

## Nicaraguan gov't reaches cease-fire with Miskito 'contras'

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Troops from Nicaragua's Ministry of the Interior swore in a new member on the Atlantic Coast in October. His name is José Díaz Chow. A month earlier, Chow had been a leader of a Miskito Indian group carrying out armed attacks against Nicaragua's revolutionary government and armed forces.

Chow's decision to desert the counter-revolutionary forces and take up arms in defense of Nicaragua is one example of important political and military changes taking place on the Atlantic Coast, long a central target of the U.S. government's mercenary war.

In 1981 Washington began sending mercenary units into Nicaragua in an effort to overthrow the workers' and peasants'



Militant Jane Harris  
Miskito woman. Indians' desire for peace and support for autonomy fuels growing demand for end to "contra" war.

government here. The mercenaries were headed by remnants of the National Guard of Anastasio Somoza, the U.S.-backed dictator overthrown in the 1979 revolution.

On the Atlantic Coast, Washington's strategy was to trick Miskito Indians and other non-Spanish-speaking *costeños* into taking up arms against the Sandinistas and thus to militarily separate the Atlantic from the Pacific. Washington would then send aid to the "liberation forces" on the Atlantic, laying the basis for possible direct U.S. intervention.

In appealing to *costeños*, Washington took advantage of several factors: the historical racial and political differences between the Atlantic and Pacific; the fact that Nicaragua's 1979 revolution was based on the Pacific side of the country; and initial errors made by the Sandinistas in their dealings with the people of the Coast. Washington spread lies, particularly among Miskitos, telling them that the Sandinistas were "Spanish oppressors," out to destroy their culture and take away their land, if not exterminate them outright. Fighting against the new Nicaraguan government was portrayed as fighting for Indian rights.

In an interview with the Managua daily *El Nuevo Diario*, José Díaz Chow told how he was recruited to the CIA's mercenary army along these lines. In 1981 a Moravian preacher in the northern Coast city of Puerto Cabezas convinced him to go to

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## Racist mobs force Blacks out of home in Phila.

BY CLAIRE MORIARTY

PHILADELPHIA — Charles Williams and Marietta Bloxom, a Black couple, and their seven-year-old child, were forced to move from their new home in southwest Philadelphia following weeks of vandalism and a demonstration of 400 racist whites in front of their home on November 20.

The house had been shot with BB guns, and most of the ground floor windows were broken by bottles.

The next day, November 21, 200 racists showed up at the home of Carol and Gerald Fox, chanting "Move, nigger" and "We want them out. We want them out." Gerald Fox is Black and Carol Fox is white. The Foxes' home had been vandalized: all the heating pipes and the boiler were broken and their furniture and kitchen cabinets chopped up with an ax.

They say they plan to stay in their house. Both houses were purchased from the Veterans Administration.

"It is imperative that I affirm that persons have the right to live in any home they can afford, in any neighborhood of their choice. I intend to ensure that this right is upheld," said Philadelphia's Mayor Wilson Goode.

"It is time for the city to assume control of the streets in that neighborhood," he said, as he declared a state of emergency in the southwest Philadelphia area where white racist mobs laid siege to the homes.

The state of emergency prohibits gatherings of more than four people in this 95 percent white area of southwest Philadelphia.

NAACP President and State Representative Al Deal said, "We have made up our minds there will be no more forcing Black families out of that area. This is a disgrace that in 1985 people can't live where they want to."

Fifty supporters of the right of these families to live in this section of Philadelphia gathered at Clark Park in southwest Philadelphia to march to the police head-

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## S. Africa police step up killings as protests grow



Black youths protest apartheid in KwaThema township in July. Despite massive killings by police and news censorship, tens of thousands still march against white minority rule.

BY FRED FELDMAN

The apartheid system took at least 42 more Black lives in the week leading up to November 24.

Thirteen people were reported killed November 21 when police opened fire on a march of about 50,000 people, mostly women, in the township of Mamelodi outside the capital city of Pretoria.

Residents of the township had refused to go to work that day. They staged the march to protest a new restriction barring funerals on weekends, the occupation of the township by troops, and increases in rent and utility costs.

In the Transvaal province, at least four Blacks were killed November 19 as cops gunned down protesters in the town of Leandra. At least three of the dead were teenagers.

Blacks in Leandra were protesting the

government's attempt to evict 20 residents and force them to live in the KwaNdebele Bantustan.

The Bantustans are desolate, overcrowded reservations set aside for Africans. Millions of Blacks are compelled to live in them when they are not employed by a white boss in the 87 percent of South Africa reserved by law for the white minority.

Millions of Blacks have been forcibly evicted from their homes and transported to Bantustans.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) scored a victory October 31 when an industrial court ordered the reinstatement of miners fired by Marievale Consolidated Mines. They were fired for participating in the miners' strike in September. The strike was called off by the NUM in the face of repression by the employers and government.

Black workers scored another gain November 25. A Supreme Court justice ruled that three student nurses at Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto were unlawfully dismissed for striking. The judge said the strike was illegal, but that the government had failed to hold hearings on each employee.

Following the court ruling, a lawyer for the striking employees demanded that all 1,700 fired workers be reinstated immediately, threatening further court action. The hospital authorities gave in.

The hospital workers make as little as \$36 per month and are considered temporary employees, even though some have worked there 20 years. The regime arrested 718 strikers November 14.

The apartheid regime withdrew troops from the Port Elizabeth area in the Eastern Cape November 21. A number of Black community leaders have also been released from prison. These were major demands of Blacks who have carried out a four-month boycott of white businesses in that area. Leaders of the boycott have reportedly suspended it for two weeks.

The growing pressure that the government is under is indicated by the spread of rumors that Nelson Mandela, who has been in prison since 1962 for leading the fight against apartheid, will soon be released. The great majority of South African Blacks

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## Protest acquittal of cops in racist killing of N.Y. youth

Six white cops involved in the death of 25-year-old Black artist Michael Stewart were freed by an all-white jury November 24.

Although scores of witnesses testified that on Sept. 15, 1983, they saw cops brutally beat Stewart, who died after 13 days in a coma, the jury acquitted them of all charges.

This verdict is a prime example of "justice" in this racist society.

Within hours of Stewart's death, Mayor Edward Koch and key city officials, including the chief medical examiner and the

consulting with the mayor, Chief Medical Examiner Elliot Gross claimed that Stewart had died of spontaneous cardiac arrest — a heart attack. Later he changed his report to cardiac arrest induced by a spinal injury.

• A grand jury's indictment of the cops on manslaughter charges was overturned by a judge who claimed that the inquiry had been "tainted" by one juror's independent investigation of the case. The independent probe had produced the indictment.

• A second grand jury, convened a year and a half later, indicted the cops on the lesser charges of criminally negligent homicide, assault, and perjury.

The case went to trial in July of this year. The trial was marked by the district attorney's obvious reluctance to prosecute the cops.

The Stewart family's lawyer, Louis Clayton Jones, characterized the trial as a "farce. And all the players," he said, "happened to be white. The six defendants, the six defense lawyers, the two prosecutors, the 12 jurors, the judge, and even every court officer in the well of the courtroom

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## EDITORIAL

Manhattan district attorney, joined forces first to cover up for the cops and then, when that failed, to get them off.

It was only the three-year fight by the Stewart family and other Black rights activists that forced a trial of the cops at all.

The facts of the cover-up are clear:

• Hours after Stewart's death, and after



# UTU members in Bay Area rail yard read 'Militant'

BY GEORGES SAYAD

OAKLAND, Calif. — Interest in the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at Bay Area plant gates has increased in recent weeks.

Much of the interest has come from workers wanting information

cut the work force by another third. He claimed that "many of the labor agreements that are keeping our costs high and making us uncompetitive are the result of collective bargaining agreements. They were right for the time, but

took place at the AFL-CIO convention and the role of labor in fighting against U.S. government support to apartheid in South Africa.

A socialist who works in the yard has seen the paper in various shanties. It is definitely getting passed around. Two subscriptions have also been sold in the yard, one to a hostler who has been involved in the Free South Africa Movement and another to a switchman.

Another team makes it regularly to the New United Motors (NUMMI) plant about 25 miles from here. This former General Motors plant has recently reopened as a joint venture between GM and Toyota. It is known for having introduced experimental work rules.

One member of the sales team worked in the plant for 30 years before retiring, and he is still remembered by a number of people who used to work there when the plant was owned exclusively by

GM. Many workers stop to talk to him each week, and some buy a paper.

NUMMI is putting on a second shift with hundreds of new workers and we are introducing the *Militant* to them. Some stop out of curiosity and talk to us, but most are still hesitant about buying a copy. "I'll catch you next week" is a common response.

The team that goes to NUMMI sells about three papers each week.

Other teams sell regularly at two refineries organized by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union. We have been selling at the Chevron refinery gates for several years. Generally, about two copies a week are sold. Recently a sale was added at TOSCO refinery, which is 40 minutes from Oakland.

More than once, workers going into the TOSCO plant have said, "I really support you guys" or "I like this paper, but nobody else here would be interested." They

have been surprised to find out that their coworkers are buying the paper and are also interested in its coverage of South Africa, Nicaragua, and the struggles unions are involved in here.

We recently began sales at Judson Steel, which is organized by the United Steelworkers of America. The first time, we sold 10 papers to the predominantly Black work force. Since the initial burst, sales have averaged two or three copies a week. The biggest point of interest has been coverage of the struggle against apartheid.

A total of 16 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* have been sold by supporters of the socialist press on the job during the current sales and subscription drive. In addition to the two sold to rail workers mentioned earlier, 10 have been sold in a plant organized by the International Association of Machinists and four in garment shops organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

## SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

on the freedom struggle in South Africa or developments in building the anti-apartheid movement in this country. But there is also interest in other topics in the paper.

One of our most successful sales is at the Southern Pacific rail yard.

In the last few months, hundreds of workers have been laid off. A Southern Pacific executive was recently quoted in local papers as saying the railroad plans to

conditions have changed radically."

The severe attacks on the work force have led to a mixture of anger and demoralization. Many workers stop each week and talk to us about the layoffs and what, if anything, can be done about them. Workers buy three to four papers each time we sell there.

At a recent sale, there was a lot of interest in the coverage of the debate on Central America that

# Indians in Minnesota protest Senate land-theft bill

BY ELLIE GARCÍA

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A hundred demonstrators rallied outside of U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz's office here to protest the "White Earth Settlement Bill," sponsored by him.

The November 7 demonstration called by Anishinabe Akeeng coincided with a Washington hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, which approved the legislation. Anishinabe Akeeng (The People's Land) is a coalition of heirs and allottees to the White Earth Anishinabe nation.

The pending measure, Senate Bill 1396, would ratify the government theft of 773,292 acres of land belonging to the Anishinabe nation of White Earth. The stealing of the land, some 94 percent of the total, began with an 1867 treaty establishing the White Earth Reservation.

Its counterpart, HR 2678, is pending in the House of Representatives.

In addition to giving the Anishinabe a token 10,000 acres, the congressional bill would allocate \$10.4 million for individuals who can satisfactorily prove they are heirs to the original allottees.

If passed, the Senate bill could be used as a model for some 40 Western reservations which have similar land-title problems.

This legislation will probably go to the Senate floor before December since December 31 is the deadline for a complementary 1984 state law. The state's version would "settle" thousands of claims by relinquishing to Indians some 10,000 acres of illegally held county and state land.

The November 7 demonstration was

overwhelmingly Indian and included many dislocated White Earth heirs. It was chaired by Vernon Bellecourt, a leader of Anishinabe Akeeng and the American Indian Movement. He pointed out that the federal bill would further punish Indian victims and reward those who held the land illegally: "corporations, the state and federal governments, resort owners, and — unfortunately — a few farmers." He referred to farmers, who are fighting against foreclosure on their land, as the "new Indians being driven off the land."

He disclosed that Plywood Minnesota, a large Minnesota corporation that has made its fortune from timber on illegally held White Earth land, is owned by Boschwitz, who stands to gain by S. 1396.

"Boschwitz stocks his shelves with our timber," said Bellecourt.

Many organizations and individuals brought solidarity messages to the rally supporting Anishinabe Akeeng in their demand: "Our land is not for sale!"

Perhaps the most significant supporter was Bobbi Polzine, a member of Groundswell, a farmers' grassroots organization in Minnesota.

"I am a farmer. I understand your pain and frustration. The land issue is one struggle. We have to fight to keep the land for our people. We are being driven off the land the same as you. The land is not being lost, it's being stolen for a second time. At Thanksgiving time, I want all Americans to remember that they are eating food raised by American farmers on Indian land. I don't stand behind you, I stand beside you," Polzine said.

