in the personnel files of 18 strikers.

At the rally, Coakley explained the history of concessions imposed on GD workers in recent years, despite GD's huge profits. The new contract includes lump sum

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Union-led march in New Jersey slams apartheid



Militant/Osborne G. Hart

Anti-apartheid march November 9 in Newark, New Jersey.

BY HARRY RING

NEWARK — Their banners and placards declared their purpose.

"Apartheid must go — District 65, UAW, AFL-CIO."

"Postal workers for a free South Africa."

"Methodists united against apartheid."

"Free Nelson Mandela — Newark Teachers Union."

"Muslims united against apartheid."

"Free South Africa — concerned community women of Jersey City."

"AME Zion Church against apartheid."

"No compromise with apartheid. Power to the African people — American Postal Workers Union."

Sponsored by the New Jersey Anti-Apartheid Mobilization Coalition, it was a statewide march and rally against apartheid and for an end to all U.S. ties with the racist Pretoria regime. It was held November 9.

The coalition included 185 labor, church, student, community, and political organizations.

The central force in the coalition was organized labor, with District 65 of the United Auto Workers playing the key role.

The action began with a kick-off rally. Demonstrators then proceeded across town and then marched back on Broad Street, the city's main downtown thoroughfare. As they marched, buses continued to arrive from around the state, and when the main rally began at Military Park, the crowd had tripled in size.

Organizers said 10,000 participated. Police put the number at 6,000.

The demonstration reflected the coalition that built it. The largest numbers of participants were in union contingents. There was a good church turnout. Students from five of the city's high schools marched, and some elementary students, including a group of Cub Scouts, aged seven to nine. The great majority of the protesters were Black.

The major union contingents were those of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, several postal workers' unions, and District 65. Buses brought auto workers from as far away as Trenton.

The demonstration was a solid boost for everyone involved. Everyone felt the anti-apartheid movement had gained ground, and there was particular appreciation for labor's role in accomplishing this.

One worker, part of a group from International Association of Machinists Local 1445 at Eastern Airlines, said, "We're backing this 100 percent. Maybe we can do something about racism in South Africa. I think it's time we moved forward. Bread-and-butter issues are probably still number one, but we have to look at the international picture now."

And one of a group of about 50 workers from United Auto Workers Local 595 in Linden said, "We're here for a very good cause. The way the American government is supporting South Africa isn't beneficial to us. People are being murdered in South Africa."

The impact of the action went way beyond those who joined the march.

As part of building support, a number of unions sold November 9 buttons in the workplaces they organize.

At the Bulk Mail Center in Jersey City, members of the Mailhandlers union sold 1,000 buttons in a single day. In other

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S.F. conference on peace, jobs, and justice

BY SAM MANUEL

SAN FRANCISCO — Three hundred people, many of them trade unionists, attended a conference on peace, jobs, and justice held here on November 2.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss plans for organizing a united action in the spring against U.S. intervention in Central America, against U.S. ties with South Africa, for a freeze on nuclear weapons, and for jobs. On April 20 this year, 50,000 people marched in San Francisco as part of a nationally organized protest that included marches in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and several other cities.

The conference was broadly sponsored by labor, including four central labor councils in the area — San Francisco, Santa Clara, Marin, and San Mateo. Labor also played an active role in the conference

panels and workshops.

Two prominent labor officials addressed the opening panel of the conference: John Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, and William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists.

Henning pointed to the important beginning made last spring by labor's participation in the April 20 mobilization. He said, "There is no reason for us to repeat what happened during Vietnam. Then, the students, religious figures, and civil rights people were very active. We will ensure that labor's voice will be heard in the future."

"The important lesson from Vietnam is that for the first time a war was ended not with a victory for the government but by the actions of the people."

Winpisinger was the featured speaker on

the panel. Over 40 members of the machinists' union had registered for and attended the conference. For many of them, this was a new experience.

Winpisinger attacked the growing expenditures for war under the Reagan administration. He stated, "Under the Reagan administration, 95,000 people have been drafted into poverty for the defense budget."

David Dyson, union-label director for the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, spoke on a panel on organized labor and Central America. Dyson is also a leader of the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

Dyson underscored the importance of the foreign policy debate on Central America taking place within the labor move-

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Socialists in Dallas expand sales at area gates

BY SUSAN ZAMORA

DALLAS — Following the August national convention of the Socialist Workers Party, members of the Dallas SWP and Young Socialist Alliance mapped out a

eral Motors plant in Arlington, Texas, where SWP and YSA members have worked for six years. For the first time, we were able to establish a regular plant gate sale at the Rockwell Interna-

bers at this plant became very familiar with the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* last spring through our weekly teams. These sales were boosted by the SWP campaign for mayor of Dallas. To reach even more USWA members we expanded our sales effort to the second Dresser plant in south Dallas.

A new sale that has been of particular interest to us is the one to International Association of Machinists (IAM) members at the Aviall aerospace plant at the Love Field airport. After beginning the sale, the team discovered a second gate that turned out to be the entrance that most workers use. Thirteen IAM members bought the *Militant* at this gate last week. The plant gate team said they noticed a real confidence in these workers. They seem to be accustomed to receiving things at their plant gate, and they seemed very open and willing to check out the *Militant*.

The team is anxious to return next week and expects to have some interesting discussions with these workers about what they thought of the paper.

Another recently established sale has been to workers in Ft. Worth at the massive General Dynamics plant, which is organized by Lodge 776 of the IAM. The team that goes there reports sales of four, five, and eight copies of the *Militant* each week. Coverage of striking GD workers in Detroit, who are organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW), has been of special interest. The IAM members in Ft. Worth struck GD last year in a battle against the bosses' proposed takeback contract.

LTV Vought is a major aerospace and war production plant. It employs 6,500 hourly workers at its three facilities in Grand Prairie. The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* have been sold at the Jef-

erson Street plant, the largest of the three, for the past five years. Many papers and several subscriptions were sold during the 16-month contract battle between the UAW and the employers that ended last spring. More recently, members of the SWP and YSA have established plant gate sales at the Marshall Street facility.

Members of the SWP and YSA who work at Vought report that these consistent teams have been invaluable to introducing the *Militant* and *PM* to a broader number of workers inside each of the three plants. The *Young Socialist* newspaper has also been well received at the plant gate.

SWP and YSA members in Dallas are excited about our experiences of the past nine weeks. We have succeeded in meeting and discussing politics with a greater number and cross section of industrial workers in the Dallas—Ft. Worth area.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

plan to regularize and expand weekly plant gate sales. We saw this as an essential part of using the press to reach out to a greater number of workers in the Dallas—Ft. Worth area with the truth about the U.S. war in Central America, the heroic fight of the South African people, and the battles of trade unionists against the bosses' offensive here in the United States.

We immediately reestablished plant gate sales at the huge Gen-

tional plant organized by the International Union of Electronic Workers.

Militant salespeople have learned that the most important thing in these sales is consistency, returning every week for political discussion. With that in mind, another place we go to regularly is the Dresser Industry Oil Tooling plant in Dallas, which is organized by the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). USWA mem-

Writer on Cuba and Nicaragua fights deportation

Author Margaret Randall, now teaching at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, is fighting a U.S. deportation order. She has been ordered excluded under provisions of the McCarran Act barring those noncitizens the government deems politically undesirable. Many noted public figures are supporting her fight against this.

The following interview with her was conducted in Albuquerque.

Question. Are you optimistic about the appeal?

Answer. I think we will win eventually. I'm not sure exactly at what point, but I think there's going to be a lot of support for this case, and I think we are going to win.

Q. Could you please give us some background on your case, particularly on the sequence of events that led to the INS ruling denying you residency status?

A. I left this country in 1961 and settled in Mexico in 1966. I became a Mexican citizen through marriage to a Mexican citizen. I needed to help support my children. And it was difficult to do that, being a foreigner. So, for purely economic reasons, I acquired Mexican citizenship through my husband.

I was told by my Mexican lawyer that I needed to advise the American embassy of that. But when I went to the American embassy, they literally renounced my American citizenship. They should have taken a deposition about my intentions, sent that to the State Department, and the State Department would have then made the decision. But at least it would have gone on record that my intention at that time was not

to renounce my American citizenship, but to acquire Mexican citizenship for reasons of economic need.

I subsequently lived in Mexico, Cuba, and Nicaragua, as you know, and returned to this country in January of 1984. I petitioned for my citizenship back, petitioning first for my permanent residency. That procedure usually takes about 60 days in normal cases. I was fully aware that mine was not a normal case. I was not surprised that it didn't take 60 days, or 90 days, or a hundred days. I did become surprised when a year and a half had gone by, and I hadn't heard anything. I am now married to an American citizen.

On the fourth of October I received the INS decision, which was negative. It is an eight-page decision based almost exclusively on my writings, my opinions contrary to U.S. policy during the Vietnam war, the bombing of Cambodia, the fact that in the '60s I called the police "pigs," that I called the Attica prisoners my brothers. That kind of thing, that I showed support for governments like the governments of Cuba and Nicaragua.

They invoked the McCarran-Walter Act against me. It's a case that I not only see as being threatening to myself, but to people throughout this country, citizens as well as aliens. Because it's certainly a case that shows a lack of respect for a diversity of opinion. And it's a case I intend to fight.

Q. What kind of support are you getting?

A. The support I'm getting has been really overwhelming. I've had tremendous support from the president of the university of New Mexico, from department heads,

from my colleagues, and from my students.

It's really interesting because here are students, most of whom are not born in the 1950s, and, for the first time, McCarthyism is not simply something that they heard about in some dim way, not even through their history books, or from some aunt or some friend of a friend, but it's happening to this flesh-and-blood person who's sitting in the room with them, and who they presumably even like.

And in the community I've gotten tremendous support. The defense committee people like Arthur Miller, Edward Albee, Grace Paley, Alice Walker, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., George Wald, and so on. So the support I've gotten has been wonderful.

Mich. anti-apartheid rally

Continued from front page

troduced Dumisano Kumalo, representative from the Union of Black Journalists of South Africa.

Kumalo refuted the red-baiting charge that the anti-apartheid movement is communist-inspired. "I didn't have to go to Moscow to get my pass. We are not being shot down by the KGB, but by the South African police."

Thousands of dollars were raised at the rally for the Black trade unions in South Africa. UAW Local 1200, which has been on strike against General Dynamics for six weeks, donated \$100. The money was presented by Local 1200's president, Jim Coakley, on behalf of the membership. A resolution was also unanimously passed in opposition to apartheid.

and I think it's not because it's me. I think that this is a case people see as very important, and it's an issue they see as threatening to lots of people.

Q. Could you define a little more precisely what the issue is?

A. The issue is free speech; the issue is a freedom of opinion issue; the issue is not only freedom for somebody like myself—who is technically an alien, or who is being considered an alien—to hold and express opinions that are contrary to the opinions held by the current administration of the United States. But it affects the right of people in this country, people who are citizens, to hear of these views. And that is where it becomes a First Amendment case.

The host union, UAW Local 600, had the largest contingent at the meeting. But many other unionists were there, including from as far away as Flint, Michigan. Local 1200 also had an informational table on their strike. They were able to sell over 100 buttons that read, "Bury concessions before they bury us."

The Michigan Labor Committee for a Free South Africa plans to continue meeting on a regular basis to discuss how Michigan labor can help the struggle in South Africa.

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S. Africa union leaders tour Alabama mine

BY MICHAEL GEISMAIER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Two members of South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) toured this area October 22 and 23, taking to thousands the story of the struggles their union is waging.

The tour of the two NUM members, Abey LeRoux and Mannoko Nchwe, was organized by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) District 20.

News stories covering their visit were run in most local newspapers, including front-page stories in both the *Jasper Daily Mountain Eagle* and the *Birmingham Post-Herald*. The tour was also reported on radio and television news programs.

At a news conference at UMWA Local 2368's union hall in Brookwood, Alabama, Charles Fuller, UMWA International auditor, introduced LeRoux and Nchwe. Fuller, who helped coordinate the tour, explained, "The UMWA is opposed to apartheid because it allows South African mines to operate on what amounts to slave labor."

"This kind of slavery," Fuller continued, "hurts us in America as well as the people of South Africa."

LeRoux, a diamond miner who is an NUM regional chairman, told reporters and UMWA members attending the news conference that the NUM has a membership today of more than 230,000, with 160,000 members paid up.

He described barbaric working conditions, substandard pay, barracks housing, and the pass-book system. These, he said, are the targets of the union's struggle to improve the lot of its members.

Nchwe, a researcher for the NUM, described the South African white minority government's breaking of the September NUM strike against nine mines in South Africa. "The police used brutality to crush the strike," she said. "They fired tear gas canisters at the workers, and they went in with dogs, shooting workers with rubber bullets. We are now mobilizing for a national strike in support of our brothers who were brutally crushed."

After the news conference, which was joined by Rev. Abraham Woods of the Birmingham Southern Christian Leadership Conference, LeRoux and Nchwe drove to Jim Walter Resources Number 5 mine, where they had the opportunity to talk with miners going in on the afternoon shift and coming off the day shift.

Black and white miners gathered around the two visitors from South Africa to hear firsthand what things were like there and to learn what they could do to support the miners in South Africa and the NUM.

Asked about the apartheid system and how it affects wages, LeRoux explained, "A Black miner working underground makes about 300 rand per month, and one rand is about half a dollar, so that's \$150. Meanwhile a white miner makes about \$800 a month."

Nchwe and LeRoux described the total disregard for safety on the part of mine management in South Africa. More than 600 South African miners die each year as a result.

LeRoux also described the jobs reservation policy under which Blacks are prohibited by law from working in eleven jobs.

Hearing LeRoux describe the barracks where Black miners must live — six or eight to a room — some miners were reminded of the days in the United States when miners had to live in company towns and buy at company stores. All agreed that things in South Africa today are even worse.

A miner asked Nchwe about the role of corporations in South Africa. Even the supposedly liberal ones, she said, "are as reactionary as the other conservatives. They make superprofits at the expense of the Black miners. They still house them in barracks. They still separate them because of their ethnicity. They are still just after profits."

"Most of the so-called liberal American companies like IBM help maintain the repressive government by their support and taxes."

"Some of these are the same companies that are giving your union such a hard time." She was referring to Shell Oil, which is part owner of A.T. Massey Coal

Co. Massey has kept miners out on strike for more than a year by refusing to sign a contract. She said she could not comment on whether U.S. corporations should divest their South African holdings, because advocating divestment is illegal there.

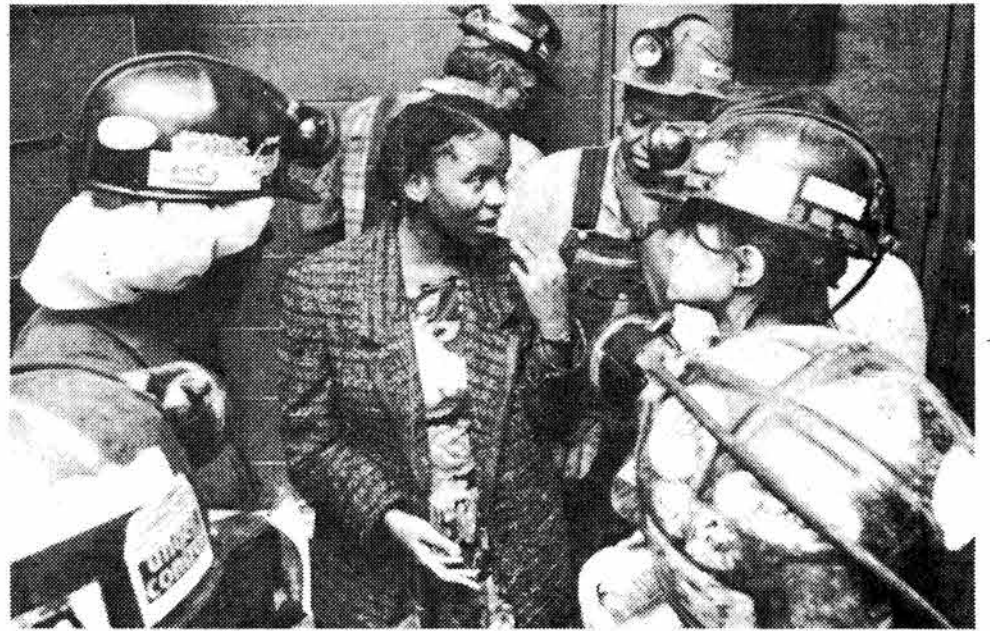
A number of miners were curious about how the struggle in South Africa today compared to the fight against Jim Crow segregation in the South.

"The comparison can be made in terms of racism," said Nchwe. "Here there's a very subtle form of racism. But our struggle goes well beyond that. We are the vast majority; we are the indigenous people; we are fighting to take back what is rightfully ours."

She described the process of colonization that led to the subjugation of the Africans, and their disfranchisement.

A fundamental goal of the struggle, she said, is simply universal suffrage — one person, one vote, majority rule.

The struggle, she explained, is fundamentally for national liberation. "We are fighting as well for the land — as we have for the last 333 years."



Mannoko Nchwe, researcher for South Africa National Union of Mineworkers, talks to miners at Jim Walter Resources Number 5 mine in Brookwood, Alabama. Tour of two NUM members, sponsored by United Mine Workers of America, was widely reported in local media.

Banner sales at Nov. 9 demonstration

BY HARRY RING

November 9 was a banner day in our circulation campaign. Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance from Newark, New York, and even Philadelphia were in Newark to participate in the anti-apartheid demonstration and to get out the socialist press.

Socialist book tables were set up near the rally sites and salespeople hawked the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist* to demonstrators and to passersby in the busy downtown area.

We sold 779 copies of the *Militant*, 64 of *Perspectiva Mundial* (our Spanish-language sister publication), and 64 copies of the *Young Socialist*.

Thirty-six subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold.

(These results will show up on next week's scoreboard.)

Frank Forrester of New York took the laurel on sales of single copies, with 45 copies of the *Militant* and 2 *Young Socialists*.

If we awarded extra points for subscriptions, Mary Martin of New York would have been the real winner.

She sold 40 *Militants*, 3 *PMs*, and 1 *Militant* subscription.

One of the several runners-up, Carla Hoag of Newark, felt like she won a prize because she had so many rewarding experiences. She sold 18 *Militants*, 3 *PMs*, and 6 *YSs*.

Hoag works in a Newark chemical plant and is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. She was pleased that two of her coworkers came to the demonstration and a third who had promised to called her up the night before for an "excused absence." (He had a funeral to go to.)

For openers, she sold three papers to a group of students from Rutgers University at New Brunswick, which had been the scene of a big divestment sit-in last spring.

They were delighted to see our press and stopped to talk about their anti-apartheid activity.

They also relayed an invitation to the Young Socialist Alliance to attend a planning meeting for a coming protest against CIA recruiters on campus.

One of the *Militants* she sold was to a group of high schoolers hurrying toward the demonstration.

"Where're you from?" she called after them. One turned back, "Westfield," and, seeing that as an inadequate answer, added, "The Young Leftists."

Finally, there was the young bystander and his family. He asked some questions about the parade. He and Hoag each agreed they looked familiar. They figured out he worked at a plant where she has sold our press regularly. At the plant, he hadn't broken the ice on buying a copy. But at the march, he gladly bought a *PM*.

Forrester said his 47 sales to passersby were something like a street meeting. There was an obviously big interest in poli-

tics. "I found myself talking continuously about all the political issues," Forrester said. "People would stop and listen, and some would buy."