Polzine's support was significant be-

cause non-Indian farmers who hold defective titles to White Earth land have been made the scapegoats by proponents of S. 1396. Her presence and statement of solidarity cut across the wedge the bosses are trying to drive between Indians and farmers.

Other speakers included representatives from Women Against Military Madness; Honeywell Project, which is an antinuclear group; Nicaragua Solidarity Committee; Rainbow Coalition; and the Socialist Workers Party.

Individuals included Mel Reeves of Clergy and Laity Concerned and Minnesotans Against Apartheid, as well as White Earth Indians victimized by the land seizures.

After the statements, an Indian drum corps sang the national anthem of the American Indian Movement, which was

## SWP says: 'Return stolen lands'

The following statement was issued in St. Paul November 7 by the Twin Cities Socialist Workers Party.

The Socialist Workers Party strongly opposes congressional bills S. 1396 and H.R. 2678. These bills are a continuation of the long history of racist crimes against Indians.

While there are many injustices in this issue, the first injustice that must be rectified is the one inflicted on the Anishinabe.

The U.S. government must make reparations for the crimes it has committed and

dedicated to Leonard Peltier, an AIM leader framed up by the FBI.

The drum corps then led the way to Boschwitz's office where the demonstrators waited for a phone hook-up call from the senator in Washington. When Boschwitz called he arrogantly announced that the bill had been approved by the Senate Select Committee and that he would work to see it through the full Senate.

Bobbi Polzine promised Boschwitz that if White Earth is put up for sale "I will organize white farmers to dig a trench around White Earth." Polzine's supporters dug a trench across her driveway last month to prevent foreclosure of her farm.

Angry at Boschwitz's response, 28 people sat down in the hall outside of his office. They were arrested by St. Paul police as they and supporters chanted "Our land is not for sale!"

encouraged others to commit since 1867.

It must return all stolen lands to the White Earth Anishinabe.

Any injustice suffered by farmers and others is a consequence of earlier government action, and therefore they should be compensated by the government, not by committing a new injustice against the Anishinabe.

By making reparations for the land stolen from the White Earth Anishinabe since 1867, the basis will be laid to begin to deal with the genocide and other crimes committed by the U.S. government against the Indian people over the last 400 years.

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# 'New International' focuses on South Africa

BY PAT GROGAN

The fall 1985 issue of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, is just off the press.

This issue focuses on the revolutionary struggle in South Africa against the racist apartheid regime, its impact throughout southern Africa and worldwide, and the tasks of anti-apartheid fighters in the labor movement in North America and internationally.

The articles and documents published in this issue are aimed at helping anti-apartheid fighters equip themselves with the political foundations to understand the dynamics of the revolution in South Africa.

The lead article is "The Coming Revolution in South Africa," by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Barnes explains that mobilizing the most powerful and broadly based anti-apartheid movement necessitates an accurate and concrete understanding of the revolution in South Africa, its class character and leading social forces, and the vanguard role of the African National Congress (ANC).

This article is based on a report by Jack Barnes that was adopted by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party at a meeting following the SWP national convention last August.

The convention delegates had voted to give top priority to involvement in the anti-apartheid fight, along with continuing participation in actions against Washington's war drive in Central America and the Caribbean.

Socialists in cities around the country will be organizing educational programs around the lead article and other items in *New International* to better prepare them for their activity in the anti-apartheid struggle.

Two documents of the South African revolution are also printed in this issue: the 1955 "Freedom Charter" championed by the African National Congress and "The Future Belongs to the Majority," a 1984 speech by ANC President Oliver Tambo.

An article by Ernest Harsch, "Southern Africa, A Decade of Struggle," takes up the political evolution of the class struggle in southern Africa, focusing on Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and the decisive role of Cuban troops in the region. Harsch is the managing editor of the international news biweekly *Intercontinental Press*, and has written and spoken widely on Africa.

Three excerpts from speeches and interviews by Fidel Castro are collected under the title, "Cuba's Internationalist Volunteers in Angola." They explain why Cuban volunteers are committed to helping the government and people of Angola defend themselves from South African-organized attacks on their sovereignty and social progress.

Barnes' article on the South African revolution also makes an important contribution to the ongoing discussion on the revolutionary continuity of the communist movement in the fight for state power by workers and exploited farmers.

The article approaches this question from the standpoint of the national, democratic revolution unfolding against the South African apartheid regime and the struggle to replace it with a nonracial democratic republic based on the exploited toilers.

Three other items in this issue also address this ongoing debate among revolutionists.

Two of these are written by longtime leaders of the Fourth International, the world socialist organization founded in 1938. These articles appear in a new "Issues in Debate" section of the magazine. They are: "Semicolonial and Semi-Industrialized Dependent Countries," by Ernest Mandel, and "Once Again on the Workers' and Peasants' Government and the Workers' State: A Self-Criticism," by Livio Maitan.

The final item is a 1927 manuscript by Leon Trotsky, Russian revolutionary leader and founder of the Fourth International. The article — "What Were My Disagreements With Lenin on the Character of the Russian Revolution?" — is published for the first time in this issue of *New International* and includes an introduction by managing editor Steve Clark.

To order this issue, send \$5.00 plus 75 cents for postage and handling to: *New International*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.



Militant

**New International**  
A Magazine of Marxist Politics and Theory

Vol. 2, No. 2 \$5.00 Fall 1985

**The Coming Revolution in South Africa**  
by Jack Barnes

**The Future Belongs to the Majority**  
Speech by Oliver Tambo

**Why Cuban Volunteers Are in Angola**  
Speeches by Fidel Castro

Anti-apartheid activists will find the current issue of *New International* invaluable for understanding dynamics of revolution in South Africa.

## Sales campaign — solid accomplishment

BY HARRY RING

We didn't quite meet the goals we set for ourselves, but we can say that our fall circulation campaign was a solid achievement.

The aim of the 10-week drive was to sell 40,000 single copies of the *Militant* and our Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*. In addition, we projected selling 2,000 subscriptions to both publications. Branches of the Socialist Workers Party, and Young Socialist Alliance chapters, provided the troops for the drive, which concluded November 24.

We succeeded in selling 39,429 copies of the two publications — 99 percent of the goal. On subscriptions, we didn't come as close to the mark. We sold 1,765 subscriptions — 88 percent of the goal.

With but a few exceptions, all areas did quite well in the drive, and several did an outstanding job.

Of the 39 SWP branches, 13 met or exceeded their chosen goals on both single sales and subscriptions. An additional eight went over the top on single sales, and four met or exceeded their subscription goals.

(For several areas, the numbers would have looked even more impressive, but seeing how well they were doing, they had increased their original quotas.)

Some of those who wound up in the "we did it" ranks had to make a determined final effort to get there.

Denver, for example, went from 81 percent to 100 percent on single sales in the final week, while Baltimore came up from 85 percent and Chicago from 87 percent.

During the last week, Chicago sold 270 individual copies and 25 subscriptions. A good chunk of these subs were sold by simply walking into the student lounges at local campuses. Additional subscriptions were obtained by telephone solicitation of people on the Militant Forum mailing list. And several more coworkers were added to the ranks of the city's subscribers.

Albany, a small branch, didn't quite make its quota, but not for lack of trying, and not without good results. In the final week, they sold 99 single copies and 13 subscriptions, mainly through door-to-door selling in several housing projects.

Washington, D.C., wrapped up the drive by selling 100 single copies and 15 more subscriptions (12 *Militant*, 3 *PM*). Eight of these were sold on the job by a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union who came off probation just in time to do so.

You've probably read about the maverick Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Santa Cruz, California, which the national organization tried unsuccessfully to expel for its opposition to the U.S. war drive in Central America.

This week, Rick Trujillo, a Vietnam veteran, member of the post, and San Jose SWP activist, sold six subscriptions at the post.

We cite these various accomplishments

because we think they confirm — as does the entire circulation campaign — that times are changing for the better.

This is further indicated by taking a brief look at a similar circulation campaign we conducted last spring. It was apparent then that receptivity to socialist ideas was already on the rise. The swiftly spreading movement in opposition to South African apartheid was clearly having a significant impact among workers and students and, as is always the case, increased activity generates increased thinking.

We did reasonably well in that drive. But we sold 10,000 more single copies this fall than we did last spring and 288 more subscriptions.

What this sales campaign also confirmed is that it still takes planned, regular activity to modestly expand the circulation of the

socialist press.

Throughout the country, the pattern was consistent. Those branches that went out most regularly got the best results. And everywhere the potential areas of sales were generally the same. Among coworkers, at plant gates, in Black, Latino, and other working-class communities, at anti-apartheid and Central America demonstrations and meetings, and at union picket lines. And, to a greater degree than in the past several years, on college campuses.

There is one very important reason we can say this circulation drive was a success. Namely, that a good number of branches began to establish a pattern of greater political and organizational focus on weekly sales of the socialist press. If we now effectively build on that, it will be an important step forward.

## SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #10: Totals as of Militant issue #45, PM issue #22)

Area	SINGLE ISSUES		SUBSCRIPTIONS
	Sold this week Militant/PM	% of 10-week goal reached	Sold so far Militant/PM
Atlanta	174/0	101	44/0
Baltimore	120/4	100	55/1
Birmingham	96/0	102	30/0
Boston	51/13	76	31/15
Capital District, N.Y.	94/5	92	45/4
Charleston, W. Va.	48/0	48	22/0
Chicago	232/34	101	85/1
Cincinnati	48/0	101	24/0
Cleveland	99/10	100	13/0
Dallas	111/67	101	40/8
Denver	146/7	100	63/6
Detroit	116/11	75	69/3
Greensboro, N.C.	36/0	106	49/2
Houston	105/25	81	77/4
Kansas City	70/0	167	15/2
Los Angeles	118/20	104	78/24
Louisville	58/0	100	19/0
Miami	46/5	84	29/4
Milwaukee	34/0	82	25/4
Morgantown, W. Va.	1/0	101	9/0
New Orleans	40/2	65	39/1
New York	131/12	64	68/3
Newark	117/9	83	71/15
Oakland	99/20	105	39/12
Philadelphia	60/5	91	24/4
Phoenix	63/23	122	16/21
Pittsburgh	47/0	80	11/1
Portland	50/1	84	24/0
Price, Utah	12/0	50	7/0
Salt Lake City	52/0	100	27/3
San Diego	38/3	101	46/8
San Francisco	48/21	106	47/15
San Jose	45/30	88	51/17
Seattle	49/4	85	26/4
St. Louis	166/0	74	45/1
Tidewater, Va.	32/0	103	17/0
Toledo	77/1	102	61/3
Twin Cities	86/3	97	68/6
Washington D.C.	79/21	133	50/14
<b>Total sold this week</b>	<b>3,094/356</b>		
<b>Total sold to date</b>	<b>35,303/4,126</b>		<b>1,559/206</b>
<b>10-week goal</b>	<b>40,000</b>		<b>2,000</b>
<b>Percent of national goal reached</b>	<b>99%</b>		<b>88%</b>
<b>To be on schedule</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>100%</b>



## Baltimore's sister city in Nicaragua

BY CHARLIE ROSENBERG

BALTIMORE — More than 100 supporters of the fight against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua met at St. John's United Methodist Church here November 3. They were bidding farewell to Nan and Phil Mitchell as they prepared to leave on a journey to San Juan de Limay, Baltimore's "sister city" in Nicaragua.

The Mitchells' trip is part of a group effort to organize a series of solidarity visits by Baltimore residents to this town of 3,000, which is located about 25 miles from the Honduran border.

The Nicaraguan embassy designated San Juan de Limay as Baltimore's sister city because the farms which surround both raise cattle and grow corn and tobacco. In addition, a Catholic nun stationed in San Juan de Limay is from Baltimore — Sister Joan Petrick.

Rev. Howard Nash, the church's pastor, said in his sermon, "You are going to a nation at war, a war that your government pays for. You are going to a place that has been raped and robbed... to sow seeds of peace."

The Mitchells plan to purchase a home in San Juan de Limay which they will be using as a center to help organize the visits of Baltimore residents.

The first group of eight people from Baltimore will soon leave. They will be helping with agricultural production and sharing other skills with the people of their sister city. They will also prepare a list of material aid needs that could



Several hundred people recently marched and demonstrated in Tel Aviv, Israel, in solidarity with South African Blacks. Marchers wore black face masks to show this solidarity as they sang protest songs and marched to South African consulate.

then be gathered in the Baltimore area.

Those who are interested in contributing to or participating in the project may write to St. John's United Methodist Church, 2705 St. Paul St., Baltimore, Md. 21218 or phone (301) 235-6337.