Mary Martin sold her 43 singles and 1 subscription mainly to people coming off the buses for the demonstration.

Two of the single copies of the *Militant* and the subscription went to three postal unionists. All three accepted her invitation to our open house.

Meanwhile, we're coming down the home stretch on the drive and we can't afford to relax a minute.

So far, we've sold 31,364 single copies and 1,337 subscriptions.

We weren't able to report it last week, but Chicago did an exemplary job in its target week ending November 1.

They set themselves a goal of selling 400 single copies of the *Militant* and *PM* that

week, no small number — especially since it rained heavily two days, leaving five to do the job. Yet they sold 342 *Militants* and 82 *PMs* — a solid total of 424.

We couldn't reach sales director Ed Warren, but sales committee member Holly Harkness told us how they did it.

"To begin with, we did practically nothing else. All committee meetings were canceled or postponed.

"We talked to each member and asked how many they realistically thought they could sell.

"People made an extra effort in selling on the job. Plant-gate sales picked up.

"But the big thing was in the communities and on the campuses. How did we do it? Well, we had 90 percent participation and a majority went out three or four times. That's what did it."

For sure.

SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #8: Totals as of *Militant* issue #43, *PM* issue #22)

Area	SINGLE ISSUES		SUBSCRIPTIONS
	Sold this week <i>Militant</i> / <i>PM</i>	% of 10-week goal reached	Sold so far <i>Militant</i> / <i>PM</i>
Atlanta	81/5	73	27/0
Baltimore	55/0	74	39/1
Birmingham	87/0	84	27/0
Boston	81/9	63	19/9
Capital District, N.Y.	59/0	70	28/2
Charleston, W. Va.	50/0	40	15/0
Chicago	92/14	84	43/1
Cincinnati	46/0	85	12/0
Cleveland	125/9	76	12/0
Dallas	123/37	77	35/5
Denver	48/0	72	31/1
Detroit	76/4	62	56/3
Greensboro, N.C.	75/0	78	44/0
Houston	129/25	69	74/4
Kansas City	120/2	136	13/0
Los Angeles	120/44	88	64/18
Louisville	42/3	78	17/0
Miami	53/2	65	22/2
Milwaukee	64/2	75	22/4
Morgantown, W. Va.	24/0	79	7/0
New Orleans	39/2	57	39/1
New York	155/5	48	66/2
Newark	202/18	65	50/9
Oakland	70/21	79	34/10
Philadelphia	85/14	71	21/3
Phoenix	89/25	88	12/21
Pittsburgh	41/0	64	10/1
Portland	101/1	68	16/0
Price, Utah	24/0	43	7/0
Salt Lake City	50/6	86	22/3
San Diego	54/7	83	27/3
San Francisco	90/30	85	34/13
San Jose	86/11	65	35/13
Seattle	97/5	73	24/4
St. Louis	183/0	61	32/0
Tidewater, Va.	10/0	82	10/0
Toledo	83/0	80	45/2
Twin Cities	203/7	74	59/5
Washington D.C.	52/19	113	36/11
Total sold this week	3,264/327		
Total sold to date	28,056/3,308		1,186/151
10-week goal	40,000		2,000
Percent of national goal reached	78%		67%
To be on schedule	80%		80%

Rallies spur final push for \$125,000 fund

BY FRED FELDMAN

In the closing days of an emergency campaign to complete the raising of a \$125,000 Socialist Publication Fund on schedule, successful rallies in many cities are helping generate needed momentum.

The stepped-up effort includes gaining new pledges, seeking increases in pledges that have already been made, and rapidly collecting all pledged contributions.

The final tally of funds collected will be announced November 18.

Meeting the fund goal will make it possible to maintain and expand the *Militant*, the Spanish-language biweekly *Perspectiva Mundial*, the international news-magazine *Intercontinental Press*, the Marxist quarterly *New International*, and Pathfinder Press books and pamphlets.

Recent rallies highlighted the growing support and interest in the socialist publications.

Good turnout in Los Angeles

- In Los Angeles, a representative of the Salvadoran liberation fight praises the "good work" of *Perspectiva Mundial* in fighting U.S. intervention in his country.

- In Milwaukee, a leader of farmers' struggles thanks the *Militant* for its "in-depth articles" on the farm crisis.

- In New Orleans, an abortion rights fighter describes some of the contributions of the *Militant* and Pathfinder Press books to the defense of women's rights.

- In Baltimore, a young garment worker talks about the educational role played by the socialist publications and by the socialist bookstore in his area in his decision to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

The rally in New Orleans was held October 19. Rallies in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, San Diego, and Baltimore were held November 9.

More than a dozen rallies are scheduled for the following weekend.

More than 80 people attended the rally in Los Angeles, and more than \$900 was donated on the spot to the fund. Los Angeles supporters of the socialist publications have raised nearly \$8,000 so far, and expect to raise a total of \$10,000 by November 18.

The program included Oscar Cruz, who spoke on behalf of the Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador. "I read every issue," he said of *Perspectiva Mundial*. He praised its "good work" in getting out the truth about the struggle in El Salvador. "With the help of people like you, we are certain to defeat the imperialist intervention."

"The *Militant* keeps getting better and better," said noted draft and civil liberties attorney Bill Smith in a message. Smith was an attorney for David Wayne, who was convicted of refusing to register for the draft because of his antiwar views.

Anthony Russo, a leader of the Committee for Justice for Professor Ed Cooperman, also spoke. Cooperman, who had been active in providing humanitarian aid for Vietnam, was murdered by a right-wing Vietnamese exile who got off with a light sentence.

Pat Nixon, a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, voiced the indignation of all at the murder of Alex Odeh, a leader of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Odeh's killers have yet to be brought to justice.

Mac Warren, National Organization Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, pointed to the growing involvement of unions and others in the anti-apartheid struggle and the open debate over Central America at the AFL-CIO convention as offering new opportunities for revolutionary fighters. These changes are spurring increased interest in political questions among workers, farmers, and young people. As a result, there are growing opportunities to win new readers for the socialist publications.

Baltimore rally

The Baltimore rally heard Gertrude Hughes, a Black activist in the Central America Solidarity Committee, describe how she was using *Perspectiva Mundial* to learn Spanish.

Reading *PM*, she explained, helped her better understand the issues involved in the Nicaraguan revolution and the U.S.-backed war against it. She pointed out that

PM covers not only Central America, but events around the world, including the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa.

Joe Kleidon, a member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point, had attended the AFL-CIO convention in California. He described the unprecedented debate there over Central America.

Malik Miah, editor of the *Militant*, was the keynote speaker.

William Shisana, a representative of the African National Congress of South Africa, gave greetings.

Building on the momentum from this rally, Baltimore fund supporters are moving to complete the collection of \$1,900 pledged by supporters of the socialist publications.

In Milwaukee — where \$2,500 has been pledged to the fund — speakers at the rally included Omari Musa, member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee; Dena Aronsen, of Artists Call for Peace; and Bill Lang, member of Allied Industrial Workers Union Local 232.

Kitty Carlson Pityer, vice-president of Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance, sent a message. "I appreciate the *Militant's* coverage of the severe economic depression facing family farmers across the nation. It is gratifying to read the in-depth articles in your newspaper about a crisis that affects the economic stability not only of farmers, but of rural communities, small towns, and cities as well."

Elaine Kinch, cochair of the Central America Solidarity Coalition of Racine and Kenosha, wrote: "I feel personally indebted to your party for providing the background to my political growth through your forums, workshops, and publications."

"Because of my work with the Central America Solidarity Coalition, I not only appreciate the excellent coverage of the *Militant* on Nicaragua, El Salvador, Latin America, the Caribbean situation, and the debt, but I find the information indispensable."

In New Orleans, fund supporters staged a rally October 19. Rev. Warren Ray, Jr., representing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, spoke.

Cindy Lorr, a member of the reproductive rights task force of the National Organization for Women, pointed to news coverage in the *Militant* and the Pathfinder



Militant/Duane Stilwell

Publication Fund makes it possible to print and distribute socialist newspapers and books. Above, socialist literature table at November 9 anti-apartheid rally in Newark.

Press publication of Frederick Engels' *Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* as examples of how socialist publications strengthen the women's rights movement.

Participants in the rally pledged \$1,200 to the fund.

The October 9 rally in Philadelphia raised \$700 in additional pledges. Harry Ring, *Militant* staff writer, was a featured speaker.

The rallies coming up in the next week promise to have similar success.

The Socialist Publication Fund rally November 17 in Newark will feature a representative from Burkina Faso's Mission to the United Nations. Burkina Faso is a West African country where a national, democratic revolution is being carried out.

A representative from the African National Congress Mission to the United Nations will also speak. Other speakers include Irwin Nack, president of American Federation of Teachers Local 1796, and Michael Hajduk, member of the board of education in Garwood and of the Society to Educate People.

In the course of building the rally, fund-raisers in Newark — as in many other cities — are also asking people who have made

pledges to consider increasing them. More than \$1,800 in additional pledges have been obtained in this way.

In Dallas, where the fund rally will be held November 17, pledge increases so far total \$560.

Walter Weaver, an activist in the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and Dr. Arturo Taca, a supporter of the struggle for democracy in the Philippines, will be among the speakers at the November 17 rally in St. Louis.

Jerry Griffin, of the American Agriculture Movement, will address the rally in Denver.

The rally in Minneapolis-St. Paul will feature a leader of Anishinabe Akeeng (the People's Land), which is organizing a struggle for Indian land rights.

These and other rallies are playing a vital role in the decisive push now under way to complete the \$125,000 fund-raising effort. As we go to press, the fund stands at \$131,500 pledged and \$77,550 paid.

We urge all *Militant* readers to join in the concerted effort during the next days to gain new pledges and contributions, increase pledges already made, and collect all contributions in time for the final tally November 18.

S.F. peace, jobs, justice conference

Continued from front page

ment. He stated, "Last week at the convention of the AFL-CIO there was an important debate on Central America. With this debate, we put the government on notice that the support of labor will never again be handed over on a silver platter."

Keith Johnson, president of the International Woodworkers of America, also spoke on the panel. He told of his recent trip to El Salvador and Nicaragua as part of a labor fact-finding tour. He stressed the need for labor and all opponents of war to oppose U.S. intervention in Central America.

A big part of the debate on Central America at the AFL-CIO convention focused on the emergency measures taken by the Nicaraguan government to combat attacks carried out by the U.S.-backed and -armed *contras* and their supporters in Nicaragua. Johnson stated, "While I feel we must speak out against these measures, we must never forget the real cause for these measures. And, we must focus our efforts at ending our government's support for the band of murderers known as the *contras* in Nicaragua."

A highlight of the conference was the appearance of Edgardo García, president of the Nicaraguan Trade Union Coordinating Council. The crowd rose and chanted, "No pasarán!" (They shall not pass!, referring to the *contras*) as García was introduced.

Noting the hypocrisy of the U.S. government's claim for concern for democratic rights in Nicaragua, García explained, to the applause of the crowd, "No one denounced the lack of human rights in our country before the defeat of Somoza. In-

stead there were assistance programs given to Somoza.

"Since the revolution, we have gained important rights, the right to health and safety on the job, the right to a contract, and the training of trade unionists."

García continued, "We have equal pay for equal work for women workers. Women are able to contribute to the country because we have provided the right to child care while they work, in some cases at the place of work."

Pointing to the role played by the working people in the Nicaraguan revolution, García explained, "In our National Assembly, 14 of the 96 delegates are from labor unions."

Mario Obledo, past president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) also spoke on the panel. He defended his recent trip to Cuba and opposed the U.S. blockade against that country.

He said, "Many of my colleagues, especially the Cuban ones in Miami, were upset that I went to Cuba. But none of them complained about talking to the Russians or the Chinese. I can buy all kinds of goods from these countries. But I can't get a good cigar from Havana. The real point here is racism against my Latino brothers."

Obledo continued, "We have always been loyal citizens. In every war, we were the first to arrive and the last to leave. We must not rush into a war in Nicaragua. Latin Americans in the United States must take the lead on this issue."

Other speakers on the panel included James Herman, president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU); Dolores Huerta,

vice-president of the United Farm Workers; and Sherri Chiesa, president of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union Local 2 in San Francisco.

One of the liveliest panels was on the struggle for a free South Africa, which featured Naomi Tutu-Seavers, daughter of Bishop Desmond Tutu.

She denounced the "reforms" of the apartheid regime as "meaningless." "What good is the right of people to marry whom they choose, if they do not have the right to live together?" she asked. "The regime has kept intact the Bantustan policy [of setting aside reserves for the African majority]. My people have rejected the Bantustan since 1913. We are not struggling to reform apartheid, but to dismantle it."

Tutu-Seavers is chair of the Bishop Tutu Refugee Fund, which aids those who have been forced to flee South Africa. (Contributions to the fund should be directed to: Bishop Tutu Refugee Fund, 30 Andor St., Hartford, Conn. 06106.)

Later that day over a dozen workshops were held to enable participants to discuss the issues raised at the conference. Though there was overwhelming support for a united action in the spring, no date was set. Conference organizers explained that the main purpose of the conference was to bring people together and build support for an action in the spring. It was announced that further meetings would be held to organize such an action.

Those interested in participating in building support for the spring mobilization may contact the Mobilization for Peace, Jobs, and Justice, c/o ILWU Local 6, 255 9th St., San Francisco, Calif. 94103.

BUILDING ANTI-APARTHEID AND ANTIWAR ACTIONS

'Solidarity at home and abroad'

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DETROIT — "Solidarity at home and abroad" was the theme of a program sponsored by the Michigan Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in Central America. It was held October 17 in conjunction with the Michigan State AFL-CIO convention.

Speaking at the program was Francisco Acosta from FENASTRAS (National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions); Frank Hammer, of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 909 and brother of slain American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) employee Michael Hammer; and Lois Sloan, striking General Dynamics worker and member of UAW Local 1200.

Acosta vividly described the repression of unions in El Salvador and the U.S. government's role in backing the government of José Napoleón Duarte. He said the government forces tried to kill him twice before he left his country.

Hammer asked the gathering, "Who supports labor and who attacks labor? In Nicaragua there were 150 union agreements under Somoza. Now there are over 1,000. Under Duarte, in the months before I was there, 133 unionists were assassinated."

The AFL-CIO had brought three Central American unionists to Michigan with AIFLD Execu-

tive Director William Doherty September 20-21 to try to push their pro-U.S. government line on Central America. As Acosta pointed out, "Ninety percent of AIFLD's budget comes from the U.S. State Department."

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 25 submitted a resolution to the state convention that differed sharply with the official position of the AFL-CIO. But this resolution did not appear among those that were printed for the delegates.

Because of opposition in the resolutions committee, a Central American policy resolution favoring U.S. policy was never brought before the convention for a vote.

Detroit: 'Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua'

DETROIT — Chanting slogans in both English and Spanish, 150 people marched through the Latino community to River Side Park for a rally to demand "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua!"

The October 26 march and rally was organized by the Detroit Coalition for Peace, Jobs and Justice.

At the rally Milt Tammer, staff-person for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 25, told the protesters of his recent trip to Nicaragua and of U.S. labor's

growing concern and criticism of U.S. foreign policy.

Ohio farmer John Burchett, who also recently returned from Nicaragua, said, "In Nicaragua they are giving them ground, here they're taking ground away."

"The Bank of Philadelphia is the main banker for Campbell Soup and they also provide investments in South Africa," explained Baldemar Valasquez of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, making the connection between the exploitation of Black workers in South Africa and here.

Patricia Macceroni, editor of the Wayne State University student paper *South End*, who was fired for not allowing military ads to be printed in the newspaper, also spoke to the rally.

Other speakers included Anon Jabara, Palestine Aid Society; Charles Brown, Detroit City Council; and Kathy Gonzales, Michigan Interfaith Committee on Human Rights in Central America, who chaired the rally.

Over 20 high school students from three different schools also joined the march.

Albany protest hits Ray Charles concert

BY GEORGE KONTANIS

ALBANY, N.Y. — Chants of "Free South Africa, Free Nelson Mandela" reverberated off the entrance to the Palace Theater here

October 25. Two hundred anti-apartheid activists organized a spirited picket line to protest the concert of singer Ray Charles, who has performed in racist South Africa.

"Hey, Ray, you can't hide, you sold out to apartheid" and "Freedom yes, apartheid no!" greeted those concert-goers who crossed the picket line to attend the concert.

The manager of the Palace Theater estimated less than one-third of the 3,000-seat theater was filled — well below the normal house expected.

Activists from the NAACP, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Irish activists, Central America Solidarity Alliance, Solidarity Committee of the Albany Central Labor Council, and Young Socialist Alliance joined the protest.

In October 1980 Ray Charles performed in apartheid South Africa. Before he went to South Africa Charles received several requests by the African National Congress, South West Africa People's Organization, and the Organization of African Unity not to collaborate with South Africa's white-minority regime.

Organizers of the picket pointed out that Ray Charles' tour of South Africa was particularly offensive since one of his concerts was scheduled in Soweto on October 19 — a day reserved by Blacks for anti-apartheid protests in commemoration of the banning of 18 organizations and the jailing of 50 leading activists on that date in

1977.

The aim of the picket line was to pressure Ray Charles and other performers not to return to South Africa until apartheid is ended.

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism organized the successful protest.

Seattle longshore official to speak to unions on apartheid

BY KAREN RAY

SEATTLE — "U.S. out of Central America and South Africa" will be the demand of a demonstration and rally being organized here for November 16.

The protest is sponsored and endorsed by many Central America solidarity groups, campus anti-apartheid activists, religious organizations, and trade unions.

The protesters will picket at the Federal Building and march to the Labor Temple for an indoor rally.

Speakers at the rally will include Leo Robinson of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 10; Basil Freeman of the African National Congress; and a representative from Nicaragua.

Robinson will begin a four-day tour of Seattle on November 14 to speak to area trade unions on the growing involvement of labor in the fight against apartheid.

For more information call (206) 328-2451.

Union-led march in New Jersey slams apartheid

Continued from front page

plants and shops they were sold by the hundreds. Sale and display of the buttons sparked interest and extensive discussion among workers.

Discussions at union meetings and articles in union papers added to the awareness of the issue.

In Newark itself, the event became well-known. The coalition had attractive posters plastered throughout the city, and there was good advance media coverage.

Those selling the socialist press on downtown streets, as well as to demonstrators, found public awareness of the action was very high.

The unusually favorable response to the socialist press was in itself a significant reflection of the success of the demonstration. (See story on page 2.)

The range of speakers at the opening and closing rallies marked the breadth of support for the coalition.

Labor speakers included two national union leaders and the principal officials of the state and county AFL-CIO.

Congressmen Walter Fauntroy of Washington, D.C., and Peter Rodino of New Jersey spoke, as did members of the New Jersey state legislature and Newark City Council. Mayor Kenneth Gibson welcomed the demonstrators on behalf of the city.

An Episcopal bishop addressed the rally, along with the imam of Newark Muslims. There were other ministers as well.

Colleges and high schools were represented.

Leslie Roberts, regional director of District 65, chaired.

A principal speaker was William Lucy, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

He told the cheering crowd, "We will not stop. We will not stop marching. We will not stop demonstrating! We will not relieve the pressure until our Black brothers and sisters in South Africa take their rightful place as the rulers of that country. You cannot reform apartheid, you must eliminate it."

A fighting speech was made by Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of District 65 and a veteran of the civil rights movement.

"I strongly support sanctions against South Africa," Robinson declared. "And let me tell you what I mean by sanctions. I think that every American corporation ought to get the hell out of South Africa!"

He added: "Stop lending money to South Africa through the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Stop it, and stop it now!"

Angel Dominguez spoke for the bitterly exploited farm workers of South Jersey. A leader of the Farm Workers Organizing Committee, he said farm workers well understand the meaning of the South African fight against apartheid. "We know about oppression," he said. "We fight it every day in the fields of South Jersey."

Lois Cuccinello spoke on behalf of the New Jersey Labor Committee in Support of Human Rights and Democracy in El Salvador.

"In South Africa," she said, "the Black trade unions represent a powerful force for change, a change that will not be cosmetic, but will bring the end of apartheid."

"In Central America, the unions have borne the brunt of cruel government repression, resulting in torture, arrest, and even murder. But they too are in the forefront of the fight for social change. Both these struggles deserve our support."

Big turnout at SWP open house

BY MARY ROCHE

NEWARK — Chants of "ANC! ANC! ANC!" greeted a representative of the African National Congress who spoke to participants at an open house at the Newark Militant Bookstore following the November 9 anti-apartheid rally.

Solly Similani, a representative of the ANC at the United Nations, explained that he stopped by after an out-of-town meeting to talk to some of the "thousands of people who came out in solidarity with the fighting people of South Africa."

In his remarks, Similani refuted the argument that the Black people of South Africa would suffer if economic support is removed from companies doing business with Pretoria. "We are suffering already," he explained.

He appealed for continuing work around divestment and for the "unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners who are unjustly incarcerated in South Africa."

Mark Satinoff, who was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New Jersey, chaired the event.

The gathering also heard Ellen Haywood, national secretary of the Young

Lawrence Hamm represented the People's Organization for Progress. He had played a leading role in the student fight for divestment at Princeton University.

"We must continue our divestment campaign and our struggle to break all ties with the South African slave state," he declared. "The liberation struggle in South Africa and our struggle for racial equality, for social and economic justice, is one struggle. We are fighting the same enemy."

Lisa Williams, a student leader at Rutgers University, told the demonstrators, "Students at Rutgers call for an escalation of this struggle."

"We will fight this struggle understanding that South African liberation is the liberation of our people at home."

"When Africa is free, we can stand tall and proud in our heritage and the richness it has given to the entire world."



Unionists were in forefront at Newark anti-apartheid march

Militant/Halket Allen

U.S. Indian leaders: 'Hands off Nicaragua'

American Indian Movement hits plan to recruit Indians to fight Sandinistas

BY FRED FELDMAN

A news conference in San José, Costa Rica, November 10 announced plans to attempt to recruit U.S. Indians into U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary forces fighting the Nicaraguan government.

Three U.S. Indians appeared as the spokespeople for the recruiting effort. Their action was played up in the U.S. big-business media.

Russell Means, one of the three, was falsely proclaimed "a leader of the American Indian Movement [AIM]," in the November 11 *New York Times*. The other two — a teacher at the University of Colorado and an adviser to the U.S. government on Indian affairs — were falsely painted as militant activists in the fight for Indian rights.

They proclaimed the goal of recruiting to MISURASATA, a guerrilla group led by Brooklyn Rivera, who also appeared at the news conference.

Rivera once had a significant base among the Miskito Indians of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast region. The social advances the Nicaraguan revolution brought to the Atlantic Coast, including the willingness of the government to help the people of the Atlantic Coast achieve autonomy, have won over many Miskitos who were formerly neutral or sympathetic to Rivera.

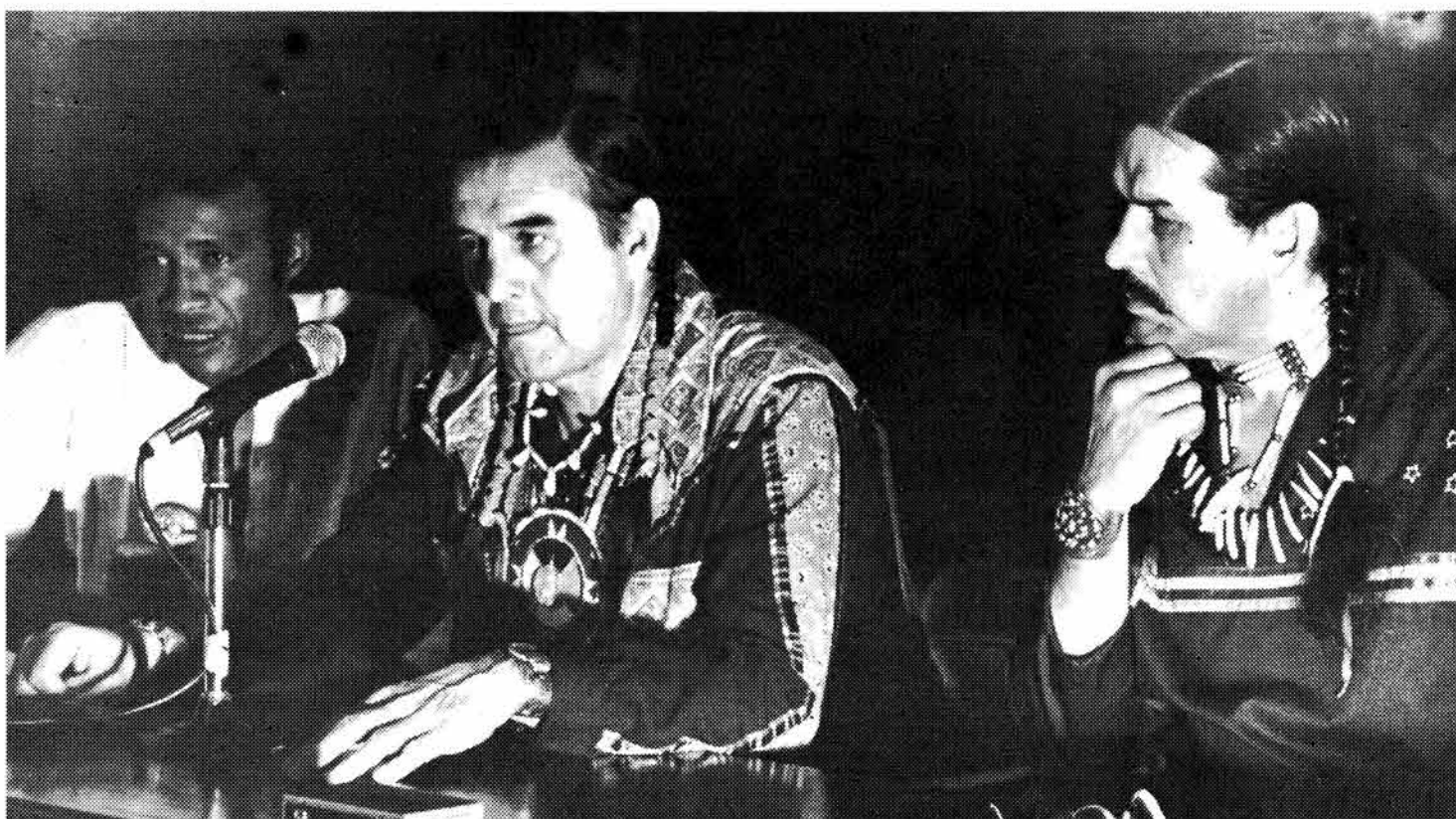
The government's autonomy plan for the Atlantic Coast was arrived at after extensive negotiations with Indian groups, including MISURASATA. Rivera broke off talks and resumed his war against the revolution with the support of a faction of MISURASATA.

The AIM leadership immediately responded to Means' efforts to turn Indians in the United States against Nicaragua.

Speaking for AIM, Chief Executive Officer Nee-gon-way-we-dung (Clyde Bellecourt) pointed out that Means had twice announced his resignation from the organization. "To clear up any confusion," he said, "Russell Means has been totally expelled from the American Indian Movement."

AIM leader Vernon Bellecourt emphasized that the organization stood behind its April 4, 1985, declaration on Nicaragua: "We support the initiatives taken by the Nicaraguan government toward autonomy for the Indian peoples inside Nicaragua. We support the talks taking place between the government of Nicaragua, the Indian organizations, and the Indian people in Nicaragua on autonomy, reconciliation, and the repatriation of refugees in Costa Rica and Honduras. We support the many, many peace initiatives made by the government of Nicaragua toward the United States. We support the unquestionable right of the people of Nicaragua to determine their own future free from outside aggression."

Continued on Page 10



American Indian leaders Vernon and Clyde Bellecourt appear with Sandinista leaders from Bluefields in Atlantic Coast region during 1981 visit to Nicaragua. AIM says struggle of Indians in United States is against racist U.S. rulers, not Nicaraguan revolution.

Militant/Dick Bancroft

UAW Region 4 hosts mtgs on S. Africa

BY MAUREEN COLETTA AND RITA LEE

CHICAGO — United Auto Workers (UAW) Region 4, representing 90,000 members in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska, has recently held a series of conferences and meetings that have taken up the issue of South Africa.

Representatives from the Chicago Free South Africa Movement (FSAM) coalition were invited to speak to 75 UAW members at the Chicago Area Women's Committee meeting on September 29. The table set up by the FSAM coalition sold out its anti-apartheid buttons.

On October 23, some 150 local union representatives gathered at the UAW Chicagoland Civil Rights Committee conference. Members of the South African National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), who were touring the United States, spoke. James Motlatsi, president of the NUM, described the brutal police attack on the September strike, which forced the union to suspend the job action. Motlatsi appealed for aid for the victimized strikers. Jeffrey Magiba, NUM steward education department instructor, also spoke.

Regional Director Bill Stewart took the

floor on behalf of the UAW International Executive Board. He called for "Sanctions now!"

"The UAW urges imposing a ban on any further investments or loans to either the public or private sectors of the South African economy," Stewart said. He criticized the Reagan administration's policy of "constructive engagement" as encouragement and collaboration with the South African government's suppression of the Black majority.

"The UAW condemns the South African government for jailing leaders of the Trade Union Federation and charging them with subversion for merely exercising their basic right to organize workers. The Black trade union movement in South Africa has emerged as the primary vehicle of organized power for that nation's 24 million Blacks. The UAW supports their struggle to establish a democratic, unitary political and governmental system within South Africa. To deny that 73 percent majority a voice in government is a national disgrace."

Following the meeting, UAW members boarded chartered buses that brought them to the South African consulate. Carrying

signs that read, "'Constructive engagement' doesn't work!" and "Sanctions now! 73% have no voice!" the unionists formed a picket line that swelled to 200 people as passersby joined in.

Before reboarding the buses, the UAW contingent crossed the street and joined in the picket line of the striking Chicago *Tribune* newspaper workers. They marched with the strikers, exchanging information about the trade union movement in South Africa and the issues in the *Tribune* strike. The favorite chant by pickets was "Freedom! — from Chicago to South Africa."

UAW members end strike at General Dynamics in a close vote

Continued from front page

payments, which he called "one of the biggest concessions of all time."

"There are those who say you are going to receive something by taking a lump sum," he said. "You are going to receive something now, and you are going to pay for it the rest of your life."

"A lousy quarter, just a 1.25 percent increase in your base pay, will result in \$1,500 within the term of that agreement," he explained. "If you take that \$1,500 up front in a lump sum, you have it one time and never see it again. But if it's in your base rate, you have that \$1,500 every three years for the rest of your working life."

The ratified agreement includes two base rate increases of 2.25 percent in the first year and three percent in the third year. That's more than the company's original offer, which was rejected by the membership in June. It also includes a lump sum payment of \$2,000 upon ratification and a 2.25 percent payment next June, based on the previous year's income.

UAW members had also demanded Martin Luther King's birthday as a holiday. They got \$125 in cash instead and had to give up three floating holidays.

Discussing the results of the vote with the press, Coakley said, "If every local would use their education committee and the other committees they have to educate their people, I don't think we would have ratified this agreement."

Local 1200, he said, "is a very together local. It was when we went out, and it is going to be even more so when we go back. We stayed together. We are going back together feeling good about ourselves."

He said that the vote in Lima, Ohio, where the contract was narrowly approved, was a "good sign" for the future.

'IP' on the case history of a sect

For the past few weeks the British press has been filled with lurid headlines about what has been dubbed the "reds in the bed scandal."

The pretext for this journalistic sensationalism is a split in the central leadership of the Workers Revolutionary Party, one of the main organizations in Britain claiming adherence to Trotskyism.

On October 19 the WRP central committee expelled Gerry Healy, for many years the cult figure of the WRP and its predecessor, the Socialist Labour League.

On the basis of a letter sent to the WRP's political committee from his former secretary, Healy is charged with abusing his authority in order to organize sexual affairs with full-time party staff members.

In the December 2 issue of *Intercontinental Press*, Doug Jenness points out that many in the workers' movement may think that there is nothing political involved in this split and that it should be ignored. This is false, he argues. Studying

the origins and evolution of the WRP's degeneration has many important lessons for class-struggle fighters.

Jenness notes that the WRP's degeneration began more than two decades ago when it refused to recognize a socialist revolution in Cuba. The Healyites placed doctrine ahead of facts, Jenness says.

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Women workers at Nicaraguan textile factory discuss role of women

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — It was 2 p.m. The whistle blew, announcing the end of the first shift and the beginning of the second at the Texnicsa textile factory here.

Workers began streaming toward the main gate. As they passed the cafeteria, several women called out to them, urging them to come inside for a meeting of AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan women's association.

About 35 women workers gathered in the cafeteria for the meeting. Some were still wearing their caps to keep cotton dust out of their hair.

Aura Membreño, one of the workers who leads the AMNLAE chapter at Texnicsa, opened the meeting by introducing the guests, including several Salvadoran women revolutionaries and Bill Gretter and myself from the *Militant*. Then she asked three of the textile workers present to say a few words. Two of them were "combatants," women who have served in the Sandinista armed forces, defending the country against the mercenaries armed and financed by Washington.

María Justina Lara was one of the combatants. In 1980 she joined a 750-member all-women's battalion. She fought in the north of Nicaragua. The all-women's battalions have since been dissolved and women are directly integrated into the military units with men.

Lara spoke about how the Nicaraguan revolution has given women the opportunity to enter into the struggle for their rights. "In the past, we were never taken into account. Today we are," she said. Through the revolution, women have gained health care and education, she continued. Little by little, they are also breaking into jobs previously considered male-only. At Texnicsa, this includes electricians and mechanics.

'How a mother feels'

Ampara Sequeira, a member of the Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs, spoke. Her son was killed in combat by the mercenaries. She said she wanted to take advantage of the fact that journalists were present "to tell you how a mother feels when she loses her son."

"My boy was barely 20, the oldest of my four children. He volunteered for the Patriotic Military Service and went to the mountains. I was sitting right here in this cafeteria when they brought me the news he was dead."

Sequeira said she has another son who is 17. He will go into the service too. "I don't want my children to go, but they will if necessary," she said. "We will not surrender. We're going to keep fighting until we reach the end — the defeat of the imperialist mercenaries."

"Our kids have given us a great example of courage. If the parents have to take up guns too, we'll do it."

The Salvadoran women spoke, describing their struggle to overthrow the dictatorship in their country. They said they wanted to have more links with women at Texnicsa and invited everyone present to come to a celebration they were holding the next week.

The textile workers also asked some questions of us as U.S. reporters. What did we think about women in Nicaragua? Is it true there's a lot of unemployment and poverty in the United States?

Child-care center needed

Then several workers took the floor to speak about their need for a child-care center at or near the plant. The majority of workers at Texnicsa are women, and many are single parents. If they cannot find a relative to take care of their children while they're at work, they are sometimes forced to lock the kids in the house. There have been several incidents of children left alone who accidentally set fire to the house. In one case, three children died.

A number of women who had remained silent throughout the meeting wanted to speak on this point. They presented the issue of child care not as a demand on the Nicaraguan government — which, as several women pointed out, does not presently have the resources to build them a center — but as an appeal to international supporters of the revolution.

Combatant María Justina Lara took the floor to talk about what it would take to get a center. The women would have to organize, she said. They would have to become more active in AMNLAE. Like other speakers, she pointed out that international aid was needed to raise the funds.

When the meeting adjourned, we were taken on a tour of the plant. First we saw the mechanics' workshops and the warehouse. Next to them, in the yard, lay a pile of spinning machines that cannot be used because they're missing parts made in the United States. The workers try to reproduce the spare parts they can.

Inside the plant itself, cotton is spun into thread, woven into cloth, and then dyed. This week, the plant was making cloth for consumer goods. The week before, the workers were producing olive-green material for military uniforms.

Woman mechanic

We stopped in a repair shop along the way to meet a woman who has become a mechanic, one of the few in the country. She explained that with so many men in the war, women like herself have been trained to do these jobs. "Of course, there are still some men who think women are only good for housework," she laughed.



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Women workers at Texnicsa textile factory in Managua, Nicaragua. Nicaraguan revolution has given women opportunity to enter into struggle for their rights.

When we finished the tour, the second-shift workers were heading to the cafeteria for dinner. We were invited to join them. The meal was good: rice with chile, cheese, fried bananas, and potatoes in a cream sauce. "Before the revolution, this cafeteria was just for management," said Ventura Valdolimar, one of the workers who ate with us. "We didn't have any place to eat." She pointed to a banner that read: "Luisa Amanda Espinoza Cafeteria." "She was a girl who died fighting in the revolution," she explained. "AMNLAE is named after her too — Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women."

Another woman seated at the table was Xiomara Mejía Calderón, a combatant who fought last March near the border with Honduras in Nueva Segovia province. She said her main work as a soldier was organizing child care for peasants in the area. It was part of a project by the Sandinista

army to gain the confidence of peasants who had been intimidated by the mercenaries just across the border.

Mejía said she had been working at Texnicsa since 1963. The plant has been greatly expanded since the revolution, she said. It now employs 1,300 workers, considerably more than under Somoza.

Texnicsa was one of the plants where workers used to be able to buy the cloth they produced at very cheap prices, thus supplementing their income. This policy, called "payment in kind," was ended by the government last spring because it was exacerbating the country's economic problems and deepening inequality among workers.

We asked the women what Texnicsa workers thought about the abolition of payment in kind. Mejía answered, "Well, some people left the factory after that. The conscious ones have remained."

Costa Rican unionists visit Nicaragua

BY BILL GRETTTER

PEÑAS BLANCAS, Nicaragua — The government of Costa Rica has become increasingly hostile in recent months to the country's northern neighbor, revolutionary Nicaragua.

But Costa Rican trade unionists have a different idea. Sixty of them crossed the border here October 11 to demonstrate their support for Nicaragua. "We thought it was important to have a large delegation of workers from a wide variety of industries," the unionists explained. "This is intended as a show of friendship with the people of Nicaragua."

The Costa Rican visitors were invited by Nicaragua's Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) and by the unions of farm workers, teachers, public employees, and health workers. Denis Meléndez, international affairs director of the CST, predicted that the visit and others like it could have "a big effect" on relations between the two countries. "It reaffirms once again our desire for peace," he said. "We want to maintain good relations with all of the countries in Central America."

Among the Costa Rican workers were representatives of several major union federations, as well as members of unaffiliated unions. One-third of the visiting unionists were women.

The union of workers at the Costa Rican Electrical Authority, which is not part of any federation, sent nine of its members to see Nicaragua. Francisco Aguilar, executive director of the union, explained that, although Costa Rica and Nicaragua are geographically close, diplomatic relations have not been close lately.