## Majority support S. African Blacks

A Gallup Poll showed that 63

percent of the people in the United States say they support and sympathize with the Black majority of South Africa, while only 13 percent favored the racist apartheid regime.

Forty-seven percent said that they were for Washington putting more pressure on the South African government to help end apartheid while 30 percent said that the present U.S. government efforts were adequate.

## AME Zion church calls for sanctions

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church at its recent executive council meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, called for economic sanctions, boycotts, and divestment to help bring down the South African government.

The church was founded by Blacks in 1796 and played an important role in the abolitionist movement against slavery. Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman were among its members.

Today it numbers about 2 million in the United States, with followings in Nigeria, Liberia, South Africa, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad, Virgin Islands, and Britain.

## Unionists report on tour to El Salvador

BY JOHN VOTAVA

CHICAGO — The Chicago Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador sponsored a report-back meeting from five trade unionists they helped send to El Salvador. Their tour was hosted by ANDES, the Salvadoran teachers' union. About 100 people attended the reception, slide show, and presentation.

The delegation included members of the Service Employees International Union, United Food

and Commercial Workers, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

They were able to meet with trade union leaders in and out of prison as well as with representatives from the government of the United States and El Salvador during their 11-day trip.

They found that there are soldiers stationed at workplaces. Any kind of strike is considered subversive and therefore illegal, with strike leaders subject to arrest. The unionists said that the number of disappearances of activists by government security forces has increased.

## Krugerrand coin production suspended

Production of the South African Krugerrand was suspended "some time ago," said Daniel Pollnow, general manager of the plant that makes the one-ounce gold coin.

Don Mackay-Coghill explained that "the market in the U.S. had been deteriorating for some time. By the time the ban was announced [by Reagan on September 9], demand was down to a trickle." The United States was once the leading market for the coin.

Various countries have import restrictions regarding the trade of Krugerrands, including Austria, the Netherlands, Japan, and the United States. The British Commonwealth has also urged its members to ban imports of the coin.

# AFL-CIO calls for union action against apartheid

The international affairs resolution adopted at the October AFL-CIO national convention contains an important section on South Africa, which is reprinted below. Anti-apartheid fighters in the unions will find it useful to read and circulate this as part of building labor support for anti-apartheid actions.

The AFL-CIO resolution calls for immediate action by union members to help obtain signatures on the freedom letter to Bishop Desmond Tutu as part of the fight against apartheid.

Apartheid is a moral affront to civilized humanity. But despite the condemnations of an outraged world opinion, the South African government continues to resist the demands of its black citizens for an end to institutionalized racism and for full and equal participation in the political life of the nation.

Not content to confine its repression within its own borders, South Africa has announced its intention of establishing an internal administration in Namibia in contravention of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435. The AFL-CIO has condemned this action as a provocative move aimed at perpetuating South Africa's illegal control over Namibia.

The AFL-CIO calls on its own government and that of other industrial democracies to ban new investment in South Africa; end all investment guarantees, export credits, and trade promotion with South Africa; stop new IMF [International Monetary Fund] and other bank loans; halt the sale of Krugerrands and the purchase of South African coal; punish violators of the U.N. oil embargo against South Africa; embargo the sale of arms to South Africa; compel disinvestment by multinational companies in the energy and high-technology sectors; and force disinvestment by all multinational companies that have been identified by the independent black trade union movement as being in violation of internationally accepted labor standards.

The AFL-CIO totally rejects the Reagan Administration policy of so-called "constructive engagement" — a policy discredited by its own obvious failure as the vio-

lence and civil chaos escalate in South Africa. Reagan's imposition of very modest sanctions — while too little and too late — amounts to an acknowledgement of the failure of "constructive engagement."

The AFL-CIO reaffirms the position expressed in a recent letter from President [Lane] Kirkland to President Reagan, reflecting the views of the leading trade union movements in countries which have the heaviest investment in South Africa and demanding the following basic changes as "the only reasonable basis for hope for stable democratic development leading to the achievement of one-person, one-vote and to the unrestricted practice of trade union and other basic human rights:

1. the unconditional release of all trade union and political prisoners;
2. the abandonment of the odious internal security legislation under which

people are detained, and often tortured, for indefinite periods without trial or even charge;

"3. the abandonment of influx control provisions;

"4. the opening of a dialogue between the regime and freely chosen representatives of black people about extension of basic democratic rights to all on a basis of full equality."

The AFL-CIO supports the non-violent fight against apartheid organized by Bishop Desmond Tutu and urges members of organized labor to sign the freedom letter to Bishop Tutu to let him and our black brother and sister trade unionists in South Africa know that Jerry Falwell does not speak for America. The AFL-CIO requests all affiliates to endorse the Freedom Letter Campaign and to reproduce the freedom letter petition and distribute it to their loc-

als and councils in support of this campaign.

It is not enough to bring external pressure to bear on the South African government. Change must come from within. But such change will not come unless the democratic forces within South Africa — preeminently the black trade union movement — are able to organize and effectively represent the will of the majority.

The AFL-CIO is encouraged by the emergence in recent years of the black trade union movement in South Africa and believes it offers the most promising hope for peaceful social change. The AFL-CIO will continue to respond to those unions' requests for assistance through its Program of Action in Support of Black Trade Unions in South Africa and through the ongoing programs of the African-American Labor Center.

## Central American unionists speak in D.C.

BY FRED STANTON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The East Coast tour of four Central American trade union leaders wound up here November 16 with a rally at the national headquarters of the International Association of Machinists. About 200 participated.

Paul Pinsky, president of the National Education Association in Prince George's County, Maryland, chaired the meeting.

Bernard Demczyk, national political representative of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), greeted the rally on behalf of AFGE President Kenneth Blaylock.

"Trade unionists and working people in D.C. would benefit if the government stopped using our money to back the South African government, the Salvadoran government, and the *contras* [counterrevolutionaries] in Nicaragua and used it here for the things we need," Demczyk said.

Sylvia Hill spoke next, representing the Free South Africa Movement.

"The people of South Africa are fighting the same imperialist forces as the people of

Central America, struggling for self-determination. On November 27 we are celebrating the anniversary of the picketing of the South African embassy, which has been a daily expression of the solidarity of all our struggles."

The North American representative of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers Unions (FENASTRAS), Francisco Acosta, spoke. He thanked the U.S. unionists who attended the recent FENASTRAS convention in El Salvador. The presence of these unionists made it possible for that convention to happen without arrests or other government disruption.

The main speaker at the rally was Denis Meléndez, secretary for international relations of the Sandinista Workers Federation of Nicaragua.

"I came to the United States to learn," he said. "We can learn the ABC's of trade union struggle from the history of your movement."

"We've learned on this tour the reality of U.S. cities," the Nicaraguan unionist continued. "We've seen factories, neighbor-

hoods, and churches. The bombed neighborhood in Philadelphia reminded us of what Somoza did, and what Duarte is doing. We don't know who taught who, but they came out of the same school.

"We saw factories closed here that are now in El Salvador and Guatemala, where they pay workers \$3 a day with no education, no health care."

And because "we struggle for our interests, for better conditions, for jobs, they say we're communists," Meléndez continued.

"South Africa should be given priority attention," Meléndez stressed. "The problems of Blacks in South Africa, the United States, and the Caribbean have a single historical origin. We fully identify with the struggle in South Africa."

Other speakers included Miguel Cifuentes, international representative of the National Committee for Trade Union Unity of Guatemala; Mary Harding, cochair of the Washington Area Labor Committee; and Fred Soloway, a local tour organizer.



# Midwest conference: 'Free South Africa!'

BY OMARI MUSA

CHICAGO — More than 300 students and other anti-apartheid activists met at the University of Chicago November 16-17. They assessed campus struggles for divestment and the movement to end U.S. government support for the racist South African regime. They also mapped out future activities.

The conference was sponsored by more than 20 campus anti-apartheid groups throughout the Midwest. Participants came from as far away as New York and Kansas.

Sahotra Sarkar opened the conference on behalf of the organizing committee. Sarkar is also a leader of the Third World Political Forum and the Action Committee for a Free South Africa at the University of Chicago.

"During the last two years, under the inspiration of the African National Congress [ANC], and largely through the organizing efforts of the United Democratic Front, the people of South Africa have taken the struggle against apartheid to unprecedented heights," he said.

Pointing to the upsurge by the increasingly powerful Black trade unions, Sarkar noted that several unions are in the process of unifying into a single federation.

"Today the Black labor movement... steps to the forefront and takes its rightful position as leader of the people's movement," he said.

## U.S. gov't, corporations back apartheid

Sarkar noted that behind the racist South African regime stood the U.S. government and corporations. "U.S. companies provide invaluable service to the apartheid economy," he said. "American companies have provided the computers that monitor the hated pass laws. American companies have produced the armored vehicles of the South African police and military. American companies continue to provide oil to the apartheid regime. And the U.S. government gives full support to apartheid."

Sarkar also pointed out that Washington is going on the offensive in southern Africa by moving to grant aid to UNITA, the South African-coloured band of counter-revolutionaries attempting to bring down the government of Angola.

Finally, Sarkar said, the program of the South African revolution "was laid down by the people of South Africa themselves, who, at the Congress of the People in June 1955, adopted the Freedom Charter of South Africa."

The congress was attended by 2,888 delegates, including representatives of the ANC, the South African Indian Congress, the South African Coloured Peoples' Organization, and the Congress of Democrats, made up of white supporters of the liberation struggle.

Reviewing this program, Sarkar said, "The Freedom Charter has served as a source of inspiration for millions of South Africans over the last 30 years."

The conference included four major

## Racist discrimination shortens life span of Blacks in U.S.

Life expectancy for Blacks is 5.6 years lower than for whites, according to a report by the National Center for Health Statistics. Based on preliminary figures for 1984, the report says Blacks can expect to live 69.7 years and whites 75.3 years. The lowest life expectancy is for Black males, at 65.5 years.

The report also states that, based on 1980 census figures, Washington, D.C., the capital city of the richest country in the world, has a lower life expectancy than any state in the country. This corresponds to the fact that Washington, D.C., is over 70 percent Black.

There is no mystery about higher death and infant-mortality rates for Blacks. The center's report correctly blames it on discriminatory lower wages, resulting in poorer diets, no health insurance, and little means to pay for health care for Blacks and other minorities.

What these facts reveal is that the struggle for pay equity and comparable worth through affirmative action is literally a life-and-death question for oppressed nationalities.

panels: Repression, Resistance and Revolution; the U.S. and Southern Africa: Racism as a Tool of Domestic and Foreign Policy; Liberation: Intersection of Gender, Race, and Class; and the State of the Student Movement. There were also more than 20 workshops.

## Cuba defends Angola

The first panel featured Thabi Ndaba speaking for the ANC and Lucie Hamutenya of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the group leading the struggle of the Namibian people for independence from South African colonialism.

Hamutenya noted that her country is occupied by thousands of armed South African soldiers, who are there for two reasons. "The first is to put a stop to the now 25-year struggle of the Namibian people for independence. And the second is to try to overthrow the government of Angola." Namibia shares a long border with Angola to the north.

She took up one of the main propaganda ploys of the South African racists and their U.S. backers: the attempt to make the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia contingent on Cuban internationalist fighters leaving Angola.

"The South African government," Hamutenya explained, "has illegally occupied my country, and now they want to decide that Angola cannot call on Cuba to help defend herself from South Africa's aggression."

Ndaba expressed solidarity with SWAPO, saying, "The people of Namibia are being held hostage by South Africa's racist government with the support of the United States. We in the ANC wholeheartedly support our sisters and brothers fighting for freedom in Namibia — they shall win."

Turning to the Reagan administration's support for apartheid, Ndaba said, "Reagan is making a big deal of the emergency measures in Nicaragua, but he remains silent on the state of emergency in South Africa. The Nicaraguan people are fighting a war against U.S.-armed and -supported mercenaries, but the racist regime in Pretoria is waging war against the great majority of people in South Africa, who simply want to be free and enjoy full human, civil, economic, and political rights. In both cases," she continued, "the Reagan administration is on the side of the *contras* [counterrevolutionaries] — in Nicaragua and South Africa."

One of the liveliest discussions at the conference took place during the panel entitled "U.S. and Southern Africa: Racism as an Instrument of Foreign and Domestic Policy."

## ANC leading the struggle

The panelists were Prexy Nesbitt, a leader of the Coalition for Illinois Divestment from South Africa and organizer for United Auto Workers District 65 in Chicago, and Conrad Worrill, president of the National Black United Front (NBUF) and an instructor at the Center for Inner City Studies, Northeastern University.