"Our goal is harmony," he added. "Our government has a policy of confrontation that leads to confusion. We want our members to know what's happening in Nicaragua." He described trade union conditions in Costa Rica as "very difficult in the telecommunications industry."

Two representatives of the San José Ag-

ricultural Workers Union were interested in finding out about conditions on Nicaraguan farms. The union organizes banana workers on United Fruit Co. plantations, where they have been in constant conflict with the owners. But they stressed that their visit was an informal interchange only.

Peñas Blancas is a border post on Nicaragua's southern boundary, where the Pan-American Highway crosses into Costa Rica. Sapoá, the nearest town, is a tiny cluster of houses two and a half miles up the road. This is quiet farming country where fields of rice, sorghum, and banana trees border scenic Lake Nicaragua.

The southern part of Nicaragua's Pacific Coast is relatively peaceful. "Compared to what's going on in the north of the country, there's nothing happening here," one of the soldiers commented.

But counterrevolutionary forces, who operate with impunity from Costa Rican territory, are a constant threat. With powerful mortars supplied by the U.S. government, and with the complicity of the Costa Rican government which closes its eyes to their crimes, these terrorists are able to fire on Nicaragua at will.

The last big assault on Peñas Blancas occurred two years ago. Last month the border post was attacked by mortar fire. "Of course the violation of our airspace is a daily thing," the commanding officer explained. "That never fails."

The majority of the unionists in the Costa Rican delegation were quite young. One older man wanted to make it clear that he was there to repudiate his government's support to the terrorists. "It's scandalous!" he said. "Scandalous! The Costa Rican government is guilty when our soldiers get killed in border incidents. And they have the nerve to blame the Sandinistas! It makes me furious to see the way they're trying to whip up the people of Costa Rica against Nicaragua."

His union, the Employees Association of the Technological Institute, sent 13 of its

members to participate in the trip.

The visitors entered Nicaragua without visas, being among the first to do so under a new policy. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega had announced a week before that Nicaragua would no longer require visas for Costa Rican citizens entering the country. He issued an open invitation for Costa Ricans to visit Nicaragua.

On October 12 the delegation attended a meeting of more than 1,000 labor and farm leaders in Matagalpa, in the heart of Nicaragua's mountainous coffee-growing region. Coffee is the country's biggest and most profitable export crop. It is thus extremely important in an economy based largely on agriculture.

The coffee harvest that will begin shortly will be a major nationwide effort. In addition to farm workers, 20,000 volunteers will be mobilized, most of them students and public workers. International brigades will participate as well.

The Costa Rican visitors attending the meeting witnessed an extensive, democratic discussion between revolutionary leaders and farm workers. Three members of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front were present, including Jaime Wheelock, the minister of agriculture. The ministers of transportation and internal commerce also attended.

Workers at the meeting had an opportunity to ask questions and express their concerns. Among these, the most important was the need to defend the coffee pickers from attacks by the mercenaries. Wage rates, food supplies, and allocation of trucks and tires were also discussed.

Some of the Costa Rican unionists will return to Nicaragua within the next few months to help with the harvest. Alvaro Mora is a member of the bank workers' union who participated in last year's coffee harvest and plans to come back. "I come to Nicaragua every year," he said. "And there are a lot more like me. There's a lot of support for the Nicaraguan revolution in Costa Rica."

Poverty and debt in Central America

The following commentary on Central America's foreign debt was broadcast on Cuban radio September 25. Originally broadcast by the Havana International Service in Spanish, the English translation is taken from the October 1 Daily Report of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service.

Almost 75 percent of the Central American countries' debt, which has risen above \$15 billion, belongs to El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Honduras — in other words, the nations in the area that devote large sums of money for their arms buildup. These are also the nations that register the highest indexes of poverty in the region.

The authorities in these four Central American countries do not seem to take into consideration the dramatic socio-economic reality in which their respective people live; quite the contrary, they continue to be immersed in a rash arms buildup under the pretext of fighting a communist conspiracy.

The Guatemalan, Salvadoran, Costa Rican, and Honduran governments also trust on the financial aid that the United States has been giving them, since it has prevented the collapse of these countries' underdeveloped and dependent economies. Nevertheless, this is only a temporary solution for economic systems that require radical measures to counter the crisis in the long run.

Economic development projects are virtually nil in these four nations, and the budget destined for nonmilitary sectors is really insignificant, mostly aimed at unproductive plans. Private investments are controlled by a minuscule group of oligarchic sectors which are only interested in sumptuous works. According to recent surveys, many of these families have decided to withdraw their money from the country and place it in banks abroad, given the fear of an even worse crisis and the consequent bankruptcy of their small businesses.

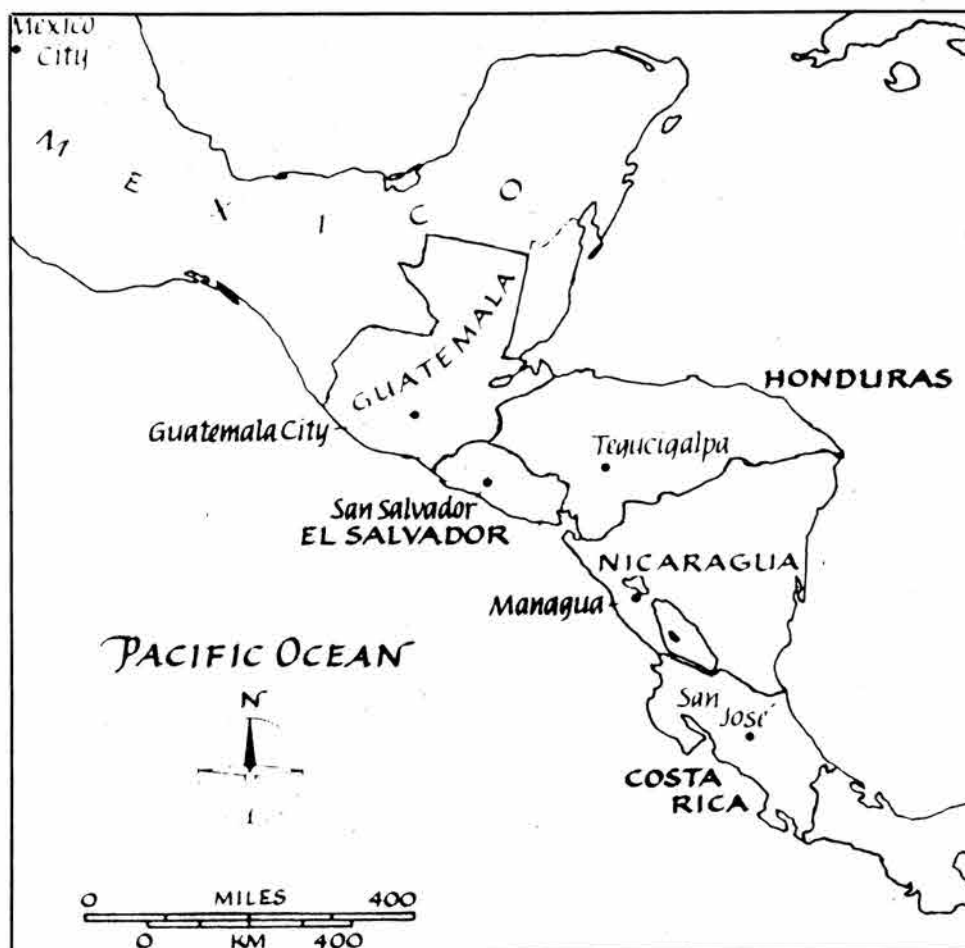
This situation provokes a quick deterioration in the already low standard of living for most of the population in these four countries. It means that more children, adults, and elderly people will die of starvation and incurable diseases. Unemployment and poverty will increase; and, consequently, the abyss which separates the few rich from the many poor will grow deeper.

The phenomenon of Central America's foreign debt is not, of course, totally different from that of the other countries on the continent. However, due to specific circumstances, this is where it becomes a prelude of death. The economic backwardness in these countries has reached alarming levels, and the development of their agriculture — the source of their main export products — is paralyzed. Hence, their trade levels have registered a noticeable decrease. In 1981 it amounted to \$1.15 billion, but it will decrease by \$750 million

this year. This means that Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica will not even be able to stabilize their level of foreign exchange income from trade activities. Consequently, the interest and capital of their foreign debt will grow along side their low exports.

Such are the causes for the increasing rebellion that is registered in each one of these countries. It has even taken the form of national rebellion, first in El Salvador and then in Guatemala. The people's just demands for economic and social improvements are countered by the authorities' repression and new measures which reduce even more the people's low purchasing power.

The force of weapons represents the only way in which the regimes in these nations can remain in power. Consequently, they compromise the sovereignty and independence of their respective nations to foreign capital, particularly that of the United States. Only a radical change in the economic and government structures will allow the much needed social change required by these nations, so that each mother may have something to feed her children and the general population may work in peace for development and justice.



Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, which surround Nicaragua, have the highest poverty rates in Central America. The economies of all four continue to shrink as their governments, with U.S. government backing, pour money into arms.

Wage setback in nat'l ACTWU contract

BY ANDREA BARON

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — In September members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) ratified two national contracts that cover more than 75,000 workers. A three-year contract was signed with the section of the garment industry known as the cotton manufacturers, and a two-year contract was signed with the wool garment manufacturers.

The wool garment contract contains no wage increases. It has only a \$500 cash payment at the end of the first year and a payment of \$600 at the end of the second year. The cotton garment contract has a 25 cents an hour raise in the third year of the contract and a cash payment at the end of each year. The company refers to these cash payments as "lump sum bonuses."

Garment workers have been faced with big layoffs and plant closings in recent years. Both large and small manufacturers have been on a campaign to drive down wages and cut benefits. In some plants, a process called "re-engineering" has been used. New machines are brought in and piece rates are cut, resulting, in some cases, in a drop of 20 to 35 percent in take-home pay. The companies use the threat of closing the plant to back up their demands for cuts.

Union members were hoping for wage increases in the new contract, along with increases in health benefits and the addition

of Martin Luther King's birthday as a paid holiday. Rumors were circulated before the contract expiration date that the companies were demanding a wage freeze and big cuts in health benefits and paid holidays.

The payment of "lump-sum bonuses" instead of wage increases is new to ACTWU members. The company claims that the bonuses are just as good as wage increases. However, this is not the case. The introduction of this system is a setback for the workers. The companies will increase their rate of profit far beyond the meager bonus payments. While wage levels remain frozen, except for the 25 cent increase, inflation will continue to rise over the next three years. ACTWU members will be much worse off than they are today when the next negotiations begin. We need hourly increases in wages, not promises of deferred bonus payments, to meet weekly living expenses. In plants where wages are being cut by reengineering schemes, workers will fall even further behind.

The contracts are also structured to take away the rights of workers who will be hired in the future. The bonuses are set up so that new hires will have trouble collecting them. There are deadlines that stipulate when a worker has to be on payroll to be eligible to receive them. If you are not on the payroll from September 1 to November 30 of a given year, you won't get the bonus. Anyone who quits, is fired, or is permanently laid off during that period will not receive a penny.

In an industry with a high turnover, the bosses will use the deadline dates to fire, lay off, and refuse to hire so they can cheat workers out of the money. In some plants, to enforce discipline and increase pressure about absenteeism and production, the bosses have already started to threaten that they will fire workers before the deadlines.

New hires also will not receive full vacation rights and will start work with a worse health-care plan than the rest of the work force. The provisions of the contract dealing with workers hired in the future are a blow to the union since they undermine unity and solidarity. In "right to work" states, this will be used by the bosses to try to convince workers not to join the union.

The campaign by the government and garment bosses to drive down wages and weaken the unions has also been tied to the barrage of propaganda about how "imports" are damaging the industry. They try to convince workers that the companies' economic problems are our fault, caused by poor quality, slow work, and excessive absenteeism and wage demands, rather than the companies' drive for huge profits.

If we reject those government and corporation arguments, we should reject the idea that we need to accept big concessions to bolster company profits. A "no" vote on this contract would have sent a message to the corporations that we are not willing to accept the attacks on our wages, benefits, working conditions, and unions without a fight. It could have put the union in a stronger position for continuing negotiations.

Discussion on the contract was limited and not well-organized. Most members heard what was in the contract for the first time at hastily organized meetings where the ratification votes were taken.

Many workers were relieved that the company offer was not quite as bad as they expected, but there was much confusion about the bonuses. Most workers did not understand all the implications of the bonus system, as opposed to wage increases, and there was very little time to discuss and think about it before votes were taken. Most voted for the contract because they felt it was the best that the union could get right now and because many unions have had to accept worse contracts.

The negotiation process would have been strengthened if the membership had had some information on the industry offers and the union's position. The union could also have benefited from a more democratic ratification process, with members given more time to read and discuss the contract before the vote.

Andrea Baron is a member of ACTWU Local 865C at the Arrow Shirt Co. in Jasper, Alabama.

La. Blacks lead effort to regain stolen land

BY GLEN MUNROE AND LIZ ZIERS

NEW ORLEANS — Scores of observers attended the opening of Louisiana Supreme Court hearings here on October 23. They came demanding ownership of land their families were forced to sell and vacate 60 years ago.

In 1925, the Orleans Levee Board forcibly expropriated 33,000 acres of mineral-rich land in Plaquemines Parish. The board claimed the land would be used to provide a Mississippi River spillway that would ease flooding in New Orleans. Most of those forced to leave were Black farmers, workers, and fishermen. Some, but not all, were paid for their land at the low average rate of \$11 an acre.

Only five years after they were forced to sell and leave, oil and gas companies started drilling on their former land with rich results. Today the Orleans Levee Board continues to collect \$4 million annually from giant corporations who operate leases on the land.

One of those attending the court hearing was 78-year-old Adeline Pinkins who was a teenager living with her father when they were forced to sell. "They said it didn't matter whether we wanted to leave the land or not," she told reporters. "It was going to be flooded, and we'd be under water, same as our land."

Pinkins, who lives in Sunrise, Louisiana, charged, "They fooled us out of the land. They knew that oil was there, but we didn't know."

George Edgerson, whose family had raised rice, corn, and livestock on the seized land, told the *Militant*, "I wish somebody would explain how a spillway 60 miles downriver from New Orleans is supposed to control flooding there."

Norman Taylor of Venice, Louisiana, explained that his family's land, like most of the others, had belonged to them since the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War. He told how the big landowning Perez family, who were officers of the Parish Board, ruled with an iron fist in

1925 and helped force through the land grab. "When the [Perez] brothers said you had to go," he said, "you went. They were like the Mafia."

The fight to regain the land was launched in 1975 by the Plaquemines Parish Fishermen and Concerned Citizens Association. They pushed two state legislators to introduce bills declaring that since the land was not being used as a spillway, it should be returned to the owners, along with the mineral rights. Those bills passed, and the Levee Board is demanding in the Supreme Court that they be overturned.

Bill Quigley of the Louisiana State ACLU, who is representing the farmers and fishermen, said, "That land, which had been in their families for generations, was taken by force. It was stolen."

Those who want to support the Plaquemines Parish fight are urged to attend the next meeting of the Plaquemines Parish Fishermen and Concerned Citizens Association in Bootheville the last Monday in November.



Militant/Katy Karlin

Eleanor Smeal, president of National Organization for Women, told Texas conference that NOW aims for massive turnout at spring abortion rights marches. Leaflet for demonstrations was mailed out to all NOW members.

MARCH For Women's Lives



Join us in one of two massive marches and rallies to serve notice that women's lives are threatened by efforts to outlaw abortion and birth control.

MARCH 9 - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH

Assemble at 10:00 a.m. on the Mall for march.
Rally at the Lincoln Memorial to follow.

Meet NOW marchers on the Mall in front of the Smithsonian Museums between 7th and 14th Streets, N.W., and between Independence and Constitution Avenues. Our Washington march will kick-off a week of public actions and demonstrations in support of women's rights and freedom of choice. Route for march to be announced.

MARCH 16 LOS ANGELES MARCH

Assemble at 10:00 a.m. for march.
Rally to follow.

Assembly and rally sites, and march route to be announced.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WASHINGTON AND LOS ANGELES MARCHES, PHONE NOW'S NATIONAL OFFICE AT (202) 347-2279, OR WRITE TO: NOW, MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES, 1401 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005.

Texas NOW: 'All out for abortion rights march'

BY SUSAN ZAMORA
AND LESLIE BRUCE

ARLINGTON, Texas — Eleanor Smeal, the president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), was the keynote speaker at the Texas State NOW convention held here October 18-20.

Smeal called on the 150 delegates and observers to start organizing now for the "March to Save Women's Lives," which will be held on March 9 in Washington, D.C., and on March 16 in Los Angeles, California. The mass demonstrations to keep abortion safe and legal were called by the national convention of NOW last July in New Orleans.

"We are going to show our numbers," Smeal told the conference, urging the delegates to make the demonstrations "the largest in feminist history."

"Abortion is a social good," Smeal said. "It saves women's lives."

To maximize participation for the march, Smeal called for launching a campus campaign to reach out to millions of women of childbearing age, who have a major stake in the battle for abortion rights.

Texas State NOW members unanimously passed a resolution that puts a priority on building the march. It resolved "that Texas NOW will work to insure maximum participation," which includes plans for planes and possibly buses that would make stops in El Paso, Houston, Austin, and Dallas to bring marchers to Washington, D.C.

Several anti-apartheid activists circulated a national petition of the NAACP calling for an immediate end to the system of apartheid. About 80 signatures were collected.

The Militant Labor Bookstore table was well-received. Over \$120 of both English- and Spanish-language literature and T-shirts were sold. Eighteen single issues of the *Militant* were sold, along with eight subscriptions to the *Militant* and one to its Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*. Sales reflected conference participants' interest in the situation in Central America — especially Nicaragua — and in the origins of women's oppression. Books by Evelyn Reed, Marx, Engels, and Lenin were sold.

Women's rights backers defend Portland clinic from attack

BY AMY HUSK
AND DEBORAH HIGDON

PORTLAND, Ore. — This city is becoming a battleground over women's right to abortion. On October 28 Joseph Scheidler, a nationally known right-wing opponent of abortion rights, led a mob of anti-abortion pickets in an attack on the Lovejoy Surgicenter here. Scheidler was attempting to enter the clinic, which performs abortions. About 35 women's rights activists were there to defend the clinic and give support to the women entering.

Scheidler's supporters attempted to provoke a violent confrontation by kicking, shoving, and punching the women and men defending the clinic. The clinic supporters responded by chanting, "Right to life — it's a lie; they don't care if women die" and "Not the church, not the state, women will decide our fate."

During an hour-long confrontation, women's rights supporters successfully defended the clinic and prevented Scheidler and his gang from entering. Police finally moved the right-wingers away from the clinic entrance.

The day before, Scheidler gave a speech in Portland and was picketed by over 65 abortion rights supporters. The picket line was called by the Community Clinic Defense Coalition (CCDC). The CCDC includes representatives from the National Abortion Rights Action League, the National Organization for Women, the Feminist Women's Health Center, the Socialist Workers Party, Radical Women,

and other groups. The coalition was formed in response to the recent step-up in violence against Portland abortion clinics.

Scheidler is the author of the book, *Closed: 99 Ways to Stop Abortion*, which advocates harassment of clinic personnel and patients. He has designated 1985 as the "Year of Pain and Fear" for abortion clinics.

Since his last visit to Portland in July, violence against local clinics has escalated. At the Feminist Women's Health Center, clinic windows have been repeatedly broken and phone lines have been cut. There was also an attempted firebombing at the Lovejoy clinic.

These attacks are part of a broader offensive against women's right to choose abortion. Antiabortionists are petitioning in Oregon to put an initiative on the 1986 ballot to cut off state funding for abortions. At present, Oregon is one of only 13 states and the District of Columbia that still provide state funding for abortions.

Supporters of women's rights in Oregon are already organizing to defeat this initiative. A recently formed group, the Pro-Choice Coalition, is mapping out a campaign to defeat it. Part of their strategy involves reaching out to labor unions, Black organizations, and churches, and drawing them into the campaign. Twenty-three groups have joined the coalition so far, including the Northwest Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

Indianapolis rally: 'Stop the attacks on abortion clinics'

BY JOHN WARREN

INDIANAPOLIS — On November 2 a crowd of 225 cheering supporters of a woman's right to abortion attended Indianapolis' first abortion rights rally in many years.

The rally was called in response to an incident in September, when an antiabortion picket invaded an abortion clinic, rushed through the recovery room, and tried to handcuff himself to the treatment table. For the past two years, right-wing opponents of abortion have been harassing women seeking abortions at Indianapolis clinics.

At a press conference before the rally, the Indianapolis chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) demanded that the city government protect women from this harassment.

The statement by NOW at the press conference also pointed to the Reagan administration's hypocrisy in refusing to enact strong sanctions against South Africa. Referring to the Reagan administration's cutoff of funding for international family planning agencies that perform abortions, the statement said, "Why is it OK to deprive women the world over of their right

to privacy and control over their own bodies, but wrong to intervene economically against apartheid?"

The action, called by NOW, was broadly supported. Cosponsors included: Catholic Women for Reproductive Rights, Indiana Pro-Choice Action League, Indiana Civil Liberties Union, Indiana University School of Law Women's Caucus, Indiana Women's Political Caucus, Indianapolis Network for Reproductive Rights, Planned Parenthood, Jewish Community Relations Bureau, League of Women Voters, and the National Abortion Rights Action League.

The featured speaker was Sister Margaret Traxler, one of the "Vatican 24," a group of nuns who have refused to recant a statement they signed condemning the Catholic Church's stand against abortion.

A statement of support from the Indiana Coalition of Labor Union Women was read.

The crowd responded with loud cheering when rally organizers called on them to organize and spread the word on the March 9, 1986, abortion rights march on Washington, D.C.

St. Louis abortion rights action

BY ELLEN DORFMAN

ST. LOUIS — Chanting "Back alleys, no more," 200 supporters of a woman's right to choose safe, legal abortion rallied here October 26.

The rally, sponsored by the Missouri National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), was called to respond to increasing provocations and harassment by right-wing antiabortion forces here.

NARAL called the demonstration across the street from a concert sponsored by the Americans for Life. The concert was part of the "Walk America for Life" campaign, which includes exhibiting a coffin for a fetus named "Baby Choice."

Right-wing preachers Norman Stone and Jerry Horn are walking across the country collecting fetuses and displaying them in small coffins at activities like this one.

The crowd at the abortion rights rally, drawn from all three National Organization for Women chapters in the area, NARAL, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and others, drowned out a small handful of people at the antiabortion concert.

Earlier in the day, 35 proabortion activists, who were acting as escorts at the Reproductive Health Services Clinic in West St. Louis County, stood up to the right-wingers.

The "Walk America for Life" campaign mobilized 100 antiabortion demonstrators

to attempt to prevent the clinic from providing abortions and other services.

Horn even carried a fetus bare-handed to the line of escorts to harass and intimidate them.

The clinic was well-defended and remained open. The escorts from NARAL, NOW, and the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights were mobilized to protect patients from harassment.

Also, the St. Louis County police responded to the increased pressure from the clinics and proabortion organizations. There were about 25 officers, a SWAT team, and three paddy wagons on the scene.

NARAL began to organize escorts last August after 300 antiabortion demonstrators from 15 states descended on the West County clinic. Their tactics include harassment, "sidewalk counseling," blocking the doors of the clinic, and passively resisting arrest.

Sixty-one were arrested and carried away one by one when the cops finally arrived after an hour's delay and seven phone calls.

On September 14, the trained escorts were pressed into service when 100 anti-abortion demonstrators picketed and attempted to sit in at the Reproductive Health Services Clinic in the City of St. Louis.

Antiabortion referenda defeated

BY PAT GROGAN

Voters in three small New England towns defeated antiabortion referenda that appeared on the November 5 ballot.

The non-binding referenda posed the question: should the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion, be overturned?

In Bristol, Connecticut, 8,555 said "no," with 6,737 voting "yes."

In Derry, New Hampshire, 1,650 rejected overturning legal abortion, with 1,106 in favor. In Dover, New Hampshire, a majority also voted against overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

These referenda are the first time that the question of legalized abortion, as set out in the *Roe v. Wade* decision, has been put to a vote.

The Reagan administration has intervened in two cases currently being heard by the Supreme Court, asking the court to uphold two state antiabortion laws and to overturn the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, which made abortion a woman's constitutional right.

At issue in the cases is an Illinois law that defines the fetus as a human being

from the moment of fertilization. This law would make it a crime if a doctor failed to apply the same standards to fetal care during an abortion as during childbirth.

Also at issue is a Pennsylvania statute that would require doctors to select the abortion technique that would provide the best opportunity to keep the fetus alive. Medical experts point out that this would mean using caesarean surgery for many abortions, increasing the risk to a woman's health by 1,000 to 1,500 percent.

A broad range of women's rights and civil liberties organizations have filed amicus briefs in these cases, supporting *Roe v. Wade*. These include: National Organization for Women, National Abortion Rights Action League, American Civil Liberties Union, Coalition of Labor Union Women, National Black Women's Health Project, and the U.S. Student Association.

In a victory for women's rights, the Senate on November 7 defeated two attempts to prohibit the District of Columbia from using its own funds to pay for abortions for women who cannot afford them. There are only 13 states, plus the District of Columbia, that still provide funding for Medicaid abortions.

Minn. Indians fight illegal land seizure

BY ELLIE GARCÍA

MINNEAPOLIS — A delegation of 50 met with representatives of the Minneapolis *Star and Tribune* to protest a crooked, racist editorial covering up illegal seizure of tribal land owned by the White Earth Reservation. Demands for honest coverage of the issue were presented.

The delegation included representatives of Anishinabe Akeeng (the People's Land), leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM), and supporters.

Anishinabe Akeeng is a coalition of heirs and allottees to the land of White Earth Anishinabe Nation, also known as the White Earth Chippewa Reservation. Anishinabe Akeeng is fighting to stop the further theft of treaty-guaranteed lands and to recover what has been illegally taken since 1867.

The editorial which prompted the meeting called for passage of congressional bills, introduced by legislators from Minnesota, which would legitimize the theft of Anishinabe tribal property.

Anishinabe Akeeng demands that all stolen lands be returned immediately and have repeatedly stressed, "Our land is not for sale."

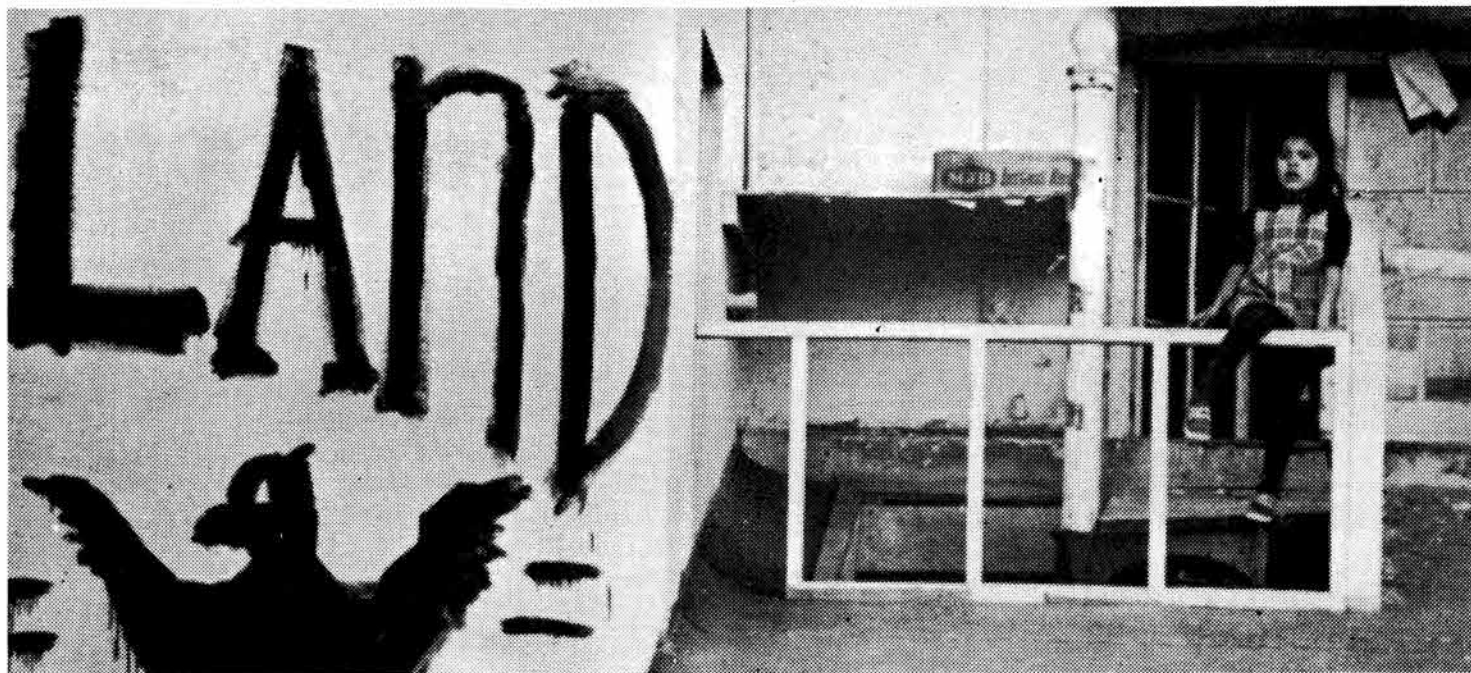
The protesters at the meeting with the paper included Vernon and Clyde Bellecourt and Janice Denny, leaders of AIM, as well as Stephanie Autumn Peltier, wife of Leonard Peltier, who was railroaded to prison by the FBI.

Also participating were Indian students from Heart of the Earth Survival School and Little Red Schoolhouse, the Minnesota Public Interest Project, and Young Socialist Alliance. Originally, the meeting was supposed to be between the paper's representatives and a small committee. But it was broadened out to include all those who showed up at the protest at the newspaper.

While the paper arrogantly rejected most of the demands for reasonable coverage, it did print a statement by Vernon Bellecourt on the pending congressional measure, and this was a victory.

The pending congressional bills are part of a long history of racist crimes against Indians. By force of arms and genocide, Indian nations were driven from their lands onto reservations.

In Minnesota the U.S. government entered into an 1867 treaty with the Chip-



Freedom struggle of Indian people includes fight to recover land stolen from them through genocide and broken treaties

pewas of the Mississippi Anishinabe establishing the White Earth Reservation. Then the Nelson Allotment Act of 1889 removed the land from tribal control and imposed individual ownership of land.

By destroying communal guardianship of land this act was designed to break up sovereign treaty lands of Indian nations. An arrangement was legalized in which over the next 50 years Indian nations would lose two-thirds of their remaining lands by sale and swindle. Much of this land was rich with oil, coal, gold, silver, uranium, petroleum, and timber. The White Earth Nation saw its land stolen bit by bit until today only 6 percent — 48,000 acres — of their land is controlled by Anishinabe. Of the remaining 94 percent — 792,000 acres — 26 percent is held by the state and federal governments, and 68 percent by non-Indian private landholders.

A federal investigation mandated by Congress examined a third of the White Earth Reservation land base of 840,000 acres and found 200,000 acres with defective title. Congress terminated this investigation before completion.

In September Vernon Bellecourt testified on behalf of Anishinabe Akeeng before the Senate Select Committee on Indian

Affairs.

These are some of the facts Bellecourt laid out.

- The State of Minnesota currently holds 160,000 acres of White Earth Anishinabe land of which 30,000 acres are held with defective title. The attorney general and other Minnesota legislators consider it generous to offer to return 10,000 acres of land that is rightfully the Anishinabe's and to offer the victims a \$6 million loan.

- Of 24,000 members of the White Earth Anishinabe Nation, 4,000 members reside within the treaty boundaries of White Earth while 20,000 members "have become scattered to the four winds due to the illegal taking and forced removal from their lands."

- Besides facing poverty after being pushed off the land, the Anishinabe "do not have the opportunity to benefit economically from the use of the land or from the millions of dollars in timber and other resources taken illegally from these lands."

- The Department of Interior has notified current property holders of defects in their titles but has not notified the allot-

tees or heirs, the victims of these illegal takings.

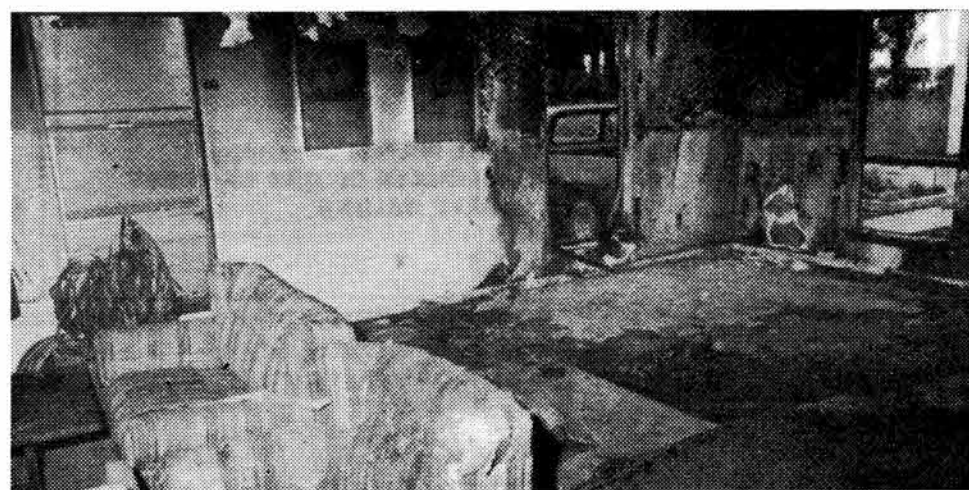
Bellecourt called for a policy of "restoration of lands, restitutions for the timber and other resources degradation, and reparations for the economic hardship suffered by the Anishinabe people, all leading to an economic reconstruction of an Indian future in America."

The U.S. government and various corporations and their mouthpieces would have everyone believe that there is simply a "land-ownership dispute" and that the solution is for the rightful heirs to accept a pitance for their stolen land.

The only just and legal solution is to return immediately all illegally held land to the White Earth Anishinabe Nation.

The U.S. government must make reparations not only for the crimes that it has committed but also for those crimes it has encouraged others to commit since 1867. Any difficulties that may result for farmers and others is a consequence of earlier illegal government action and they should be fully compensated by the government, not by committing a new injustice against the Anishinabe.

La. abortion clinics burned



One of two clinics in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, attacked by arsonists.

NEW ORLEANS — The National Organization for Women (NOW) chapter here held a news conference Saturday, November 9, to respond to arsonists' attacks on two women's health clinics that occurred the week before in Baton Rouge.

One clinic was burned to the ground November 3, and a second was severely damaged on November 7.

No one was injured in the attacks, which occurred before the clinics opened. Both clinics received repeated threatening phone calls and have been the object of harassing picket lines by right-wing opponents of abortion rights.

Speaking at the press conference were Sheila Kopaska-Merkel, the president of New Orleans NOW; Cindy Lorr, the Louisiana State Reproductive Rights Chair of NOW; a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union; and a representative of the Socialist Workers mayoral campaign of Terry Hardy. All candidates for mayor of New Orleans had been invited to the press conference.

Both NOW speakers called on the FBI to

continue investigating the attacks and demanded protection for New Orleans clinics by the local police.

Kopaska-Merkel urged abortion rights supporters to defend this right by joining NOW's "March to Save Women's Lives" in Washington, D.C., on March 9.

AIM statement says 'Hands off Nicaragua'

Continued from Page 6

mine their own future free from outside aggression, including from the United States."

The AIM statement concluded: "Finally, we call on all of our warriors to reject the proposed recruitment program and with resolute determination to continue our struggle for our lands and our peoples, from the Black Hills to Big Mountain, from White Earth to the Northwest Territories, and all across the North American continent."

Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

'PM' on Philippine upsurge

Subic Bay naval base and Clark Air Base, the two biggest U.S. military bases outside the continental United States, are located in the Philippines. Their strategic position allows the U.S. to project its military might throughout Southeast Asia and the Pacific island region. The bases house a total of 13,700 U.S. troops.

A growing popular insurgency, mass protests against the "U.S.-Marcos dictatorship" (as many Filipinos call it), and the country's worst economic crisis have Washington worried that Marcos' corrupt regime may lose control.

In the current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial*, an article by Duane Stilwell takes a look at the current upsurge in the Philippines. Also featured is an article by Selva Nebbia examining the deep economic crisis facing Chile under the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. Chile's per capita foreign debt is one of the highest in the world, amounting to about \$2,000 per person. This is part of the backdrop to the growing protests shaking the Chilean regime today.

Perspectiva Mundial is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every two weeks brings you the truth about the struggles of working people and the oppressed

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'Common Ground': attack on Boston's desegregation

BY JON HILLSON

Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families. J. Anthony Lukas. 651 pages, \$19.95. Alfred A. Knopf Publishers. New York, 1985.

Was there a "common ground" somehow missed in Boston a decade ago, as the fight for Black equality evoked a racist response of white mobs hurling bricks, bottles, and obscenities at Black students boarding yellow school buses?

Was the campaign to win equal educational opportunity for Blacks, and to end the system of separate and unequal schools, a mistaken notion, pitting Black worker against white? Did it unleash a battle with no winners?

BOOK REVIEW

Have busing and desegregation, in Boston and elsewhere, been the proof of failure of "liberal" social experiments that make poor white face off against poor Black?

To these and similar questions raised by J. Anthony Lukas' new book, *Common Ground*, there are lots of answers in its 651 pages.

All of them wrong.

Common Ground is an important book, though, not because of what it says, but because of how it is being used.

Promoted as definitive study

Lukas' work is being promoted as the definitive study of the Boston busing struggle, the subject of an eye-popping publicity campaign of prominent reviews in the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, major advertisements, and, in Boston, public meetings, repeated reviews, and even editorial endorsement by the *Boston Globe*.

Why?

As even the *Boston Phoenix*, a mass-circulation news-weekly hostile to desegregation, points out, Lukas "proceeds from starting points that would have been liberal heresy not long ago. Among them: that it is worth understanding the resistance to busing as much more than race hatred, as a symptom of white working-class life with its own deep sense of grievance; that the causes of Blacks can be seen not as distinct and isolated but as part of the continuum of demands by immigrant groups on Boston and similar cities; and that when a political battle, set in motion by Black demands, was cast as a moral crusade rather than a political fight, the normal processes of politics — the brokering of competing interests — broke down and could not function."