Both Worrill and Nesbitt agreed that the struggle in South Africa is aimed at the overthrow of apartheid. The U.S. government is upping the ante by preparing to give aid to UNITA, they said. A debate erupted, however, over the leadership of the struggle in South Africa.

Worrill argued that "we don't have the right to determine who is the leading force in the liberation struggle." This remark was directed against the majority of the conference participants, who supported the ANC. Worrill, who says he supports "all the legitimate liberation groups," backs the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC). NBUF has recently sponsored a national tour for representatives of PAC. The PAC is an organization with few politically active supporters inside South Africa. It does not support the Freedom Charter.

In response, Nesbitt told participants, "Take out your flashlights and shine them on what is really going on in South Africa. If you look at what happens at the funerals for fallen martyrs — whose flag is draped on the coffins — it is that of the ANC," he said. "Who is organizing the armed struggle against the racists? It is the ANC. On the ground in South Africa, it is clear to all that it is the ANC that is leading the politi-



Anti-apartheid protest in Houston last October. Students at recent regional conference in Chicago mapped out plans for continuing this kind of action.

cal struggle against repression, in the struggle to organize the workers into trade unions," he said.

"Everybody knows who is leading the liberation struggle. Reagan knows; [South African President P.W.] Botha knows; and most important of all, the people of South Africa know. It is the ANC."

In conclusion, Nesbitt said, "it would be incorrect for us to choose which liberation group is leading the struggle in South Africa. But the people in South Africa have already chosen their leading organization, and, from all I have been able to see, it is the ANC."

## 'Fight apartheid and racism in U.S.'

Both speakers agreed that the U.S. government's backing for the racists in South Africa has given the green light to right-wing, racist groups in this country to mobilize. They cited the example of Jerry Falwell.

"There is no way we can fight against apartheid and not deal with racism in the United States," Nesbitt said. "We need to learn to work together as Black and white to deal blows to apartheid and racism in the United States."

While many participants were students active in campus divestment struggles, they recognized that the U.S. trade union movement has also gone into action against apartheid.

The resolution from the workshop on the anti-apartheid movement read in part: "Students should recognize that they are part of a broader anti-apartheid movement which includes unions, churches, and community groups. Therefore, students should actively forge links with non-student groups and support their activities."

## Unions in anti-apartheid fight

Nomonde Ngubo, an international representative of the United Mineworkers of America (UMWA) and former member of the National Union of Miners (NUM) in South Africa, brought this point home in her remarks. The UMWA sees the struggle against the South African government and U.S. corporations' support to it as its fight, she said.

## Socialist literature popular among activists

CHICAGO — The socialist literature table did brisk business at the Midwest student conference. Over \$150 worth of books and pamphlets were sold.

Among the best sellers were: *This Is Apartheid*, as well as *I Am Prepared to Die* and *The Struggle Is My Life*, both by Nelson Mandela. He is the leader of the ANC who has been imprisoned by the South African regime for 22 years.

Literature by and about Malcolm X also sold well.

Supporters of the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party also sold 56 copies of the *Militant* and 10 copies of the *Young Socialist*, the YSA's monthly newspaper. Twelve conference participants bought subscriptions to the *Militant*.

"The UMWA is currently engaged in a more than year-old strike against A.T. Massey in Kentucky. A.T. Massey is jointly owned by Dutch Shell and the Fluor Corporation, both of which do massive business in South Africa. It is a fight for survival here and in South Africa," Ngubo said.

"My job is to explain to U.S. workers that the fight against apartheid and for democracy is their struggle as well."

"Workers in the United States," she continued, "are fighting for their immediate self-interest when they oppose apartheid."

## Women in struggle

The role of women in the struggle was a feature part of the panel on liberation.

ANC supporter Ndaba pointed to the important role women are playing in the struggle. "We led in the struggle against the pass laws," she said. "Sisters have exhibited the courage to take on the apartheid regime at every turn. Look at Albertina Sisulu. Look at Winnie Mandela. And look, my friends, at Mamie Moloise, mother of Benjamin Moloise. After her son was hung by the racists last month, she called on ANC President Oliver Tambo to lead us out of the bush against apartheid."

The panel that assessed the student anti-apartheid movement included leading activists from campuses in Michigan, Illinois, California, and New York.

The major resolutions approved at the plenary session included a call to organize material aid to SWAPO and the ANC; opposition to Washington's funding of UNITA; support to activities planned for November 27 — the first anniversary of demonstrations at the South African embassy in Washington, D.C. — and January 15, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday; and the Freedom Letter campaign denouncing Jerry Falwell.

Conference participants also voted to support the national weeks of anti-apartheid actions March 21-April 6.

The Black student caucus at the conference called for organizing regional Black student conferences against apartheid this winter and spring.

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# Metal workers at Nicaragua plant join nat'l campaign to build militia reserves

BY BILL GRETTER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — René Gutiérrez was first in line to sign up for Reserve Military Service when registration opened here at IMEP, the People's Metal-lurgical Co. In fact, the plant's 29-year-old director of buildings and grounds was too early.

"We need the reserves," he told me while waiting. "We have to be able to defend ourselves. Otherwise, we could end up with a situation like we had before, under the dictatorship. That was horrible."

"How old are you?" I asked one of the other workers in line.

"Forty-five," he answered.

"And are you going to register?"

"I certainly am!"

"Aren't you over the age limit?" I asked. "Will they let you sign up?"

"They have to," he said with conviction.

"I'm Nicaraguan, right? They have to let me register. It's like the struggle to free ourselves from the Somoza dictatorship. We need the participation of everyone."

He has three young children in Nicaragua and two older daughters in Miami. "They want me to come to the States," he said, shaking his head. "No. Absolutely not. I'm not leaving."

Several years ago, Nicaragua's legislature established the Patriotic Military Service (SMP). As a first step, young men from 17 to 24 years old were required to sign up and serve in the army for two years if selected.

The army was thus fortified with a large, well-trained professional force. These young men of the SMP are credited with giving Nicaragua the initiative in the war against the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary invaders.

Soon, after two years in the mountains, the first wave of "Sandino's cubs" will be released from active service. They will then become the basis of the Reserve Military Service (SMR), training those now being recruited.

Among the first in line to sign up was 37-year-old Ana Julia Vásquez. Three years ago she fought in the mountains of northern Nicaragua in the all-woman Martyrs of Batahola Battalion. The battalion has since been disbanded, and women have been integrated into the regular army with men.

She was determined to enroll in the SMR. "I already participate in the militia unit in my neighborhood," she explained.

"Won't you have to choose one or the other?" I asked. "You can't do both, can you?"

But she was adamant. "Sure, I can do both," she insisted. "The SMR will only be mobilized 15 days every six months for training. There's no reason I can't do that and be in the militia, too, the rest of the time."

There are now 12 women working in production in the plant. "We've been here since the revolution," she said. "Before the revolution — never."

Most of the women are assemblers or helpers. Only one is trained as a welder, but there are plenty of willing apprentices: both Ana Julia and her 18-year-old daughter want to learn.

## Union leaders sign up

A man in a faded, orange IMEP uniform was standing at the table to register. A young man was seated at the table filling out the forms.

"Your full name?" asked the young man at the table.

"Eligio Eloy Chávez Humaña," the older man answered.

"Where do you live?"

"Sandino City."

"Occupation?"

"Welder."

"Family?"

"Married. With eight kids."

"Armed mobilizations you've participated in?"

"About eight or nine, I think, varying from one month to more than a year."

"Other mobilizations?"

"Five. I pick coffee or cotton every year."

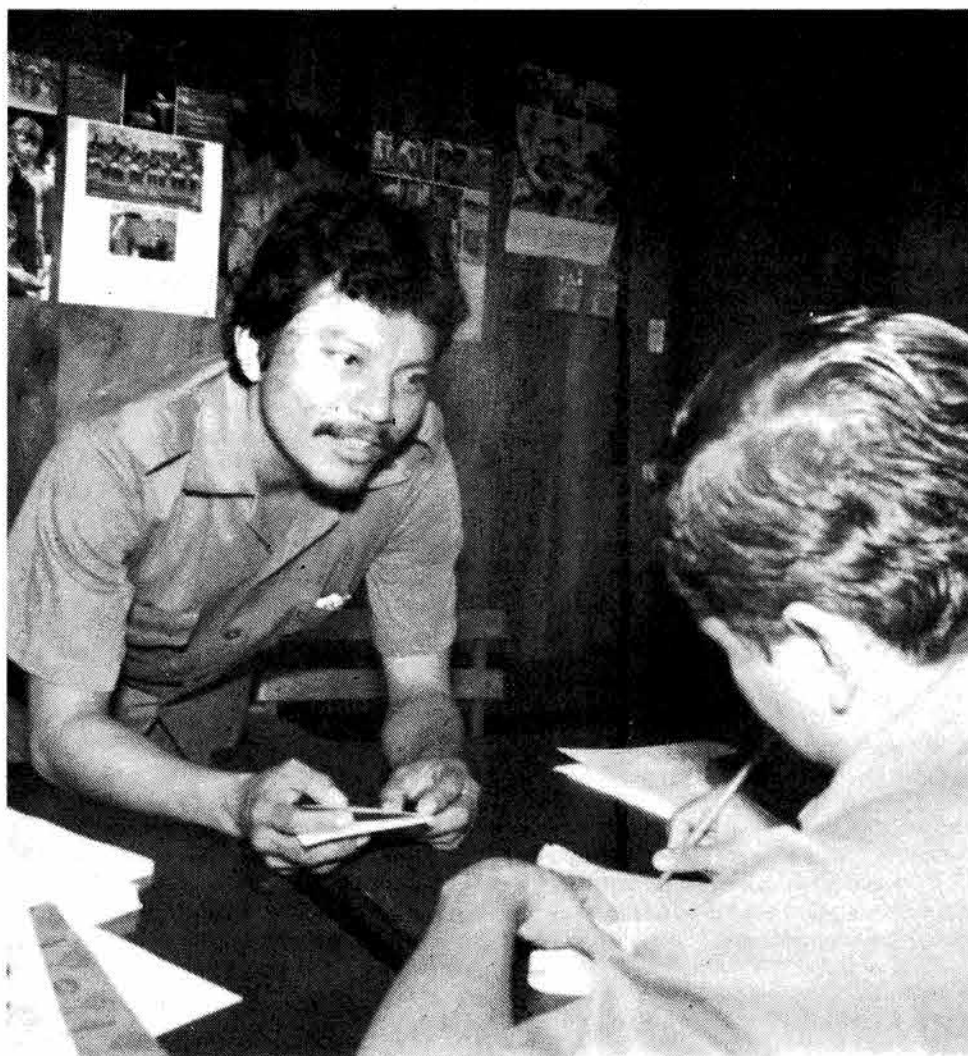
"Political affiliation?"

"I'm general secretary of the union here."

The young man reading the questions was Julio Valladares, the manager of this nationalized company. He and Eligio Chávez, the head of the union, are members of the recruitment committee at the plant. They were taking advantage of a slow moment to sign each other up.

## The SMP — another step forward

"We've got six years of experience with this revolutionary process," said Vidal Cruz. "And people are pretty conscious about the war; they know that the more we prepare, the less we suffer." He himself spent two years at the front.



Militant/Bill Greter

Jorge Luis Barrio (left), leader of Sandinista youth organization, signs up for militia reserves at metal-working plant in Managua. Nicaraguan workers like him are joining reserves to defend country against attack by U.S.-backed mercenary armies.

He is a welder, a small man with curly hair and an easy smile. "I was born down south in Chontales. They cut the cord," he said, gesturing to explain this to me, "and brought me up to Managua. I grew up here."

He explained that the Reserve Military Service is part of the original law that established the SMP. "We weren't in a position to do it all at once. Now we have the possibility to expand with the reserves. We're taking advantage of that."

"Surely and steadily," he said, grinning, "we're moving forward."

"I wouldn't say that the United States is against us," said Juan Mejía, the union's organizational secretary. "Demonstrations in the United States show us that people there support Nicaragua."

"But Reagan is dead set against us. That's for sure. I guess it's because he's used to seeing this as his backyard. He's used to exploiting our country."

Mejía was dressed for welding: faded work clothes, leather vest, and some kind of helmet covering his hair and ears. "Very elegant," his coworkers laughed when he posed for a photograph.

He is an officer in Reserve Battalion #20-05. "Many people here participate in the reserves as volunteers," he explained. "Many of them fought in the mountains

when their brigades were mobilized, back before the SMP was set up two years ago.

"But they won't be sent to the mountains now. They'll be used to strengthen the reserves, to be prepared to defend the cities."

"I don't have any military training yet," 38-year-old Pedro Chavarría told me. "I think it's about time I get some."

"Do you think you'll be selected for the reserves?" I asked.