In other words, Lukas is saying that Blacks fighting for their rights were no different than Italians or Irish before them; that violent opposition to school busing and desegregation by whites had a progressive element to it; and that when Blacks and their allies elected to make desegregation and equality a *cause* and fight for its victory *to the finish*, they committed a great political sin.

This book is another weapon in the corporate-government offensive against Black rights, including desegregation and affirmative action.

And Lukas' credentials for aiding this crusade are handsome. As the *Phoenix* points out, he is a "representative of cultural liberalism . . . who received fellowship support from Harvard and a grant from the Guggenheim Foundation to complete his seven-year project."

Rewrites history

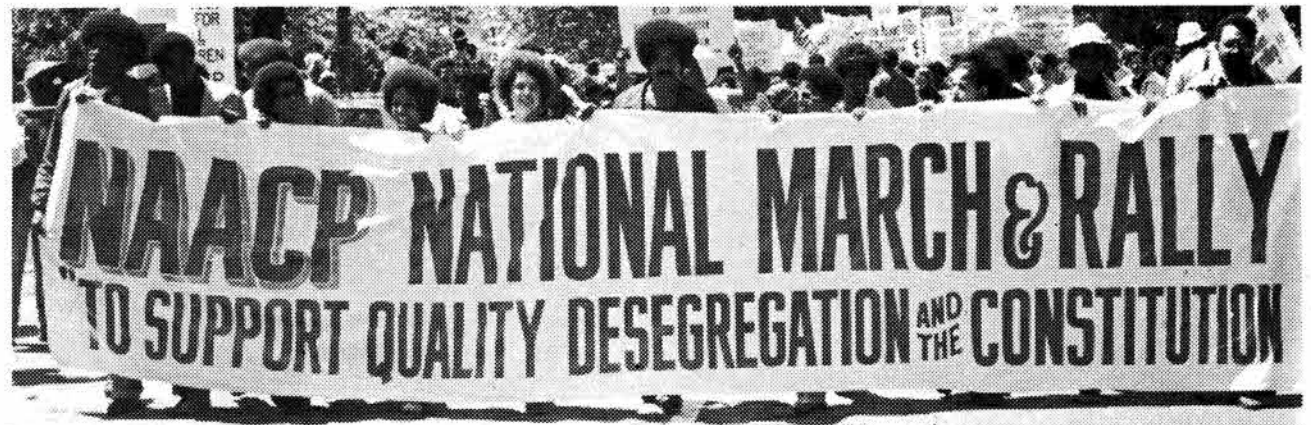
Common Ground rewrites the history of the Boston busing struggle.

It attempts to tell this epic story through the experiences of three families: the Twymans, a family from Boston's Black Roxbury community; the white, well-heeled liberal Divers; and the McGoffs, a white family of Charlestown. The story is told through their histories, their pasts, and their relationship to the events surrounding Federal District Judge W. Arthur Garrity's historic 1974 court order mandating busing to achieve desegregation.

Lukas, though, is clearly inclined toward the McGoffs, whose principal character is no ordinary "Townie" working-class white. Alice McGoff becomes a leader of the openly racist Powder Keg antibusing organization. Her daughter is a leader of the "white student caucus" at Charlestown High School.

If Lukas spends his most animated and supportive chapters on the McGoffs, then he is most at home with the affluent Divers, Colin and Joan. The Divers were full of 1960s sympathy for Blacks, but by the 1970s have grown weary of it all and move from Boston's urban South End after lawyer Colin decides Black and Puerto Rican "criminals" have taken over the neighborhood. He's beaten one with a baseball bat.

While the McGoffs are intensively active *against* busing and Colin Diver in 1975 is counseling then Boston Mayor Kevin White about desegregation, the Twymans of Roxbury are simply and only the *object* of the Garrity court order, caught up in it, dislocated by it, never, it seems, truly part of it. Lukas' choice of this particular Black family is aimed to make it seem that the court order



Militant/Jon Flanders

Some 10,000 came out in May 1975 NAACP action that mobilized Boston's Black community for school desegregation. New book ignores this and other actions that forced racist minority to retreat. Book's twisted history concludes that desegregation does not work.

was *actively* opposed by whites, *passively* accepted by Blacks.

This is false.

It negates two things. First, the rich and powerful record of grassroots Black community activism that marked the fight for school desegregation starting in the 1950s and continuing through the climactic years after the Garrity order.

And secondly, Lukas makes no mention whatsoever of the whites, in Charlestown and South Boston among other places, who complied with and supported the court order despite the threat of terror and violence by the anti-busing gangs, of which Lukas' Alice McGoff was an enthusiastic leader.

To cite such facts would contradict Lukas' theme: that busing and desegregation were not in the interests of workers (by which he means whites) or Blacks.

Lukas sees 1960s civil rights legislation as sowing the seeds of racism among "disadvantaged whites."

"Civil rights legislation sought to override local law or custom — often equated with bigotry," he states.

Amazing statement! Was Jim Crow segregation, lynching, and the tapestry of Black oppression in the South just a "custom" of white workers? Or was it inspired and imposed by the capitalist rulers, who reaped its benefits?

Did crushing Jim Crow through mass struggle strengthen or weaken racism?

Anthony Lukas has an answer.

Through talking to Alice McGoff, he finds she and her friends felt, by the mid-1960s, that "politicians, professors, and editorial writers" — the rich liberals — "were proposing to take real things — money, jobs, housing, and schools — away from whites and give them to Blacks."

But nobody in the civil rights movement *ever* proposed this.

What the Black movement fought for was *equality*: democratic rights, fair treatment, and an end to "legal" racism and the effects of institutional discrimination.

This required not only eliminating "white only" public facilities and segregation in the South, but concrete steps to make up for the profound effects of three centuries of slavery and Jim Crow, from which trillions of dollars in superprofits was reaped.

Lukas sees these antiracist countermeasures as an evil, pure and simple.

In his view, civil rights were not won in pitched battle, but were a gift from the government. Not a concession, mind you, wrung through a virtual social revolution, but something that happened "when [President] Lyndon Johnson capitalized on the nation's grief to push Kennedy's civil rights bill through Congress."

Movement's power ignited Boston struggle

The 1960s civil rights movement's power spread to Boston, igniting a struggle for school desegregation.

But the local Black leadership, Lukas declares, trampled upon the customs of white, working-class Boston — that is, the racist neighborhood "turf" mentality. He focuses not on traditions of Irish and Italian immigrant labor radicalism, but on a Hollywood-style panorama of grandmas and grandpas of the old country and latter-day stereotypes.

Blacks and *their* demands for justice are portrayed as the evil, not the racist school system that mired Black youth in inferior schools and substandard programs.

At every step of the way, according to Lukas, Blacks are misled by liberal, suburban lawyers, who supposedly are the invisible (white) hand behind the campaign for equality.

Indeed, antibusing Boston School Committee chairperson Louise Day Hicks, the notorious stalwart of segregation, is portrayed as the *victim* of Black refusal to see her as a friend willing to compromise. According to Lukas, she was mistakenly cast as racist when all she stood for was an "amorphous urban populism."

The "moral fervor" of the civil rights movement swept aside all respect for racist "custom" in Boston, Lukas groans.

The efforts during the 1960s by Boston Black figures such as Ruth Batson, Ellen Jackson, and Mel King are given little or no mention.

Projects and activities on behalf of Black rights are written out of history.

The 1972 federal suit filed against the Boston School Committee after seven years of its refusal to implement the modest state civil rights law — the Racial Balance law — is pictured as a project of white lawyers, not of longtime Black community activists, community organizations, and concerned parents.

And when the buses do begin to roll in September 1974 with an explosion of racist violence that stunned TV viewers across the country, Lukas confines his reportage to the details of white opposition.

He refuses to even note the growth and breadth of organization in the Black community, the emergence of a pro-busing movement, its street demonstrations, picket lines, teach-ins, mass marches, neighborhood support projects, and the leading role of such organizations as the NAACP and National Student Coalition Against Racism.

Fascinated with whites

Lukas is fascinated with whites — especially with the "white workers" who furiously battle Black children in actions he is compelled to admit reek of racist prejudice.

Central Black leaders like Boston NAACP President Thomas Atkins disappear from this history.

Antibusing demonstrations of a few dozen people are given pages and pages, while even the mere facts on pro-desegregation marches — which in 1974 and 1975 mobilized tens of thousands and were never matched by the bigots in size — do not exist for him.

Not surprisingly, this twisted history of Boston concludes that desegregation doesn't work.

Lukas refuses to record the modest gains in Black achievement in the schools under desegregation, or the truth that white test scores *never* dropped, but increased.

For instance, according to the Boston School Department, Black students achieving basic competency in reading in the second grade jumped from 67 percent to 92 percent between 1981-84; from 77 percent to 80 percent in grade five in the same period; and from 75 percent to 79 percent in the same years in the eighth grade.

A similar increase in mathematics competency was also recorded, as well as in writing.

In the same 1981-84 period, Latino students' recorded increases in reading, math, and writing. So did whites — for instance, white student achievement of basic reading competency rose from 80 percent to 97 percent in the second grade between 1981-84. And white student achievement in mathematics rose from 76 percent to 97 percent in the fifth grade in the same years.

Lukas fails to discuss the growth of Black and minority teachers, staff, and administrators in the once virtually all-white job trust that the school department was.

Busing battle won wide support

The Democratic Party in Boston spent more than a decade preparing opposition to busing, after a century of pitting white against Black to secure the rule of the rich over both.

The busing battle was a Black-community-based and -led campaign that won support, including in white, working-class neighborhoods, through sustained action both against the racist resistance and the government — at a city, state, and federal level.

The ruling families, their politicians, media hacks, and kept journalists like Lukas promote a false concept of white "ethnicity" to keep white workers from seeing the necessity of unity with Blacks and other oppressed minorities in a common fight for equality.

Insomuch as some white workers thought they were defending "their interests" by fighting Blacks in Boston, they were dead wrong — the victims of racist illusions.

But desegregation has begun to break down racism in Boston, bit by bit, through struggle, just as it did — contrary to Lukas' opinion — by battering the notion that illusory "privileges" for whites at the expense of Blacks is something worth throwing bricks, rocks, and bottles to preserve.

It is the fundamental gain in social consciousness and class solidarity among Boston's working people that is the real "common ground" conquered in the fight for desegregation during the last 20 years here.

And it's by standing and fighting on this common ground that a new generation of Black, Latino, Asian, and white working-class youth in Boston will learn the truth about the battles that brought them where they are, and arm them to face those who would drive them apart and back.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Behind the AIDS Hysteria. Speakers: Ron Julian, Birmingham AIDS Outreach; Andrea Baron, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

What's Happening In Nicaragua. Film. *Target Nicaragua.* Sat., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

Socialist Publication Fund Rally and Socialist Bookstore Grand Opening. Speakers: Fred Halstead, others. Sat., Nov. 16. Reception and buffet dinner, 6 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: \$5. Ausp: *Perspectiva Mundial* and the *Militant*. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

Educational Conference. Two classes by Fred Halstead: "Lessons of Russian Revolution," Sun., Nov. 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; lunch, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; "Impact of the Russian Revolution Today," 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

San Diego

Mexico and the Debt Crisis. Speakers: Sylvia Zapata, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, Socialist Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 1053 15th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Soviet Union and World Politics. Slideshow and presentation by Jim Miles. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

The Middle East: Who Are the Real Terrorists? Speaker: Jeanette Tracy, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Nov. 24, 7 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Hear Socialist Workers Party Candidate for Mayor Terry Hardy. Fri., Nov. 15, 8 p.m. 3207 Dublin St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Terry Hardy for Mayor Committee. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Defending Labor Struggles from Detroit to South Africa: A Socialist Publication Fund Rally. Speakers: Malik Miah, editor of *Militant*; Katherine González, coordinator of MICAH, lived in Nicaragua for 15 years. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 16. Reception, 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

Blacks in the United States: A History of Struggle. Speaker: Malik Miah, editor of *Militant*. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

tion: \$1 per class. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

Farm Workers and Farmers Stand Up to Agri-business. Speakers: Elana Herrada, Detroit Support Committee for Farm Labor Organizing Committee; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 23, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Socialist Publication Fund Rally. Speakers: Andrea González, *Militant* staff writer; August Nimtz, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Minneapolis; representative of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9; Mel Reeves, member, Clergy and Laity Concerned and Minnesota Anti-apartheid Coalition; representative of Anishinabe Akeeng. Sun., Nov. 17. Reception, 3 p.m.; rally, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Publication Fund. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Socialist Publication Fund Rally. Speakers: Tom Leonard, staff writer, the *Militant*; Perry Wilson, Sr., leader of Missouri Groundswell; representative of Kansas City Anti-apartheid Network. Sun., Nov. 17, 7 p.m. Unitarian Church, 4500 Warwick. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Publication Fund. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Benefit for the Militant, Perspectiva Mundial, and Other Socialist Publications. Speakers: Michael Hajduk, member Garwood Board of Education and Society to Educate People, who visited Nicaragua in May; Andrew Smith, student leader at Seton Hall University and member of Young Socialist Alliance; representative of Burkina Faso; representative of African National Congress. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. (corner of Raymond). Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Socialist Publication Fund. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Benefit Social for Political Prisoners in Ireland and Chile. Video and speaker from the Chilean Secretariat and Human Rights Commission; special guest: Mary Pike, attorney for Joe Doherty, Irish political prisoner in the United States; traditional Chilean music; music from the Irish struggle by Ray Collins. Sun., Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m. Eagle Tavern, 14th St. at 9th Ave. Donation: \$5. Ausp: James Connolly Prisoners' Welfare Fund. For more information call (718) 857-7966.

The Quest for Peace in Central America: A Challenge to U.S.-Cuba Relations. Speakers: Victor Navasky, editor, *The Nation*; Helen Rodríguez-Trias, pediatrician; Ramon Sánchez-Parodi, head of Cuban Interests Section, Washington, D.C.; Wayne Smith, former head of U.S. Interests Section in Havana; Nelson Valdes, professor of sociology, University of New Mexico; Ted Weiss, U.S. congressman. Fri., Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. Hunter College Playhouse, 68th St. at Lexington Ave. Ausp: Center for Cuban Studies and Inter-American Affairs Program at Hunter College. For more information call (212) 242-0559.

OHIO

Cincinnati

The Reagan-Gorbachev Summit: Who is Responsible for the Arms Race? Speakers: Mar-

vin Berlowitz, Education Department, UC; Steve Schumacher, Cincinnati Peace Education Center; Devin Oldendick, Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

The Truth Behind the AIDS Hysteria. Speaker: Shane Que Hee, University Medical Center; Ronn Rucker, president, Cincinnati Gay Mental Health Professionals; Carol Lippmann, vice-president, UC Gay and Lesbian Alliance; Lorraine Starsky, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Cleveland

Stop Police Violence and the Death Penalty. Speakers: Lucius Woods, father of Michael Woods, murdered by policeman; Marcos Luciano, father of Marcos Luciano, Jr., murdered by same policeman; Roland Muhammad, representative of Muhammad Temple No. 18, Nation of Islam; Walter Jackson, People United Against Repression; Paul Hill, director of East End Neighborhood House; representative of National Black Independent Political Party. Sat., Nov. 23, 7 p.m. East End Neighborhood House, 2749 Woodhill. Ausp: Cleveland NBIPP. For more information call (216) 791-2538 or 921-5718.

OREGON

Portland

U.S. Workers and Farmers in Solidarity: The Fight for Justice from South Africa to Central America. A Socialist Publication Fund rally. Speakers: Betsey Stone, National Committee member, Socialist Workers Party, former managing editor of Pathfinder Press and editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*; Dave Worthington, president of painters union Local 724 and Salem Committee on Latin America; Grace Grantham, Labor Committee on Central America and Caribbean; Ray Hanson, farmer from eastern Oregon; Jorge Jackson, member Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., Nov. 17. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Publication Fund. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

Women's Liberation: a Marxist Perspective. Speaker: Betsey Stone, National Committee member, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Nov. 17, 1 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

UTAH

Price

Debt Crisis in the Americas. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 23 S Carbon, room 19. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant forum. For more information (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Socialist Publication Fund Rally. Grand opening of Socialist Books. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Nov. 16. Reception: 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Publication Fund. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

Boycott South Africa, Not Nicaragua! Speakers: Pat Naidoo, exiled South African youth leader, member United Democratic Front. Bruce Plenk, participated in National Lawyers Guild fact-finding trip to Nicaragua; State Sen. Terry Williams; others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Nov. 22, 7 p.m. City Council Chambers, City Council Bldg., 500 S 200 E. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Central America Solidarity Coalition. For more information call (801) 363-5380.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

An Evening in Solidarity With Central American Trade Unionists. Speaker: Dennis Meléndez, representative of Sandinista Workers Federation. Dancing, music, poetry to follow. Sat., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. International Association of Machinists Hall, 1300 Connecticut Ave. NW. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Washington Area Labor Committee on Central America and Caribbean.

Support the Marvel Strike. Speaker: Dottie Alton, Marvel strike leader and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400. Video on strike. Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

War and Crisis in the Americas. Speaker: Barry Sheppard, member National Committee Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments to follow. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2, proceeds to go to Socialist Publication Fund. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Democracy and the Nicaraguan Revolution: an Answer to Reagan's Lies. Speakers: Charlie Dee, Central America Solidarity Coalition; Tony Prince, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

The Soviet Union Today: Myth and Reality. Slideshow and presentation by Ardenne Bunde, member of U.S.-USSR Friendship Society and Socialist Party, visited Soviet Union in 1985; Dave Morrow, Socialist Workers Party; and Nicholas Topping, member Labor and Farm Party, toured Soviet Union in 1985. Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Four Palestinian leaders face deportation by Israel

Four Palestinian leaders being held without charges in Jnaid and Beersheba prisons received deportation orders from the Israeli government October 28.

They are Ali Abu Hilla, a trade unionist and leader of the Workers Unity Bloc in the village of Abu Dis; Hassan Abd al-Jawad, a journalist; Azmi Shuaidi, a dentist; and Zaki Statieh, a former political prisoner released during a May 1985 prisoner exchange.

According to the November 1 Palestinian weekly, *Al Fajr*, "The intended deportations have provoked protest demonstra-

tions both in Israel and in the occupied territories. In Tel Aviv, crowds of Arabs and Jews, even some relatives of the four, demonstrated in front of the Defense Ministry October 30." Students demonstrated at Bir Zeit and Bethlehem universities and faced raids and attacks by the Israeli army.

Protest messages are urgently needed to prevent their deportation and can be sent to Prime Minister Shimon Peres, the Knesset, Jerusalem, Israel, with copies to attorney Lea Tsemal, 2 Abu Obeida, Jerusalem, Israel, and Amnesty International, 705 G St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20003.

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

Maybe so — Literature of the church sanctuary movement for Central American refugees confirmed government suspicion they were dealing with leftists. In one



Harry Ring

religious group's pamphlet in the federal file a reference to "solidarity" is labeled "Marx's," and reference to the righteousness of the struggle of the poor and oppressed is tagged as "left wing."

Stifle that yawn — Despite the media whoop-de-do, few people are in a tizzy over the visit of the British royal couple. In an ABC poll, 67 percent had no opinion of the prince, and 58 percent said the same about his spouse. The "don't know/don't care" opinion ran consistently higher among those who described themselves as "working class."

Sounds reasonable — Increasing numbers of business investors are turning to psychics and astrologers. "You wouldn't want to sign over your inheritance, but I think there's a little bit of merit to it," confides Mark Chaikin, a Wall Street exec. Chaikin is among sev-

eral financial experts who have charted the effects of sunspots on human behavior to predict the market.

A fella's got to hustle — General Dynamics executive vice-president George Sawyer has been indicted for his story about how he got the job. As assistant secretary of the navy he supervised GD contracts. Apparently he misspoke, under oath, about the fact that during this time he was negotiating for his present spot with the company.

The pursuit of liberty — Coca-Cola, American Airlines, and other corporate biggies are squeezing publicity from hustling

bucks to rebuild the Statue of Liberty. Adman John Morrissey, who initiated the deal, explains, "When I approached a company, I said, 'Hey, I'm not looking for a donation. I'm here talking about an opportunity to make a lot of money. It will benefit everyone, most of all you.'"

Sweet dreams — What do those who have everything dream of having? According to one account, Eunice Gardiner would like a private island of her own. Her family already has a 3,000-acre island off Long Island. But she'd like one with white, silky sand and a year-round warm climate. Plus, "I wouldn't mind a yacht and private jet just to get on and off the

place."

Miami Vice — Arturo Hoyo had a rep as a bigtime thief. Newspaper clippings detailed how in good weeks he made as much as \$250,000. Released from jail, he was snapped up as a consultant by a Miami security firm which threw a fancy welcome home party. Then the Miami Herald reported that those clips had been created in the prison printshop.

Miami Vice (cont.) — "This situation is intolerable. It affects the reputation of Miami." — Banker Charles Dascal, responding to a Police Department announcement that \$150,000 earmarked for a drug probe had disappeared.

Mexico's struggle against the debt in 1860s

BY RAÚL GONZÁLEZ

The recent earthquake in Mexico — with its billions of dollars in damage, loss of thousands of lives, disruption of industry and tourism, and the overburdening of services — clearly places before the eyes of the world the impossibility of Mexico paying its debt to the imperialist banks and governments of the world.

Prior to the earthquake, the debt was an impossible burden on the government and people of Mexico. It is doubly so now.

Millions of working people around the globe are thinking through the question of the crushing debt that Latin

AS I SEE IT

America, Africa, and Asia owe to the imperialist banks and governments. There is a growing movement for the cancellation of the foreign debts of these nations.

As the workers and farmers of Mexico grapple with the devastation of the earthquake and the disaster of the debt, they will recall an important part of Mexico's revolutionary heritage — the declaration, in July 1861, of a two-year moratorium on the payment of all foreign debts.

As a result of a revolt against the dictatorial and corrupt rule of Gen. Antonio López de Santa Ana, a new government came to power in Mexico in 1855. This new government initiated a series of laws that were designed to break up the political and economic power of the Catholic church and Mexico's semifudal landlord class. These reforms, incorporated into the 1857 Mexican constitution, were aimed at the development of capitalist relations in the countryside and the formation of a strong, centralized federal government.

The church and the *hacendados* (large landowners) re-

belled against the new constitution. Benito Juárez, the new president of Mexico, was forced to flee from Mexico City, the capital. He organized a revolutionary government from the port city of Veracruz.

For the next three years the revolutionary government of Juárez fought against the reactionary government of the clergy and landlords. The latter enjoyed the active support of the Roman Catholic pope and the European powers, which extended loans to the reactionaries. With the U.S. Civil War rapidly approaching, the U.S. government was able to provide only minimal but important aid to Juárez. By 1861 the Liberal government of Benito Juárez defeated the armies of the reactionaries and he was able to return to Mexico City.

The War of the Reform (as it is known in Mexican history) was immensely destructive. Agriculture and industry were at a standstill, the treasury of both governments had been depleted, and the foreign debt had grown tremendously during the war. The Juárez government was held accountable by England, France, and Spain for all the loans that they had made to the clergy and other reactionaries before and during the war.

Faced with the threats of the European powers on the one hand and economic disaster for Mexico on the other, Juárez declared the two-year moratorium on all foreign debts. The aim was to give Mexico time to rebuild. Later it would begin to repay those debts that it believed to be just.

This announcement caused a panic among the banks and governments of colonialist Europe. Sir C. Lennox Wyke, an English diplomat, wrote to the Mexican foreign minister, "A starving man may justify, in his own eyes, the fact of stealing a loaf on the ground that imperious necessity impelled him thereto; but such an argument cannot, in a moral point of view, justify his violation of the law. . . . If he was actually starving, he should have first asked the baker (the banks and governments of Europe) to assuage his hunger (by more loans, or re-

negotiated loans), but doing so of his own free will (declaring a moratorium), *without permission*, is acting exactly as the Mexican government has done towards its creditors on the present occasion."

The government of Juárez replied that the terms which England, France, and Spain were placing on Mexico would put an end to the autonomy of the republic. It would mean delivering Mexico's economy into the hands of foreign powers.

When Juárez declared the moratorium in July 1861 — a few months after the U.S. Civil War started — England, France, and Spain declared a joint intervention against Mexico to force it to pay the debt. These European powers used the moratorium as a pretext to both try to reclaim a foothold in the Americas and to affect the outcome of the U.S. Civil War in favor of the slavocracy.

In an article appearing in the New York *Daily Tribune* in November 1861, Karl Marx said, "The contemplated intervention in Mexico, by England, France, and Spain, is in my opinion, one of the most monstrous enterprises ever chronicled in the annals of international history."

Though England and Spain eventually pulled back from the adventure, the French ruler Louis Napoleon went full steam ahead with the invasion of Mexico and declared one of his henchmen as "emperor of Mexico."

After a six-year struggle, Juárez and the Mexican people fought and defeated the European intervention, restoring Mexico's sovereignty.

Today's foreign debt similarly threatens the sovereignty and independence of the countries of Latin America. Fidel Castro explained it this way, "No country that has consulted with the International Monetary Fund every month about what to do in its own home grounds can call itself independent."

As the international bankers and the U.S. imperialists stand poised like vultures over Mexico, it serves well to recall Juárez' moratorium on the foreign debt and Mexico's heroic defense of its sovereignty in 1861.

Touring YSA leader builds fight against apartheid



Militant/Larry Lukecart
YSA leader Héctor Marroquín at 1983 United Farm Workers convention. In recent tour of Southwest, Marroquín discussed fight against apartheid and U.S.-backed war in Nicaragua. He spoke to farm workers, auto workers, and student activists.

BY PAT GROGAN

"The fight of the people of South Africa is a fight for the rights of working people all over the world, including the rights of immigrants in the United States," Héctor Marroquín told a Phoenix rally called to protest deportations of and discrimination against immigrant workers and political refugees.

Marroquín is one of nine leaders of the Young Socialist Alliance who are on national speaking tours.

Marroquín is a member of the National Executive Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance. He is an undocumented worker from Mexico who has been fighting attempts by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to deport him for more than seven years because of his socialist and antiwar views, and his championing of the rights of immigrant workers.

The October 19 rally was part of a National Day of Justice for immigrant workers and political refugees. The rally was also called to protest the U.S.-organized war against the people of Central America. It was sponsored by the Arizona Farm Workers who are on strike against the Whitewing Ranch.

Marroquín told the rally that the "INS draws a lot of inspiration from the example of the South African regime." He drew some parallels between the way immigrant workers are treated in this country and the notorious pass-book system in South Africa. "Not having a green card, like not

having a pass book, gives the authorities a handle to victimize and intimidate workers, and to superexploit them," he said. "And it can especially be used against those workers who are organizing to fight back — workers the rulers deem subversive," Marroquín explained.

Like in South Africa, he said, the bosses bring undocumented workers to this country when they need cheap labor, deny them their rights, and deport them when they are not needed.

While in Phoenix, Marroquín also spoke out against the trial of 11 sanctuary workers in Tucson. He called the government's attacks on the sanctuary workers "part of the attacks on the basic democratic rights of all working people."

"This attack is a complement to the U.S.-sponsored war against Nicaragua and the people of Central America," he said. "At the same time that the U.S. government is sponsoring murderous regimes in El Salvador and Guatemala, forcing workers and peasants to flee for their lives, it persecutes them in this country. The attack on the sanctuary workers is an attack on all those who oppose the U.S. war in Central America," Marroquín called on "every organization and individual concerned about basic democratic rights to protest this outrageous attack on the sanctuary movement."

While in Phoenix, Marroquín also spoke to a meeting at Arizona State University where he shared the platform with anti-

apartheid activists and a member of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

The next stop on Marroquín's tour was Dallas, Texas.

"If there was a Nobel prize for lying, Ronald Reagan would receive it," Marroquín told a packed Militant Labor Forum in Dallas October 25. He was referring to Reagan's address to the United Nations, in which he slandered the workers' and farmers' government of Nicaragua, while remaining silent on the crimes of South Africa.

Marroquín shared the platform with Rev. Prince Ntintili, a South African anti-apartheid activist, and Rev. Clarence Glover, head of the NAACP Committee Against Apartheid.

Marroquín began his four-day tour of the Dallas area at the University of Texas at Arlington. Ray Dukes, a member of Local 276 of the United Auto Workers union, who is also chairman of Kappa Alpha Psi, sponsored a literature table for Marroquín. This Black fraternity targeted anti-apartheid activity as its priority and organized a Free South Africa rally of over 400 students at the campus two weeks earlier. Marroquín was interviewed by the campus daily, the *Shorthorn*.

Marroquín also went to a General Motors plant near the Arlington campus where he spoke with a Chicano worker who is active in organizing union support for the anti-apartheid struggle.

What Louis Farrakhan stands for

Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Black nationalist Nation of Islam organization (NOI), has spoken to thousands recently in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Baltimore, New York, and other cities. These meetings have generated widespread controversy about Farrakhan, both in the big-business media and in the left-wing press.

The size of Farrakhan's meetings and the extent of the debate over his ideas shows that the Nation of Islam is an important political current in the Black community that deserves to be evaluated seriously.

Most Blacks who attend Farrakhan's meetings, the majority of whom are workers, hope that the Black nationalist leader will offer a road out of the abominable social conditions they are forced to live in. But most of those who come looking for proposals and perspectives to advance the fight for Black rights come away disappointed. Farrakhan's proposals have no progressive political content beyond assertions of Black dignity that have been common to all serious Black nationalists in the United States. His proposals are, in fact, an obstacle to, and diversion from, advancing the fight against national oppression, for Black rights, and for the interests of working people. His nationalist program offers no way forward.

What does Farrakhan propose?

He says that the road to economic and political power is for Blacks to develop their own economic base. He urges Blacks to support a group he calls POWER (People Organized and Working for Economic Rebirth). POWER's aim is to develop some Black-owned factories and other businesses.

What is needed, Farrakhan explains, is for Black people to spend their money to buy Black-made products and invest in Black-owned businesses. "I want to know, if we make our own toothpaste, mouthwash, and deodorant, can you see yourself buying it?" he asks.

Utopian perspective

This is a utopian notion. It assumes that Black economic oases can be built within the existing economic and political framework. But this approach is doomed to failure. Racist oppression, unemployment, imperialist war, poverty, and inequality are rooted in the capitalist system. Farrakhan's POWER cannot make a dent in this system. At best, it will offer a more comfortable life for a tiny handful of Blacks.

Farrakhan's acceptance of the capitalist system means that he has no perspective of mobilizing Blacks and other working people to challenge the political rule of big business. He doesn't help point a road forward that can mobilize Blacks, Latinos, women, working family farmers, and unionists to struggle for political power.

A revolutionary strategy starts with knowing who your enemy is: the capitalist ruling families, who own the banks and basic industries of this country. It is based on forging an alliance of Blacks and other workers and exploited farmers to organize a revolutionary struggle against capitalist rule. Black self-determination is impossible until the capitalist rulers are overthrown and replaced by a government of the oppressed and exploited — a workers' and farmers' government.

Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam reject this anti-capitalist perspective — which is a revolutionary one.

That's why it is not surprising that Farrakhan and the NOI are not in the leadership of any antiracist battles, such as the anti-apartheid protests or the struggles to defend affirmative action programs and stop police brutality. Those struggles point toward class alliances of Blacks and other working people against the capitalist government; POWER does not.

Need revolutionary workers' party

The struggle for political power will require the development of a mass revolutionary workers' party in which Black workers will play a vanguard role. Revolutionists welcome any attempt by Blacks, or workers as a whole, to break from capitalist politics and begin taking steps toward independent working-class political action. Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam, however, take the opposite approach. Rather than welcoming the formation of the National Black Independent Political Party, the NOI supports Democratic Party candidates.

In 1976 the NOI, for the first time in its 40-year history, had its members register and vote. Until then, the NOI's policy on political matters had been abstention. It began to praise Democratic politicians — Black and white, including Chicago's racist mayor, Richard "Boss" Daley. It put an American flag on its weekly paper's masthead. In 1984 Farrakhan backed Jesse Jackson's presidential bid in the Democratic Party. In fact, Farrakhan only criticizes those capitalist politicians who attack him.

Limits of nationalism

Because Farrakhan's political approach does not propose a revolutionary alliance of the oppressed and ex-

ploited against the capitalist system, his nationalism can offer no road forward for Blacks and other working people.

Farrakhan's Black nationalism shows the limits of nationalism as a political perspective to end racist oppression. Nationalism of the oppressed is progressive when it is linked to a working-class perspective and directed at the racism of the oppressors — the ruling families, who are all white.

But as Farrakhan's political orientation shows, nationalist sentiment can be channeled in a procapitalist direction.

The opposite course was taken by Malcolm X.

Malcolm was a revolutionary nationalist whose political evolution led him more and more to explain that the road to Black liberation is the overthrow of capitalist rule. Malcolm broke from the nonrevolutionary nationalist policy of the Nation of Islam's founder, Elijah Muhammad. Farrakhan represents the continuity of Muhammad's Nation of Islam.

Farrakhan's anti-Semitism

Farrakhan's attacks on Jews as a group reflects his nonrevolutionary political approach as well. Jews as a whole become the scapegoat for the racist oppression of Blacks, not the capitalist state.

"Jesus had a controversy with the Jews," he said on October 7 in New York City. "Farrakhan has a controversy with the Jews. Jesus was hated by the Jews. Farrakhan is hated by Jews. Jesus was scourged by Jews in their temple. Farrakhan is scourged by Jews in their synagogues."

"The scriptures charge your people with killing the prophets of God," he declared.

"I am your last chance," he said of Jews. "You cannot say 'never again' to God, because when God puts you in the oven, 'never again' don't mean a thing."

These are anti-Semitic and reactionary statements, reminiscent of ultrarightist Christian groups that portray Jews as accused because they allegedly killed Christ. Farrakhan is expressing anti-Semitic prejudices and religious myths that have long been fostered by the ruling class.

By focusing his fire on Jews as the problem, Farrakhan lets the capitalist ruling families — the fountainhead of racist oppression and religious persecution — off the hook.

His equating of Judaism and Zionism does the same thing. The fight of the Palestinian people is for a democratic, secular Palestine, as the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) explains. It is not against Jews. The PLO explicitly rejects anti-Semitism.

The fact that at times Farrakhan denies being an anti-Semite changes nothing. His prejudices are completely alien to the outlook of Blacks and other working-class fighters who aim to unite and mobilize the broadest possible forces to overturn this racist, exploitative system.

The ruling class uses prejudices against Jews, immigrants, women, gays, and others to deepen divisions among working people and block united struggle. These prejudices help the rulers maintain and reinforce the racist and sexist oppression that are central to capitalist rule. It is scapegoatism.

Like Farrakhan's political approach as a whole, his reactionary statements about Jews are an obstacle to advancing the liberation struggle of Blacks and all oppressed and exploited people.

Racist smear campaign

The criticisms that class-struggle-minded workers and farmers make of Farrakhan's program are done from the standpoint of advancing the fight of Blacks and other working people against the rulers.

Inevitably, the ruling-class media and politicians seize on Farrakhan's statements to make reactionary, racist propaganda against him and all Black people. New York Mayor Edward Koch, a Democrat, called Farrakhan "a Nazi in a clerical collar," for example. The Los Angeles City Council accused him of "racism, anti-Americanism, and anti-Semitism." Republican Gov. George Deukmejian of California accused Farrakhan of "slandering the very country that protects his right to speak." The *Washington Post* said Farrakhan's speeches constituted "big-time bigotry for the masses."

Mayor Koch charged that "25,000 people knowingly came to hear someone spewing racism and hatred against whites and anti-Semitism directed against Jews."

Fighters who are seeking to advance the struggle against racism and all forms of oppression must continue to oppose and expose blatantly racist attacks against Farrakhan. The target of these attacks is not Farrakhan's program, but a racist smear of Black people as a whole.

Karl Marx: a foreign policy for working class

BY NORTON SANDLER

Reproduced below is an excerpt from the "Inaugural Address of the International Working Men's Association." The association is commonly called the First International. The address, written by Karl Marx in October 1864, was included in the first pamphlet the new organization used to orient its members and to attract new adherents.

The formation of the First International had been made possible by the growth of the working class between 1848 and 1864. The factory system, which had exploded on the scene in England earlier in the century with the

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

widespread introduction of machinery, began to grow everywhere in Europe.

The working class was becoming conscious of itself. It had a growing component that was beginning to realize that it shared common problems with workers in other countries.

In the address, Marx said, "In all countries of Europe it has now become a truth demonstrable to every unprejudiced mind, and only denied by those whose interest it is to hedge other people in a fool's paradise, that no improvement in machinery, no appliance of science to production, no contrivances of communication, no new colonies, no emigration, no opening of markets, no free trade, nor all these things together, will do away with the miseries of the industrious masses. . . ."

Marx pointed out that "the lords of the land and the lords of capital will always use their political privileges for the defense and perpetuation of their economical monopolies."

The founding of the new international association was boosted by the common positions workers in different countries had come to on major political events. The first was the U.S. Civil War, where the fight against slavery won the support of Europe's workers and peasants. In England, the opposition to the slaveowners was so great that the only place agents of the Confederacy could hold public meetings was on the floor of the cotton exchange.

A second event that brought working people of Europe together was the struggle for independence from Russia waged by the Polish people in 1863. The crushing of the revolt by the hated Russian czar aroused the anger of the working masses.

It was at a London meeting in solidarity with Poland organized by workers from several countries that the new international was born.

In the inaugural address, Marx used the Polish uprising and the reactionary role played by the European governments during the U.S. Civil War as a way of explaining why the working class needs our own foreign policy.

* * *

Past experience has shown how disregard of that bond of brotherhood which ought to exist between the workers of different countries, and incite them to stand firmly by each other in all their struggles for emancipation, will be chastised by the common discomfiture of their incoherent efforts. This thought prompted the working men of different countries assembled on September 28, 1864, in public meeting at St. Martin's Hall, to found the International Association.

Another conviction swayed that meeting.

If the emancipation of the working classes requires their fraternal concurrence, how are they to fulfill that great mission with a foreign policy in pursuit of criminal designs, playing upon national prejudices, and squandering in piratical wars the people's blood and treasure? It was not the wisdom of the ruling classes, but the heroic resistance to their criminal folly by the working classes of England that saved the West of Europe from plunging headlong into an infamous crusade for the perpetuation and propagation of slavery on the other side of the Atlantic. The shameless approval, mock sympathy, or idiotic indifference, with which the upper classes of Europe have witnessed the mountain fortress of the Caucasus falling a prey to, and heroic Poland being assassinated by, Russia: the immense and unresisted encroachments of that barbarous power, whose head is at St. Petersburg, and whose hands are in every cabinet of Europe, have taught the working classes the duty to master themselves the mysteries of international politics; to watch the diplomatic acts of their respective governments; to counteract them, if necessary, by all means in their power; when unable to prevent, to combine in simultaneous denunciations, and to vindicate the simple laws of morals and justice, which ought to govern the relations of private individuals, as the rules paramount of the intercourse of nations.