"Of course. Everybody will be assigned to a unit for training."

"Are you sure? I thought everyone would sign up, but only about half would be assigned to the reserves now. And if they start with the most experienced ones, they won't pick you."

"Oh, no; everybody will get training."

"And if you don't?"

He shrugged, then laughed. "If there's an invasion and I don't have any training," he said calmly, "I'll just have to go the way I am."

## The challenge of reconstruction

Opponents of the revolution here are hinting that young professionals — with badly needed skills — will leave the country rather than sign up for the SMR. Thirty-year-old Luís Correa from IMEP's design department doesn't think so.

"Those people already left," he told me. "They have the mentality of the past. They're only interested in money."

For him, the challenge of rebuilding his country is clearly more important. "In the past we were always dependent," he explained. "Now at least we don't rely so much on foreign technology. We design steel buildings and other structures. And we make some simple farm machinery: windmills, pumps, grinders for corn, machines to take the pulp off coffee beans."

"We import the steel, of course, and ball bearings and electric motors. But that's about all. We make the rest of the parts here," he said proudly.

For now, only the men who work in the major factories and offices in Managua are required to sign up for the SMR. "Why is it organized this way?" I asked Camilo Murillo, one of the Sandinista National Liberation Front members in the plant.

Partly, he explained, it's just more convenient organizationally. Most of the men who are eligible for the SMR are concentrated in the factories. And it's easier to organize them through their workplaces.

"But there's also a military and a political explanation," he added. "These factories are very important to us. And they're military targets. This is what the reserve units are going to defend."

"For us it's logical to organize defense through the factories. After all, the workers are the foundation of this revolution."

## 'IP' prints speech of Salvadoran unionist

The upcoming issue of *Intercontinental Press*, dated December 16, will publish a speech by Salvadoran trade union leader Héctor Recinos to the November 7-9 convention of the union federation FENASTRAS.

Recinos had been imprisoned by the Salvadoran regime from 1980 to late 1984. His release was won by a protest campaign backed by unionists around the world.

The fact that he was able to return to El Salvador and speak before an open union convention is a sign of the growing strength of the Salvadoran workers' movement in defiance of the government of President Duarte.

Recinos emphasized in this speech that the war policy of Duarte and Reagan is the source of all other problems facing Salvadoran workers and peasants. "FENASTRAS feels," he said, "that only a popular and democratic government would be a real alternative to the present Christian Democratic government."

The current, December 2, issue of *IP* contains an article by editor Doug Jenness on the political degeneration of the Workers Revolutionary Party in Britain. The WRP, which had been one of the main organizations in that country claiming adherence to Trotskyism, recently experienced a deep split in its central leadership.

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# 'We have guns to defend land we got through revolution'

## Report on Nicaraguan cooperative

BY ANDY ROSE

Thousands of small farmers in Nicaragua live scattered throughout the mountains. This has hindered the Sandinista government's ability to provide them with social services and to defend them from the terrorism of the U.S.-backed mercenaries, called *contras*.

To begin to alleviate this problem, the Sandinistas have brought some of these farmers together on land confiscated from supporters of the former dictator Anastasio Somoza.

During a tour of Nicaragua in July, 17 U.S. and Canadian workers visited a cooperative of 150 people, which is part of this program, at Santa Rosa, near the Honduran border.

Arriving at Santa Rosa, we drove into the farm through fields of corn, beans, and hemp. Gloria Jiménez, a young nurse who conducts health-care programs and political education at the camp, showed us around. She introduced us to the co-op members and encouraged us to walk around and talk to them.

After each harvest, the co-op decides how much to keep for its own needs, then sells the rest to a government agency. Like all Nicaraguan farmers, co-op members are guaranteed a price that will cover their production costs and provide a decent living.

Besides basic grains, the farm also has citrus groves. The cooperative sells lemons and oranges to raise additional cash for supplies it needs.

Except for dairy products, the cooperative is self-sufficient in food. The farmers are negotiating a loan to expand their dairy herd so they will be able to produce all their own food.

New housing is under construction at Santa Rosa. The government provided materials and construction brigades, who got the buildings started and trained the farmers so they could finish the job.

These new homes have only three rooms, with dirt floors and no running water, electricity, or sanitary facilities. But they are a big step forward for co-op members — the best housing they've ever lived in.

The child nutrition center is the pride of the settlement and the most modern building there. Besides providing balanced meals for the 70 children in the camp, it serves as a place for all types of classes and meetings.

Paper cutouts done by the children hung from the ceiling. Signs advised: "Cleanliness is health" and "Wash hands before eating."

And alongside these were other signs, such as: "We will not permit anybody to

obstruct the future of the children of Nicaragua" and a famous saying by Nicaraguan hero Augusto César Sandino, "So long as Nicaragua has children who love her, she will be free."

**'This belongs to us now'**

We were curious whether these farmers had hesitations or problems changing from individually owned plots to this advanced type of cooperative, where the fields are owned and worked collectively. So we asked if they would prefer to return to farming on their own once the danger from the *contras* is over. Everyone we talked with said they preferred the cooperative farm.

"No, we don't plan to go back. We plan to stay and work here," said one 65-year-old campesino. "This belongs to us now, and we want to stay here."

"We want to thank you for coming here," he said. "Although we live alone, we are not alone because you are with us. We Nicaraguans won't give up. We'd rather die than be on our knees. Like Sandino said, we won't surrender until death."

## Toronto forum marks Grenada invasion

The following article is reprinted from the November 11 issue of *Socialist Voice*, the biweekly newspaper of the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada, the sister organization of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party.

BY JOAN CAMPANA

TORONTO — An inspiring meeting to commemorate the Grenada revolution was held here October 25, two years to the day after the invasion of that Caribbean island by U.S. marines. The U.S. invasion and military occupation put a definitive end to the people's revolution begun in March 1979 under the leadership of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) and its central leader Maurice Bishop.

A highlight of the evening was a talk by Nadia Bishop, the 16-year-old daughter of Maurice and Angela Bishop. Angela and her son John were also present at the forum, which was organized by the Toronto chapter of the Revolutionary Workers League and the Young Socialist Organizing Committee.

Nadia Bishop described the "love, compassion, and dedication, the bond between my father and our people."

Under the workers' and farmers' government headed by Prime Minister Bishop, the toiling Black workers and farmers of



Militant/Andy Rose

Campesinos working Santa Rosa Cooperative's fields. These peasants now have access to social services.

We're not afraid."

This man, like every other adult male in the camp, is a militia member. A squad of 10 to 12 must be continually on patrol to guard the settlement, since cooperative farms and resettlement camps are a favorite target of the *contras*.

There has been some contra harassment against Santa Rosa, but since the campesinos are armed and organized, they have repelled all probes and so far averted any full-scale attacks.

Dugout shelters spotted around the camp are a constant reminder of how close the war is. The new houses, with cinder-block walls up to about chest height, also provide some protection against shrapnel or flying bullets.

The main reason the campesinos gave for preferring the cooperative farm is that the land is better, so they can produce more. But they also pointed to the social services, such as education and health care, that were never available to them before.

"Before, I never saw anybody," said Lucia Blandino. "We lived on the mountain alone, and I saw only my husband. Today we work together, and that's better for raising production."

Blandino has gotten health-care training to be able to dispense basic medicines and lead health programs in the camp.

"In the past we were marginalized by the dictatorship," she explained. "Today we are free. Since the July 19 triumph there

Continued on Page 13

Grenada made important gains, from a radical expansion of democratic rights to lowered unemployment, land reform, and protection of women's rights.

"Dad had great commitment to his beliefs and he stood by them and his principles to his death," Nadia Bishop said. "And like my mother says, this is what separates the men from the boys. It's all well and good to say you believe in something, but to live your beliefs, to put them into action — that is the hard part. That is what made Maurice Bishop great."

The audience of 70 also viewed the film *Maurice*, which explains how, under the pressures of imperialism, an impatient, ultra-left clique in the NJM, led by Bernard Coard, carried out a counterrevolutionary coup against Maurice Bishop and the revolutionary government, overthrowing it and opening the door to the U.S. marines. The Coard grouping had Maurice Bishop placed under house arrest and then executed him along with several other central NJM leaders.

**'Cannot kill the spirit of our people'**

In introducing the film, Nadia Bishop explained, "In each era there are many great men and women murdered, but those people who plot these murders, they never seem to learn. But we in this room, people who stand for freedom and justice" will win in the end. "You see, they kill our leaders, our heroes, but for every person exploited in Grenada, for every man murdered in South Africa, for every child missing in Nicaragua, we get stronger."

"They do not understand the one fundamental thing that will defeat them in the end. They don't understand that [our] pain does not defeat us, it strengthens our commitment to the principles our people were killed for."

"So we say to them that if and when they do assassinate our leaders, we won't stick our heads in the ground. . . . From the strength we have gained we will get another leader. Those people who exploit, suppress, and murder to achieve their power: you can kill our leaders, but you truly can't kill the spirit of our people."

**Grenada under U.S. occupation**

Following the film, Lennie Fleary spoke. Fleary was Grenada's honorary vice-consul in Toronto during the revolution. He is currently the coordinator of the Organization of Grenada Nationals in Toronto. Fleary expressed his "warmest thanks to the members of the Revolution-

ary Workers League for commemorating Maurice Bishop and keeping the spirit of the Grenada revolution alive."

Are the Grenadian people better off now after the overturn of the revolution? he asked.

Price controls on basic food items like bread, eggs, and milk have been removed. The house improvement program introduced by the revolution has been dropped and land reform turned back. Police brutality has risen, with several killings reported.

The U.S. imperialists' promise that they would bring jobs to Grenada has been proved a fraud. "When the Americans came, unemployment was down to 12 percent from 49 percent before the revolution. It is now back to 40 percent and still rising," he said.

The new government can't manage the economy and "it is a shambles." This situation, Fleary continued, has been seized upon by the former demagogic dictator Eric Gairy. Using tactics similar to those that provided a base for his initial rise to power in the early 1950s, Gairy is currently organizing a series of strikes.

**Invasion or 'rescue mission'?**

The current prime minister, Herbert Blaize, installed in the wake of the U.S. invasion, has described that mission as an "intervention" or "rescue mission," Fleary explained. "For Mr. Blaize it was an 'intervention.' For those who had their licenses renewed to exploit people, those who get high profits now, it was a rescue mission."

But to those people who had their homes bombed and burned out by the marines, to the residents of the mental hospital that was bombed, and still not rebuilt, it was an invasion. To the "girls gainfully employed under the revolution and now having to sell their bodies to get food, it was an invasion. So it all depends which side you're on," Fleary added.

The struggle in Grenada is continuing, Fleary reported. Members of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) are continuing the work of the Bishop-led wing of the NJM. They are building a youth group and publishing a paper, *Indies Times*. "They are moving forward," said Fleary, citing a rally organized by the MBPM "of thousands of people" held on October 20 in Grenada.

The spirit was well-captured by Nadia Bishop's closing remarks: "Hope, struggle, and fight, and victory will be yours. In the spirit of my father, 'Forward Ever, Backward Never!'"



### Maurice Bishop Speaks

The Grenada Revolution 1979-83

These 28 speeches and interviews by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop provide a unique account of the accomplishments of Grenada's workers' and farmers' government, 1979-83. The book includes his 1983 "Speech to U.S. Working People" at Hunter College in New York City; the speeches "In Nobody's Backyard"; "Women Step Forward"; "Imperialism is not Invincible"; and statements by the Cuban government and President Fidel Castro on the October 1983 counterrevolutionary coup and subsequent U.S. invasion of Grenada.

400 pp. \$6.95.

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# Calif. grocery workers fight concessions

BY MIKE DOWNS

LOS ANGELES — Twelve thousand members of the Teamsters union and 10,000 meat cutters and meat wrappers in Southern California are fighting to defend their unions. The battle stretches from the Mexican border north to Bakersfield and from the Pacific Ocean east to the Nevada state line.

The Teamsters and United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), AFL-CIO, struck 164 Vons grocery stores and warehouses on November 5. Six other chains — Alpha Beta, Safeway, Lucky, Ralphs, Albertson's, and Hughes — responded with a lockout.

The large and profitable chain stores, represented by the Food Employers Council (FEC), are demanding the right to open new warehouses outside Teamster jurisdiction and to subcontract to nonunion companies. They are seeking a two-tier wage agreement from the Teamsters. The bosses want to be able to hire warehouse workers at \$10.20 per hour compared to \$13.85 per hour now; drivers at \$12.25 per hour compared to the current \$15.25; and office workers at \$3 to \$5 less than the \$11.45 per hour paid under the expired contract.

The FEC members demanded from the UFCW a new classification of worker, called "meat clerk," to be paid \$7.25 per hour. The meat clerk would do 70 percent of the work now done by meat cutters (now paid \$13.48 per hour) and meat wrappers (now paid \$11.60 per hour). In addition, the guaranteed workweek would be reduced from 40 to 20 hours.

This demand for concessions comes at a time when every chain involved in the strike and lockout reported huge profits, according to an article in the November 18 *Los Angeles Times*. Last year, it said, "Vons had a profit of \$23.6 million, Safeway \$185 million, Ralphs \$43.9 million,

Lucky \$94.6 million, Albertson's \$79.7 million. Alpha Beta's parent company, American Stores, had profits of \$185.5 million."

Teamsters put up large picket lines at the grocery warehouses, and both unions initially targeted Vons grocery stores for picket lines. The unions have expanded picketing to Safeway stores in the third week of the strike and are planning to picket Lucky stores next.

Cops have attacked and arrested strikers, while escorting scab truckers through. The bosses got an injunction limiting the number of pickets to five per gate.

At the union dispatch hall in Wilmington, in the Los Angeles Harbor area, Dave Arian, president of Local 13 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), urged members to join the pickets at a local Vons store. Eighty members of the ILWU, including this reporter, showed up to join 600 members and supporters of the striking unions in a spirited picket line. Most of us wore union jackets and hats. Pickets collected money to send to the volcano victims in Colombia.

After about two hours, half of the pickets caravanned to another Vons store where two union sisters had been picketing alone. The women's faces lit up when 300 reinforcements arrived.

Chanting "clerks, walk out!" the pickets focused on a campaign by the striking Teamsters and meat cutters asking retail clerks, whose contract is not at issue, to join the walkout. Even though store managers threaten to fire those clerks who walk out, many have joined the picket lines.

*Mike Downs is a member of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 13.*



Grocery store chains in Southern California have locked out 22,000 Teamsters, meat cutters, and meat wrappers after the workers refused to accept concessions. Pickets above are outside a warehouse where groceries are delivered.

## Trial delayed in FSP suit

The Freedom Socialist Party (FSP) of Seattle won an important court ruling on November 12. Superior Court Judge Norman Quinn indefinitely postponed the trial in a lawsuit brought against the organization by Richard Snedigar, a disaffected former member. The trial was originally scheduled to begin on November 18.

Snedigar is seeking the return of a \$22,500 donation he and others made to an FSP special fund. In filing his suit, Snedigar also obtained a court order requiring the FSP to turn over to him the minutes of internal FSP meetings. This is a dangerous precedent which could be used to disrupt and harass all progressive organizations.

The FSP charges that this court order violates their First Amendment rights and has filed motions to reverse it with both the King County Superior Court and the Wash-

ington State Court of Appeals.

Attorneys for both the NAACP and the National Conference of Black Lawyers filed affidavits supporting the FSP reversal motion in the Superior Court. Locals 435 and 843 of the Washington State Federation of State Employees have also filed similar affidavits.

NAACP attorney Philip Burton pointed out his organization has been the target of similar "abusive discovery tactics" by parties seeking "membership lists, minutes, and financial records as a way to disrupt the organization's activities...."

In a November 15 press release the FSP calls on Black rights fighters, feminists, unions, civil libertarians, and others to join their state supreme court appeal by signing or submitting friend-of-the-court briefs on this issue.

## U.S. unionists back Nicaragua

BY TOM LEONARD

Last June, 15 U.S. trade union officials endorsed and circulated a letter calling on union members to support an appeal for international solidarity from the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST). Included in the CST appeal was a request for financial aid to help offset the economic hardships the Nicaraguan people are suffering as a result of attacks by U.S.-backed mercenaries, the *contras*.

A report on the success of this campaign and plans to continue it are contained in a letter sent out November 15 to trade unionists and the labor press. It was signed by Nita Brueggeman, manager of the Pacific Northwest Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. She was also a delegate to the October AFL-CIO national convention in California, where she participated in the debate on Central America and spoke out strongly against U.S. aid to the armed Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. Brueggeman was one of the 15 signers of the first letter on the CST appeal.

In the recent mailing, Brueggeman re-

ported that circulating the request for solidarity had "helped to spur the broader political discussion within the U.S. labor movement over the U.S. 'contra' war against Nicaragua."

So far the union-initiated Nicaragua Solidarity Fund has collected \$2,000 and union members around the country are continuing to work to raise more.

In addition, some are collecting tools for Nicaragua. Members of United Auto Workers Local 766 at the Martin Marietta plant in Denver have already sent hundreds of dollars in tools and cash to the CST.

"It is as important as ever," Brueggeman's letter noted, "for unionists to discuss the truth about Nicaragua, organize tours to Nicaragua, publicize this appeal and to collect donations for the Nicaraguan unions." The Nicaragua Solidarity Fund will be maintained, she said.

To send contributions, or for more information, write the Nicaragua Solidarity Fund, c/o Pacific Northwest Joint Board, ACTWU, 975 SE Sandy Blvd., Room 108, Portland, Ore. 97214.

## Laotian celebration set

BY DIANE WANG

NEW YORK — Ambassador Kithong Vongsay, the Laotian representative to the United Nations, will be the featured speaker at a December 2 celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The celebration will begin with a Lao supper at 6 p.m. at Casa de las Americas, 104 W. 14th Street in Manhattan. It will continue with the ambassador's presentation and slideshow.

Dec. 2, 1975, saw the abdication of the Laotian king and creation of the republic in Laos. This ended two decades of civil war and attempts by U.S. imperialism to impose a neocolonial regime on Laos.

The U.S. government, in its war against the Indochinese people, had funded an army of Lao rightists and carried out saturation bombing in Laos. After withdrawing its ground troops from Indochina in 1973, Washington continued to fund a secret army of counterrevolutionaries to keep on fighting in Laos.

In 1975 in the wake of victories over U.S.-backed regimes in Vietnam and Kampuchea, the Laotians decisively defeated the rightists and established the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Although Washington has not broken diplomatic relations with the Laotian republic — as it has with the Kampuchean and Vietnamese governments — it did stop

all economic aid to Laos in 1975 and refused to meet its obligations to provide help to repair the war damage. Moreover, Laos has suffered military harassment from the U.S.-backed Thai regime.

Despite the devastation of the war and the continued harassment from U.S. allies, Laos has made significant social progress in the last 10 years.

The December 2 celebration is being organized by a coalition that includes the Association of Vietnamese in the United States; Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship/Philippine Solidarity Network; Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos; Line of March; New York District of the Communist Party; Peoples Anti-War Mobilization; and the Socialist Workers Party.

## Miners' union fined \$1.3 million in suit by Massey Coal Co.

BY HENRY SAMS

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — Lawyers for the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) have filed a motion for a new trial following a verdict in a federal lawsuit against the union.

The court action was initiated by Elk Run Coal Co., a subsidiary of A.T. Massey Coal. The UMWA has been on strike at Massey's unionized mines in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky since October 1984.

In the Elk Run case, the company charged the union with causing property damage, construction delays, and loss of coal production as the result of picketing at their Boone County mining complex during the 1981 coal strike. The union was picketing the facility in protest over Massey opening up nonunion mines in the area.

The court awarded the company \$1.3 million in the lawsuit. Elk Run had asked for \$10 million. The suit was designed to tap the treasuries of the International, District 17, and eight UMWA locals. The damages were assessed against District 17. The trial was viewed by union members as another attempt to weaken the UMWA.

The president of Elk Run Coal told the *Charleston Daily Mail*: "Never in the history of West Virginia has a jury awarded such a verdict. We're very pleased with the million dollar award. That is the first time to my knowledge that a jury in the state of West Virginia has ever punished the mine workers in that fashion. It's a courageous verdict."

### Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea

By Diane Wang & Steve Clark

The authors spent three weeks in Vietnam and Kampuchea in 1984 and wrote this compilation of articles that originally appeared in the *Militant* and *Intercontinental Press*. This pamphlet covers the advances made in the postwar reconstruction of these two countries, and Kampuchea's recovery from the devastation brought by the Pol Pot regime. It contains valuable lessons for the fight against Washington's new Vietnam-style war in Central America.

Price: \$2.

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



# Lessons of auto workers' strike against GD

BY HELEN MEYERS

**DETROIT** — The strike by United Auto Workers (UAW) members at General Dynamics has ended after eight weeks on the picket line. The close vote in favor of the new contract, however, is evidence that the struggle between the auto workers and GD is far from over.

UAW members at GD plants in Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania returned to work November 12 after ratifying the company's third contract proposal by a margin of 53 percent in favor to 47 percent against.

The five plants that were on strike produce tanks for the military. They were owned by Chrysler until 1982. In negotiations with Chrysler in 1979 and again in 1982 with GD, workers at those plants were forced to accept major concessions.

The handful of billionaire families who own GD reap superprofits selling military products to the government. Last year, GD reported domestic profits of \$649 million.

Going into the negotiations, UAW members were not willing to accept additional concessions and demanded the return of important items taken away in earlier negotiations.

These included: more than \$1.54 in hourly wages that had been given up, the return of the right to strike over health and safety issues, and elimination of the two-tier wage progression set-up. Under this system, new hires have to begin work at an hourly rate that is 40 percent lower than other workers, with three years of work required before they catch up. GD workers were also demanding the addition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a paid holiday.

The ratified agreement fell far short of the workers' demands. Past wage concessions were not regained. Contract language still does not give workers the right to strike over health and safety issues. And the two-tier wage system was retained, even though the time necessary to get the full rate was reduced from 36 to 30 months. No new holidays were won, and three floating holidays were lost.

GD workers received \$2,000 for signing the contract and small increases in hourly wages in the first and third years of the contract. There is no wage rate increase in the second year, only a lump sum payment at the end of the year.

In examining the settlement, it is important to review the process the rank and file went through since the company presented its first offer in June. It was only determined action on the part of the ranks that pushed the strike as far as it went.

GD was adamant that wages remain frozen, except for a small increase in the first year. The company was trying to force us to accept three lump sum payments.

The membership rejected that offer and a second one in September with the money repackaged slightly but basically the same.

GD was helped throughout the strike by the big-business media, which printed statements by the company and the military claiming that tank production was continuing. The company sent letters to employees encouraging them to cross the picket line. Only three members of Local 1200 did so. But because of the strong union presence at the picket line, all but one left.

The top officialdom also placed obstacles in the way of the ranks. At every stage of the negotiations, the UAW officialdom tried to force through a settlement. In a letter sent out to all GD workers, the auto union's International officials urged acceptance of the June offer. At different stages of the negotiations, they tried to put a gag order on local presidents so that the ranks would not be informed of the status of the negotiations.

As part of the final offer, GD stated that it was going to discipline 101 workers for picket line activity. The workers refused to sign the contract until GD backed off this threat. When Jim Coakley, president of Local 1200, criticized the last offer, International Vice-president Marc Stepp went on all three Detroit television channels blasting Coakley for being in "violation of democratic practice."

UAW top officials claimed that a full amnesty had been granted. While no workers were fired or disciplined immediately, the company kept letters on file that can be used against the workers in the future.

Our local rejected the final contract by an 80 percent majority. However, the other



Militant

**During eight-week strike, General Dynamics workers participated in Free South Africa event sponsored by UAW Local 600 in Detroit.**

locals voted in favor of the agreement under strong pressure from the UAW tops to accept it. Coakley said that the high vote against the contract at Local 1200 was because "the membership was educated on the issues before the strike, well-informed during the strike, and encouraged to take a position of responsibility in organizing and carrying out the strike."

Local 1200 members took a leadership role in running the strike. An education and outreach committee was established that organized members to speak to other locals. It also provided written information to the membership twice a week. A communications room and a 24-hour strike kitchen were opened.

The local organized a strike solidarity rally that drew more than 500 unionists from many different unions.

We sent a contingent to the Michigan Labor for a Free South Africa rally. Coakley spoke at the event and the local set up a table with information on the strike. Signs were carried on the picket line in front of the plant that solidarized with the fight of South African Blacks.

In a letter to the membership of 1200 at the strike's conclusion, Coakley said, "Hopefully the leadership and the membership will use the experience of this struggle to strengthen themselves for the future. The Local 1200 membership and leadership stood as one throughout the strike. . . . After eight weeks on the picket line, our membership was still demanding an equitable agreement, and the issues were just as real as when we started our strike."

Morale was high when we returned to work at the Detroit tank plant. We feel we fought a good fight, and as one worker put it, "We better start saving now so we can really give 'em hell next time around."