The fight for such a foreign policy forms part of the general struggle for the emancipation of the working classes.

Proletarians of all countries, Unite!

Boston-area IUE rejects GE's 'worker involvement'

BY KIP HEDGES

BOSTON — Members of Local 201, International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE), at four General Electric plants in the Boston area took steps at their September union meeting that can significantly strengthen the local. They voted to end the union's two-year participation in a company-initiated worker involvement (WI) group.

Initially this was a program in which groups of 12 union members, a union steward, and a foreman would

at the same time that the Executive Board member had filed a fundamental grievance, because the company was refusing to bargain with the stewards. . . . 'Why have tea and crumpets with the foreman when you're getting your head beat in in the shop?' asked one brother."

"No improvement," continued *Electrical News*, "was noticed in the constant hassles over even the smallest matters, like a fair distribution of overtime, even though the company talks about a new cooperation."

Many union members have reported that in months before and after the vote to end the union's participation in the workers' involvement program there was a series of company attacks on the work force. These included suspension of union stewards, a physical assault by a foreman on a steward, and attempts by the company to cut piece-work rates.

For its part, the company bluntly explained its reasons for promoting WI in the October issue of *Headlines*, a company paper. It quotes GE's worker involvement coordinator, Jim Edler. "Employee Involvement is a way employees can impact how their work gets done and how competitive the business remains. Several groups in West Lynn [GE plant] have had exceptional success in problems aimed at worker efficiency," he said.

Some members of Local 201 echo this sentiment and

say that our jobs depend on programs like WI, while others say the plan is similar to agreements between union and management in the steel and auto industries where there is a spirit of joint cooperation.

One Local 201 Executive Board member responded to this approach by explaining: "It's true that WI is similar to auto and steel agreements. But that's precisely the point. In auto and steel joint cooperation has meant thousands of layoffs, worse working conditions; and financial concessions. Just look at Chrysler. That's not where we're looking to go."

Company coordinator Edler laid out GE's response to the union rejection of WI, saying, "I hope the union will reconsider its position in the future. We intend to go forward with the effort."

A steward in the GE Aircraft Division, where the program is based, explained, "Sure they intend to keep up with the effort to put the screws to us. That's what they're all about — profit, productivity, and cooperation — at our expense. Just look at our last contract. Each member gave back thousands, and we have a two-tier wage. Is that cooperation?"

Kip Hedges is a member of IUE Local 201.

UNION TALK

meet to discuss areas of common concern like what color to paint walls, where to install water fountains, or how to get picnic tables.

After two years many union members who participated in WI saw it differently and said so at the union meeting. The IUE 201 *Electrical News* reported their reaction: "Some speakers said the W.I. program was an attempt to undermine the union. One member pointed out that in Building 40 the company was promoting the W.I. group

Anti-apartheid students fight attacks on movement

BY STEVE BLOODWORTH

CHICAGO — Anti-apartheid student leaders from three Chicago-area universities spoke November 9 at a forum on Chicago's South Side sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance.

The students explained the anti-apartheid and divestment fights on each campus and the legal battles they are in to fend off charges stemming from anti-apartheid protests at the Northwestern and University of Illinois campuses. The speakers were Lisa January, cochair of the Anti-apartheid Alliance at Northwestern University; Alan Maass and Bob Cotter from the University of Illinois Circle Campus Divest Now Coalition; and Sahotra Sarkar from Third World Political Forum at the University of Chicago.

January explained that Northwestern has millions invested in companies doing business in South Africa. On two occasions last May, students sat in at the president's office in the Rebecca Crown Center. Students have renamed the center Nelson Mandela Center. A total of 122 students were arrested and still face trial.

The mass trial is to begin on November 18 at 9 a.m. at the Skokie, Illinois, courthouse.

"I may be standing before you again asking for support, because I won't stop until the university divests or apartheid comes down," January said.

Cotter told of the ups and downs of trying to build an anti-apartheid movement at his campus. He explained that campus anti-

apartheid leaders were arrested following an October 10 board of trustees meeting. The students had been in the hallway outside the room where the board was meeting. The campus police took pictures of them that day. The following Sunday morning at 8 a.m., the cops came to their homes and arrested them. They were charged with "interfering with institutions of higher learning."

The protesters in the Northwestern case have already won a significant victory. The judge has granted them the right to present a "necessity defense." They will be allowed to argue that they had to do what they did to save lives and stop greater crimes in South Africa.

Sahotra Sarkar took time to explain what

apartheid is and what the students are fighting against. He cited the Freedom Charter of the South African people and the leading role of the African National Congress. He noted the importance of student conferences like the one he had attended at Hunter College in New York City the week before. He invited everyone to participate in the midwestern Student Conference Against Apartheid and Racism that will be held at the University of Chicago November 16-17.

Cathy Gutekanst, chairperson of the meeting and member of the Young Socialist Alliance, thanked the students and pledged the YSA's full backing to the conference and support for their legal battles.

LETTERS

An appeal for justice from Lindsey Scott

We are devoting this issue's letters column to an appeal we received from a Black marine, Lindsey Scott. He has been framed up for the rape of a white woman at the Quantico U.S. Marine base in Virginia.

The following are excerpts from his letter.

My name is Lindsey Scott, and I am not appealing to you for sympathy. I am appealing to you, the masses at large, in hope that you can aid me in my quest for justice.

I who am innocent but incarcerated ask very little of our society as a whole. I humbly ask that you hear my plea for help. My story is as follows.

In the fall of 1980 — having graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a bachelor of science degree in law enforcement and marrying my wife, Lolita — I enlisted into the United States Marine Corps.

In March 1981 I was stationed at the Quantico Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia. I was assigned duties as a military policeman and it did not take me long to excel in my performance as a marine. My service record was spotless and I was selected as military policeman and marine of the month on several occasions.

I was promoted very rapidly and upon reaching the rank of corporal I started to prepare myself to enter officer-candidate school. During this time I was also assigned duties as a Criminal Investigator.

At this point in my life and career I was the happiest man in the world. I was a happily married man and my wife and I were expecting our first child.

In under two years I had moved to the top of my prospective field.

I had everything to live for and my future in the United States Marine Corps looked very bright.

'Attempted murder'

On April 21, 1983, life as I knew it at the time came to an abrupt halt. I was made the suspect of a rape and attempted murder of the wife of a fellow marine. My initial reaction to these allegations was one of shock and utter disbelief. I could not comprehend my commanding officer and fellow coworkers thinking that I could have committed such an atrocity.

On April 25, 1983, I was placed in pretrial confinement pending a magistrate hearing to determine if there was any evidence to warrant continued confinement.

On May 5 Lt. Col. Richard Harry ordered me released due to there being no positive identification made, and all forensic laboratory tests conducted to link me to this crime came back negative.

Even though I was released from pretrial confinement things continued to take a turn for the worst. My wife and I were harassed by people in the military community. This went to the point that it caused my wife to start having trouble with her pregnancy.

On August 10, 1983, I was formally charged with these crimes. Since I had never been in any type of trouble before, I selected a lawyer from the local area out of the yellow pages. He cost my wife and I all the money that we had saved up for our baby.

'Nothing to worry about'

This lawyer — Erin Kunhke, Jr., of Dumfries, Virginia — reassured my wife and I that I had nothing to worry about. He told me that there was no way I could

be convicted for there was no evidence against me.

On October 3 I went before a military judge and jury consisting of seven marine corps officers.

The victim, who failed to identify me as the perpetrator of this crime six months earlier, stood over me and said this is the man who raped me.

My lawyer, who was so confident outside of court, failed to prepare for the trial. He did not interview any of the witnesses called on my behalf. This led to their testimony becoming confused, hurting their credibility.

But most important he did not interview a security guard at Zayres department store where I was shopping to buy my wife a birthday present. This witness could have given me a complete alibi on the night in question. As it turned out, she got confused on the stand and the question of an alibi was lost at that time.

On October 3, I was convicted of these crimes, crimes that I did not commit, and sentenced to serve 30 years at hard labor in confinement.

Need support

Since my conviction my family, supporters, and I have been fighting for my freedom. My case has been presented on TV, the second time being on the Sept. 8, 1985, "60 Minutes" program on CBS.

We are trying our best to get the public involved, for public pressure will play a key role in what happens to me.

We are asking anyone who might want to help me in my fight for justice to write Gen. P.X. Kelley, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20350, and demand that I be given a new



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Members of Prince William, Virginia, NAACP join James Scott (second from left), Lindsey's father, and Lolita Scott (far right), Lindsey's wife, at April 22 anti-apartheid antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C. They were instrumental in starting Lindsey Scott Defense Committee.

trial and that these charges be dismissed against me.

We have started a defense fund in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. Anyone who wishes to contribute can send check or money order to Lindsey Scott Defense Fund, c/o Father Patrick Delahanty, St. Charles Catholic Church, 2702 W. Chestnut St., Louisville, Kentucky 40212.

As for myself I have been confined over two years now and there is no way to describe the mental anguish and suffering I have endured.

All I wanted out of life was to serve my country and to make a

good living for my family. Instead I find my life destroyed while I physically and mentally deteriorate in prison. That is why I bring my case to you, the final court, the people's court.

Lindsey Scott
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

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.

Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter freed

BY RASHAAD ALI

NEWARK — "I finally made it," Rubin "Hurricane" Carter told John Artis, after U.S. District Court Judge H. Lee Sarokin released Carter from custody a little after 3 p.m. Friday, November 8. Artis was his codefendant in the triple murder frame-up 19 years ago.

The decision to release the former number one middleweight boxing contender took place after the judge, in a 70-page ruling, overturned the 1976 conviction of Carter and Artis, citing "racial prejudice" as the reason for the decision.

"Human decency," said the judge, "mandates his immediate release." The standing-room-only crowd in the Newark courtroom cheered and applauded in approval.

"Mr. Carter's past imprisonment may have been a travesty — to continue it would be even a greater one," Sarokin said. "I cannot permit him to spend another day or even an hour in prison, particularly considering that he has almost spent 20 years in confinement based in part upon a conviction which I found to be so constitutionally flawed."

The 48-year-old Carter, no longer sporting a shaved head and beard, thanked his lawyer, Myron Beldock, and Artis' lawyer, Lewis Steel, and said, "We did it."

Standing on the federal courthouse steps, Artis told the press that it was "a joy to finally have justice prevail."

The 70-page decision handed down by Judge Sarokin was particularly critical of the frame-up method used by the prosecution in the original 1967 trial and in the 1976 retrial of Carter and Artis, who were both convicted and received life sentences.

Sarokin said that the convictions were based "upon an appeal to racism rather than reason, and concealment rather than disclosure," and that "the jury was permitted to draw inferences of guilt based solely upon the race" of the defendants.

The ruling said, "Underlying the prosecutor's theory and summation is the insidious and repugnant argument that this heinous crime is to be understood and explained solely because the petitioners are Black and the victims are white," and "without this unacceptable assumption, the prosecution's theory of racial revenge becomes a thin thread of largely irrelevant evidence and impermissible inferences."

Carter's lawyer, Beldock, told a press conference that "it was a rotten case from the beginning, filled with perjury, misrepresentation, and racial bias."

John Artis, who has been on parole for the last four years, said, "It has taken 20 years for the truth to come out and for someone to show all the red herrings that the prosecution used to convict us."

Carter and Artis had steadfastly maintained their innocence and called the case what it was, a frame-up.

While in prison, Carter refused to accept prison jobs or eat prison food, saying that to do so would acknowledge his guilt. He was able to survive on canned food provided by his friends.

The backdrop to the frame-up of Carter and Artis is the 1966 ghetto rebellion against cop violence and racist oppression that took place in Paterson, New Jersey.

On June 17, 1966, three whites — two men and one woman — were shot and killed at the Lafayette Bar and Grill in Paterson.

Carter and Artis were picked up by the cops and charged with the killings. Neither was at the bar.

The lack of evidence was shown by the fact that even the cop-run lie detector test and a powder test to see if they had fired any guns — tests taken only hours after the killings — proved them innocent. One of the victims, who survived for a month after the bar shooting, also said Carter and Artis were not the killers. Two grand juries refused to indict them, and they were initially set free.

But Passaic County prosecutor Burrell

Humphreys pursued them anyway. He needed a conviction, so he used the murder of a Black man six hours earlier by a white man in Paterson, in the midst of the Black rebellion, to frame up Carter and Artis. He said that they had killed the three whites to avenge the death of the Black.

The prosecution reinforced its case by bribing two whites, Alfred Bello and Arthur Bradley, who were caught burglarizing a factory near the bar. Bello and Bradley swore that they saw the two frame-up victims leaving the scene of the killings.

In 1974 the two burglars, after the statute of limitations on perjury ran out, recanted. They now claimed that they had not seen Carter and Artis, but were pushed to lie by the cops.

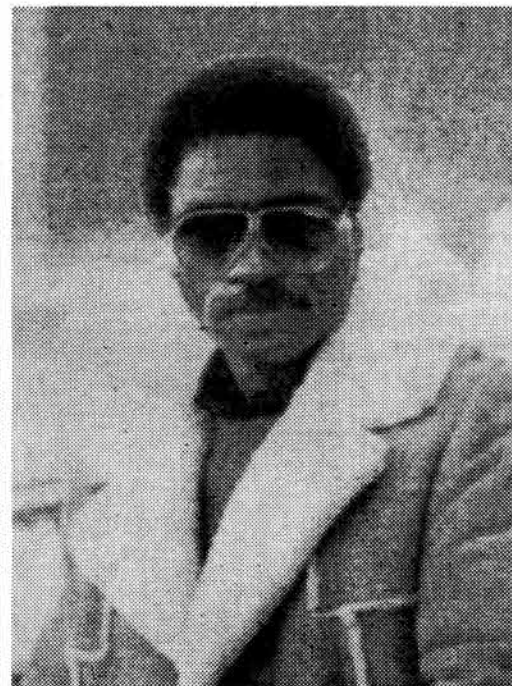
A broad defense campaign was organized for Carter and Artis. It won the support of such well-known people as Muhammad Ali, Bob Dylan, Jesse Jackson, and Norman Mailer.

After two years the New Jersey Supreme Court, bowing to public pressure and the unraveling of the state's case, overturned the 1967 convictions and ordered a new trial.

But justice was not to be. Bello took back his recantation. Bradley didn't, but was never called to testify at the trial.

Carter and Artis were convicted a second time by a Paterson jury.

Some things have changed in Paterson since the events of 1966 that stole 19 years out of the life of Rubin Carter. The Lafayette Bar and Grill is no longer a white hangout. It's now Len's Place, a neighborhood bar where Blacks freely go.



At left, John Artis and his lawyer. Right, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter.

"This is the place where Hurricane Carter had his last bout," the owner replies to the often-asked question: "Is this the place?"

The talk at Len's Place was different on November 8 when the judge's ruling was announced. Most of the talk was about Carter getting out, and the customers were happy about it, according to the bar's owner.

One thing that has not changed, however, is the stance of the Passaic County

prosecutor. He fought against the release of Carter by charging that Carter was "a dangerous and violent person, and a threat to the community."

Assistant prosecutor John Goceljak stated that if the appeals court refuses to reinstate the convictions, they will go to the Supreme Court.

Those of us who stood by the two frame-up victims over the years must continue to be vigilant and demand: "Hands off Carter and Artis!"

N.Y. forum hears ANC, SWAPO explain Cuba's role in Africa

BY CAROL BURKE

NEW YORK — "The challenge is not just before the international community in general, but is particularly before the American people," said Mfanafuthi Makitini, secretary for international affairs of the African National Congress (ANC), who spoke at a forum at the New School for Social Research in New York November 8. Makitini said there is a pressing need for international solidarity with the people of South Africa and Namibia in their struggles against the apartheid regime in Pretoria.

His statements were seconded by the other panelist, Toivo Ja Toivo, general secretary of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). SWAPO is leading the Namibian independence struggle against South African colonial rule.

Toivo called on the audience to redouble their efforts to organize the movement to demand disinvestment and sanctions against the apartheid regime and to collect material aid, such as food, clothing, and medical supplies.

Both speakers pointed to the similar slanders the U.S. government uses against supporters of independence in southern Africa and supporters of the popular revolutionary governments in Nicaragua and Cuba. Toivo said, "To Reagan, democracy means a puppet regime defending the interests of the United States. The independence of Namibia is being held for ransom by Reagan."

The U.S. government demands that any actions against the South African government be linked to the withdrawal of Cuban troops and advisers from Angola. The panelists explained the real role of the Cubans, who are in Angola at the request of the Angolan government to defend the country against repeated attacks by South Africa.

Makitini said, "Americans read every

day a distortion of the history of Cubans in Angola. We should all be paying tribute to the Cubans. In southern Africa they are seen as the good guys for their support, because they are willing to fight with Africans, to die with Africans, for an end to apartheid." Makitini pointed to Reagan's speech at the United Nations to show that the United States intends to "target Angola as they have targeted Grenada and Nicaragua."

Toivo pointed out that the Nicaraguan

people have chosen their own government and their own leaders, and he claimed that right for the people of southern Africa.

The meeting also saw the Cuban-made film, *Victory of Hope*, which is about Angola. The sense of a coming "victory of hope" in South Africa and Namibia, which was very strong at this meeting, was best expressed by Makitini, who said, "Freedom for southern Africa is an idea whose time has come. Victory in Namibia and South Africa is as certain as sunrise."

Calif. meatpackers on strike

BY JEANNIE FRANKEL AND W. JUNGERS

VERNON, Calif. — Three hundred striking members and supporters of Local 274 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) rallied at the Farmer John meat-packing plant here in the early morning of November 4. The strike, which is in its fifth week, is developing into a test of strength between the industry and the unions.

Two weeks ago, workers organized by the same local struck the McCoy meat-packing plant nearby. The McCoy Co. is demanding even greater cutbacks, including a reduction of the guaranteed work-week to 32 hours and mandatory overtime, along with \$2 to \$3 per hour cuts in pay.

Union solidarity with the strikers is growing. Last week, César Chávez and other members of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) spoke at a press conference outside the Farmer John headquarters. On behalf of the UFW, Chávez solidarized with the strikers and pledged the UFW's support, including the use of their printing facilities, mailing lists, and radio station. Union representatives from Local 274 restated their call for a boycott of all Farmer John products.

Other unions which have shown support are Local 9 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America and members of Local 512 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), who are currently on strike against the Somma Mattress Co.

Even though a court injunction limits the number of pickets at the entrance to Farmer John to five, mass picket lines of more than 100 have lined the sidewalk facing the struck plant.

The militancy and solidarity shown by the strikers has had its effect on production. Union officials estimate that no more than 10 percent of the normal work force is inside the plant. Hog slaughtering has fallen from six thousand per day to between four and six thousand total in the past five weeks.

Following the rally at Farmer John, the pickets marched over to the McCoy plant and gathered in front of the main gate. Pickets were able to turn away some of the scabs trying to enter.

Messages of solidarity and contributions to the strike effort can be sent to: UFCW Local 274, 6801 E. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90040.