*Helen Meyers is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1200 and works at the General Dynamics tank plant in Warren, Michigan.*

## Latin America protests foreign debt

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

Hundreds of thousands of workers, peasants, and students throughout Latin America and the Caribbean recently participated in demonstrations, strikes, and other actions to protest Latin America's foreign debt.

The Latin American debt to imperialist bankers totals \$370 billion, with an additional \$40 billion owed in interest.

This debt has meant stagnation and, in some cases, paralysis for the economies of Latin America. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the organization of imperialist bankers, has demanded payments on the debt regardless of the social consequences.

The IMF has made new loans for these

countries contingent on the imposition of austerity plans. Such plans make the workers and farmers carry the burden of the debt.

Actions throughout Latin America occurred October 23 in response to a call by the Latin American and Caribbean Trade Union Conference on the Foreign Debt held in July in Havana, Cuba.

Some 100,000 marched in Mexico City in response to the call. They demanded that the government not pay the \$96 billion debt and use that money to rebuild the city. Mexico City was devastated by earthquakes in September. Police attacked groups of students in the march.

There were protests throughout the country — from Hermosillo, near the U.S.

border, to Mérida, in the south.

Antidebt actions were called by Ecuador's Worker's United Front. In the capital city of Quito, the government prohibited the action. Cops arrested some union leaders and closed five high schools. There was a protest, however, in Guayaquil. In Milagro, two people were killed by cops during the protest there.

In Brazil, the country with the largest debt — more than \$100 billion — hundreds of thousands marched in a dozen cities. The largest actions took place in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Porto Alegre.

In Peru, thousands marched in the city of Lima. They demanded that the debt not be paid at all and that Peruvian President Alain García break all relations with the IMF. Cops equipped with tanks and water cannons were mobilized in the city. García's modest proposal to use only 10 percent of the nation's yearly income for the debt has met with hostility from the imperialists.

The Bolivian Workers Federation held assemblies at mines and factories around the country to discuss the debt crisis.

Several thousand people also demonstrated against the debt in Trinidad and Tobago.

In Cuba, more than 3 million workers, peasants, and students, answering the call of the Cuban Workers Confederation and supported by the revolutionary government, participated in a 10-minute work stoppage. Cuba faces no debt crisis. The work stoppage and protest actions throughout the country were held in solidarity with the brothers and sisters of Latin America.

There were also protest actions in Argentina, Panama, Uruguay, and Costa Rica.

## James Groppi: antiwar and rights fighter

BY BILL BREIHAN

**MILWAUKEE** — Father James Groppi, the Catholic priest who helped lead the civil rights movement in Milwaukee in the 1960s, died November 4 of cancer. He was 54. More than a thousand people attended his funeral, including many who had marched with him for open housing and school desegregation.

Groppi first gained national prominence in 1967 when, as the adviser to the Youth Council of the Milwaukee chapter of the NAACP, he spearheaded a marathon series of open-housing marches. Groppi, the Youth Council, and its militant auxiliary, the Commandos, led 200 consecutive days of street demonstrations, often in the face of violent opposition.

Marchers were attacked by club-swinging cops using tear gas. On one occasion, 2,000 rock- and bottle-throwing racists greeted marchers as they entered the city's all-white Southside.

Eventually the city gave in. Open-housing ordinances were approved by the city council and later by the state legislature.

Groppi, a Milwaukee native and son of a small grocer who immigrated from Italy, first got involved in the civil rights movement in the early 1960s. He marched with Rev. Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama, in 1965 in support of voting rights. Soon after, he helped organize the Milwaukee United School Integration Committee (MUSIC). He and other de-

segregation activists were arrested for forming a human chain to block school buses used to bus Black children. This bus-ing was to reinforce segregated education.

After the open-housing marches came to an end in late 1967, Groppi and the NAACP Youth Council started organizing for the Poor Peoples' March on Washington. After the march he joined in the fight against cuts in welfare benefits. In 1969 he led a week-long march from Milwaukee to the State Capitol demanding restoration of the cuts.

More than 9,000 protesters marched into the state assembly and took it over. After an all-day occupation, they were ejected by the police. The state assembly voted to jail Groppi for contempt. He was pulled out of a church and arrested. At the same time, a Milwaukee court ordered his arrest. He was twice convicted and sentenced to six months in prison.

A month later the U.S. Supreme Court ordered his release pending review of the case.

The high court later ruled that the lower courts were guilty of racial prejudice and had violated due process. His convictions were overturned.

As the civil rights movement ebbed Groppi turned his attention to other social causes. He threw himself into the movement against the Vietnam War. He traveled to Northern Ireland and met with the Irish rebel Bernadette Devlin, lending his sup-

port to the Irish liberation struggle.

In 1972 Groppi gave up his parish and took a job driving a cab. In 1976 he married and was forced out of the priesthood by the Vatican. In the late 1970s he began working as a bus driver for the city. An activist and a militant in his union, the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998, he was elected president in 1983. Now a leader of an important city union, he lent his voice to the growing opposition within the labor movement to U.S. intervention in Central America and South Africa. By early 1985, however, illness forced him to retire from union office.

James Groppi, a fighter to his last days, will be missed by all those who believe in social justice.

## Puerto Rican activists face 35 years

A federal district court judge in Chicago has sentenced three Puerto Rican independence activists to 35 years in federal prison. The three activists were convicted of "seditious conspiracy" in August of this year.

Alejandrina Torres, Edwin Cortes, and Alberto Rodríguez refused to attend the hearing. They were sentenced *in absentia* October 4.

A fourth activist, José Rodríguez, who

had been convicted of the same charge, was sentenced to five years' probation. In sentencing Rodríguez, Judge George Leighton rejected the U.S. attorney's request for a long prison term, saying that Rodríguez "was only peripherally involved."

The four were accused of planning prison breaks, armed robberies, and bombings of public buildings in Chicago. No such events ever took place. The activists deny involvement in any criminal activity.





Militant/Dan Fein

Members of Augusto Olivares farm co-op. Food production has soared since co-op's founding.

BY JILL FEIN  
AND DAN FEIN

For 10 days in October we were able to take a look at Cuba as part of a GATE tour. GATE stands for Global Awareness Through Experience and is an interdenominational Christian group with a "liberation theology."

Eight people were on this tour — two from Mexico and six from the United States. We stayed in Havana and visited the provinces of Havana and Matanzas.

#### Emphasis on rural areas

Housing is better in the countryside and provincial towns than in Havana. This was just one example of how the gap between city and country is narrowing in favor of the countryside. The farm cooperatives we visited had new housing for their members which they built themselves with the help of the government.

Construction brigades have built large prefabricated apartment houses as well as single family housing in the rural areas.

Although horses are sometimes still used for transportation in the countryside and we even saw one man plowing behind an ox, many of the advantages of city life have come to the rural areas — electricity, plumbing, hospitals and health clinics, schools, movie theaters, daily newspapers, TV, sports, and cultural events. All the mass organizations exist in the countryside.

Our group visited a vanguard high school for young women. Students begin to specialize in high school in Cuba. In addition to standard courses, high schools specialize in different subjects — art, sports, industrial arts, and teaching, for example. Many high schools are in the countryside and students live at the schools during the week and return to their families on weekends.

We visited a teacher training high school named the Heral Sisters Pedagogical School. The Heral sisters lived in the Cuban city of Cienfuegos and were assassinated by the Batista regime in 1957 at ages 21 and 22 for their revolutionary activity.

Before visiting the classrooms we had a meeting with the school director, a few teachers, and two students. Juana Ortiz Ricordo is the director. She is a member of the Cuban Communist Party and was recently elected a delegate to its upcoming third congress.

The school has 520 students from 10 countries including Cuba. Students come from Nicaragua, Grenada, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Laos, Seychelles, Guinea, South Africa, and Afghanistan. The school trains teachers for day-care centers and primary schools.

Ortiz told us, "Men in Cuba still don't understand they can also be day-care teachers. The original idea of day care was for someone to take the place of the mother while she was at work. Men don't think they can do that."

The director also explained Cuba's efforts to break down the distinction between intellectual and physical labor. "One of the principles of Cuban education is to link work and study. Students go into the fields once a year for 28 days to do agricultural work. Fifteen days out of the school vacation period is spent with work brigades. As part of the school curriculum, students take shop classes and gardening."

After graduation a job is guaranteed. One of the students told us, "We go where the revolution and society need us, in Cuba or in another country."

We visited two farm cooperatives and found the members enjoy an above-average standard of living.

"I have always been a peasant," Adolfo García, president of the Augusto Olivares Cooperative in Coliseo, Matanzas, told us. "I'm from peasant stock. My father was a peasant and his father was a peasant. Peasants before the revolution lived like those in the rest of Latin America."

"They worked hard and had no lights or water. Children couldn't read; peasants were illiterate. At 12, children worked with their parents in the fields. Medicine was a disaster."

"Now there are no more illiterate children. Medical care is free and no one is begging or dying from hunger."

García told us the history of the co-op. It was formed in 1979 by farmers with a total of 559 hectares (1 hectare = 2.5 acres). They were mostly sugar cane farmers. Their first harvest, they brought in 8,700 tons of sugar. In 1980, they brought in 20,000 tons.

"The next year we got more land, and more farmers wanted to join when they saw what was happening. That year we brought in 60,000 tons. We are now producing 87,000 tons, although this harvest we plan to produce 100,000 tons," García said.

There are now 157 families living on the co-op. One-quarter of its board of directors are women. Members of the co-op are members of the Territorial Troop Militia; Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs); Federation of Cuban Women, which has been instrumental in changing working and living conditions for farm families; Communist Party; Young Communist League; work brigades; and other student and social organizations.

#### ANAP

The co-op farmers are members of the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP). ANAP works with state agencies that promote social and cultural advancement of farm families. ANAP waged a campaign to get all farmers to finish through the ninth grade of school. The organization promotes active, knowledgeable participation by farmers in economic planning and management.

They play a role in mobilizing the peasantry in support of the revolution and its agrarian laws and measures and in supporting the country's defense against imperialist threats.

The co-op's profit has doubled since it was established.

"This year we are planning to use our profits to build a primary school and park with swimming pool and basketball courts," García told us.

He pointed out that joining a co-op is voluntary. "No farmer has to join a state farm or cooperative, but usually they want to when they see what can be accomplished and the improved living conditions."

At the Augusto Olivares Cooperative they now have nine farmers on a waiting list to become members.

García showed us around the co-op and was especially proud of their 4 combines, 11 trucks, 27 tractors, 3 super-tractors, 2 vans, and a jeep.

The tractors were bought from the Soviet Union, the combines made in Cuba.

The co-op has its own machine shop and they make all their own replacement parts.

The co-op has 500 milk-producing cows and grows rice, beans, and potatoes, which are distributed free to all co-op members. There are no problems with food supply except in meat. To remedy this, they are now raising sheep, turkeys, and chickens.

We visited one of the newly built homes. It was small, modern, and immaculate. It had two bedrooms, bath, a large, com-

pletely tiled kitchen with a new refrigerator and stove from the Soviet Union. The houses were built by work brigades on the co-op, with some help from the government.

#### Evellio Valenzuela Cooperative

We also visited the Evellio Valenzuela Cooperative in Jovellanos, Matanzas. This co-op was founded in 1979 with 180 hectares. It originally included 14 farmers and their families. They started with two oxen, some hoes, and some plows. Now they have 1,742 hectares, 30 tractors, and 3 combines. Members own their own homes with air conditioning and modern appliances. The co-op is divided between sugarcane, citrus, and grain. There are 175 families making a total of 700 members. Their economic plan was fulfilled last year by 130 percent. They sold 56,000 tons of sugarcane to the state.

The average annual income is 4,200 pesos per family per year (1 peso = \$1.15). This includes free housing and food. Utilities cost around 5 pesos per month.

"We used to make 150 pesos a year before the revolution; now we make more than 350 pesos a month," the president, Luis Rodríguez, told us. The profit margin is distributed at the end of the year according to the number of days worked. Forty percent of our profit is distributed and the rest is used for equipment and buildings.

So far, 56 percent of peasant land in Cuba has been brought into cooperatives, almost a million hectares, we were told. Ninety percent of the land is worked by

state farms and agricultural cooperatives. The remaining 10 percent is still farmed by individuals.

"Before the revolution people in the country worked 13 or 14 hours a day for starvation wages. Now we are able to work only eight hours, although sometimes we work more to help the economy and also because we benefit ourselves," Rodríguez told us.

"We work from Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Then we take a two-hour break for lunch. We need a chance to rest or play dominoes so we are ready to go to work again in the afternoon."

We were introduced to a man in his 70s who headed up education on the co-op. Before the revolution, he told us, he was illiterate.

Rodríguez said that one of the major gains of the cooperatives is that they are eliminating the differences between the city and the country. "Before, in the country," he said, "there was no electricity or running water and women walked with their heads down. Now they walk with their heads held high just like the women in the cities."

We were shown their history corner in the social center. On the wall were photos of co-op members who were in Angola, Ethiopia, or Nicaragua fighting or helping with new cooperatives in those countries.

"We have this corner because we are not immortal. We want to capture the history of the co-op movement and we want the next generation to know what it was like before the revolution."

## Do you know someone who reads Spanish? 'PM' covers Watsonville strike

"¡Huelga! Huelga! Huelga!" (Strike!) was the response to greetings of solidarity by Walter Johnson, president of the San Francisco Central Labor Council, before a rally of 1,000 people in Watsonville, California, November 10. The rally was in support of 1,700 Teamsters of Local 912 on strike against two of the largest frozen-food plants in the United States.

The majority of the strikers are women. The workers are predominantly Chicano and Mexican. This strike has become a major rallying point for the labor movement. Union locals throughout California and Oregon, as well as other organizations, have given material aid to the striking local. Eight tons of food and \$5,000 were collected at the November 10 rally.

The current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* has an update on this important strike by Linda Joyce, who has participated in many of the activities in solidarity with the strikers.

Your Spanish-speaking coworkers should know about this strike; get an issue of *PM* into their hands.

*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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# South Africa: protests grow

Continued from front page

look to Mandela, a leader of the outlawed African National Congress, as their leader.

The office of President Pieter Botha insisted, however, that "there is no truth in the rumors."

Mandela, who had been hospitalized for surgery, was returned to prison November 23.

The white minority government has again threatened to deport Black miners who come to South Africa from neighboring countries. Pietie du Plessis, the government's Manpower Minister, said November 11 that contingency plans for mass deportations are "essential as part of the government's... strategy for relieving unemployment in the face of disinvestment, sanctions, and boycotts."

Immigrant Black workers make up a large part of the work force in South Africa's mining industry. Clive Knobs, president of the chamber of mines (the mineowner's organization), warned that mass deportations "would be severely disruptive socially, economically, and politically."

The National Union of Mineworkers reiterated its readiness to call a nationwide strike if the government went ahead with deportations.

The apartheid regime hopes the deportation threat will intimidate the Black-governed countries of southern Africa from continuing to demand sanctions. These countries are refusing to bow to the blackmail.

Simba Makoni, executive secretary of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, told a *Washington Post* interviewer that "there is no other alternative to sanctions" in fighting apartheid. The SADCC is made up of the governments of nine Black-governed countries in southern Africa.

"Yes, there is going to be suffering, but

it's inevitable," he said. South Africa's neighbors, he said, were "already suffering a lot" because of the apartheid regime's policy of attempting to destabilize Angola and other neighboring countries.

Makoni said the SADCC countries supported sanctions even though "the general indication we get is that the United States will not be willing to assist us" if South Africa retaliates.

"There can no longer be talk of a peaceful solution," he said. "Sanctions are a road not to a peaceful change, but to a less violent change."

In a November 10 interview in the Johannesburg *Sunday Star*, Bishop Des-

mond Tutu insisted, "Disinvestment and sanctions are the only way to get any effective change here."

Tutu, who has advocated nonviolent civil disobedience in the struggle against apartheid, responded to charges by racists that he justifies violence. "Apartheid is violent. I oppose violence, but I accept there may come a time, because of an unjust system, when all else has failed, that the church might say to its members it is justifiable to fight against an unjust system. Which is the lesser evil: the evil system or the fighting against it, as for example the fight against the Nazis?"

"Apartheid will go, and freedom will come," Tutu said.



Black workers protest in South Africa

## Farmer wins round in eviction fight

Continued from back page

ginning foreclosure proceedings against the farmer. However, new federal rules, which went into effect November 1, have cleared the way for the FmHA to resume foreclosures and evictions of farm families.

The FmHA holds more than \$1.2 billion in farm loans in the state, about 27 percent of Georgia's farm debt. The agency claims that more than half of these loans are delinquent.

Georgia FmHA Director Orson Swindle claims that the new federal rules are not "foreclosure regulations" since, he says, "foreclosure... will only be used as a last resort."

Farmers and other working people know better.

"We could see 10,000 farmers in Georgia going under this year," said Georgia American Agriculture Movement leader Tommy Kersey. "We're talking about 11 percent of the predicted farm foreclosures in the nation happening in this state."

"This next round of foreclosures is going to knock your socks off," said AAM member Gene De Loach. "With these new FmHA rules, I don't know where I'll be in a few months from now."

Nor are these farm activists exaggerating, since the new federal rules give the FmHA the go-ahead to begin liquidation proceedings if a farmer is over \$100 behind in payments by the end of this year.

FmHA officials, the banks, and capitalist politicians are carrying out a media campaign to sell these new federal rules and undercut public support for the real victims of this crisis — the farmers.

As part of this campaign, the big-business media has taken every opportunity to portray farmers as "welfare cheats."

The big-business media also seized on the November 15 farm protest against Lorick's eviction to slander farmers. Reporters focused on five members of the right-wing Heritage Library who attended the protest. These men came to Cochran from Velma, Oklahoma, armed with

semiautomatic weapons. Their presence at the protest was used to portray farmers as gun-toting vigilantes involved in a right-wing action. At the same time, the bank and cops, who came to evict Lorick, were portrayed as peaceful people trying to avert "a confrontation."

The Heritage Library is a right-wing group which combines anticommunist, anti-Catholic, and anti-Semitic poison with radical rhetoric against the banks.

This reactionary outfit tries to appeal to farmers' hatred of the banks by saying that the Federal Reserve System and taxes are the sole source of the farm crisis. They state that both are unconstitutional and claim that all farmers need is a return to the constitution to solve the farm crisis.

The big-business campaign to violence-bait and right-wing-bait the farm protest movement is aimed at blocking potential support for working farmers from unions, Black rights organizations, and others who can be won to defend farmers.

Black rights organizations, such as the NAACP, have rejected this campaign. James Lingo told the *Militant* that "the NAACP needs to work with farmers in going after these FmHA guidelines and exposing what's happening here. This is just the beginning for the NAACP to monitor the situation of farmers, but it's something that really needs to be done."

"These small Black and white farmers across the country are in a very deep crisis," NAACP Regional Director Earl Shinholster told the *Militant*. "They are seeing all their lives' work foreclosed on. The bottom line for civil rights organizations is to protect these farmers' rights and to stand with them."

Shinholster added, "The role that civil rights organizations and labor can play in regard to the land problem is just like our role in opposing apartheid in South Africa. We need to educate and mobilize people to build a base of support for these farmers."

## 300 protest racist attacks in N.J. suburb

BY ELLEN KATZ

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Five hundred residents of South Orange and Maplewood gathered here on November 18 to protest racist attacks against Blacks in this suburban community where both Blacks and whites live.

During the night of November 9, five homes of Black families were targeted. Racial slurs and threats, such as "leave town or burn" and "we told you to get out," were spray-painted on the residents' homes. Car tires were punctured.

During the last three years 100 incidents of this nature have occurred, often directed at the same family. One resident had to replace 32 punctured tires. At Columbia High School in South Orange two students dressed up as Ku Klux Klaners for Halloween.

The police, assisted by the FBI, reassure the community after each act that everything possible is being done to establish the identity of the vandals. But the incidents

continued and the vandals remain at large.

Residents are not satisfied with police efforts. Meetings have been held to mobilize the community to seek an end to these attacks.

The one on November 18 was held at the First Presbyterian and Trinity Church with city officials and representatives from the NAACP and the National Organization for Women attending. Both Black and white residents participated. A bomb scare temporarily disrupted the meeting. But after the church was searched, residents regrouped. Four task forces were formed to organize opposition to the racist attacks. Among the activities being discussed are organizing a neighborhood watch, demonstrations, and a possible class-action suit against the municipalities for denying the civil rights of residents.

One participant commented, "It is because of the civil rights movement that we can have a meeting like this tonight. The civil rights movement has changed the way we all think and live and we will not go

backwards or be intimidated by racist terrorism."

Students at Columbia High School have formed a student organization to combat racism.

The latest attacks took place on the same day as the largest anti-apartheid demonstration to be held in New Jersey. Many meeting participants wore their November 9 anti-apartheid demonstration buttons and compared the fight against racist attacks here with the fight against apartheid in South Africa.

The South Orange and Maplewood Awareness Council has established a fund for the victims. Funds can be sent to: Victim Fund, c/o SOMAC, P.O. Box 193, South Orange, N.J. 07079.

## Salvadoran union discusses war

Continued from back page

FENASTRAS in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe. Francisco Acosta, the U.S. representative, was commended for his effective work with U.S. unionists as shown by the size of the delegation.

Unfortunately, Acosta was unable to attend the convention. The death squads made several attempts on his life before he fled the country in 1980.

The international observers were able to visit jailed unionists and other political prisoners and also tour a refugee camp sponsored by the Catholic church.

Duarte has been unable to deliver on his election promises to end the war and repression and improve the economy.

As a result, even union officials that backed him for president are being pressured by their members to support the strikes and protests being organized by other trade unions.

The FENASTRAS convention viewed this process as a positive indication of the

potential for trade union unity in the country.

Many strikes have been called to demand freedom for imprisoned union leaders, as well as higher wages and better working conditions.

Recently, 3,000 telecommunications workers walked off the job after the two sons of Humberto Centeno, international relations director of the telecommunications workers' union, were arrested. Thousands of postal workers struck to protest the arrest of Víctor Manuel Martínez, president of the postal workers' union.

The U.S. labor observers at the FENASTRAS convention protested the arrests to the U.S. embassy and to Salvadoran authorities. The postal workers' union leader was released, but the two sons of the telecommunications official were still being held when the delegation left the country.

Salvadoran workers are continuing to fight these arrests through a work stoppage that has disrupted the telephone system. The *New York Times* reported November 11 that a total of 25,000 Salvadoran workers are on strike.

## Court blocks bail for activists

A federal court in Hartford, Connecticut, ruled that only family property could be used toward the \$150,000 bail for Luz María Berrios.

Berrios is one of 13 activists arrested August 30 in a massive FBI attack on the Puerto Rican independence movement. The attack included armed raids on more than 38 homes and offices in Puerto Rico, as well as arrests of activists in Texas and Mexico.

The FBI claims that the 13 activists are members of the *Macheteros* (literally, machete wielders), an organization that supports independence for Puerto Rico. The government accuses the Macheteros of robbing a Wells Fargo armored truck in Connecticut in 1983 and says the 13 took part in the robbery.

The court decision that only family property can be used for bail blocks Berrios' friends and neighbors from putting up their homes as collateral for her, as some have offered to do.

The decision is a continuation of the government's policy of restricting the bail rights of these activists. Immediately after their arrest, the court set bail for only seven of the 13 activists. The government appealed even this decision, and the bail for two of the activists — Ivonne Meléndez Carrión and Elías Castro — was revoked.

In response to this attack on Berrios' democratic rights, supporters in Puerto Rico have begun a petitioning campaign to force the court to reverse its decision. In the first three days of the campaign, nearly 1,000 signatures were collected.



# —THE GREAT SOCIETY—

**America the Beautiful** — "DETROIT (UPI) — A group of 200 people with disabilities has not been invited to march in the Thanksgiving Day parade here be-



**Harry Ring**

cause sponsors want to make sure the procession moved along fast enough to keep its spot on national television." — News item.

**The fleet-footed ones** — Hit by a flood of protests, the head of the Detroit Thanksgiving Day parade said some disabled would be permitted to march. Not the original applicants, but a selected "representative group of handicapped individuals."

**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde?** — Victor Gotbaum, executive secretary of New York District Council 37 of the State, County and Municipal Employees, walked through the picket line of striking employees of the union. "I've never crossed a trade union picket line as a trade unionist," says Mr. G., "but in this case I'm management."

**He's got a point** — Up to now the navy paid the cost of tooling for companies building military systems. Now, the navy says, the companies will have to pay even though it may mean a drop in the 35 percent profit rate for some. Critics argued that the new cost would simply be deducted from taxes. But the navy secretary noted this was "irrelevant" since "most of these companies do not pay any taxes."

**Urban renewal** — Residents of New York's Sutton Place area do have lovely 12- and 15-room apartments overlooking the East River. But their view is marred by several abandoned hospital build-

ings on neighboring Roosevelt Island. So, community activists are raising \$500,000 and planting trees in front of the offending buildings. One planter explains she was raised to believe "there should be flowering trees everywhere in public view."

**We'd like to join** — We were thinking of writing those Sutton Place folk. We wouldn't expect them to plant a tree in our backyard since they'd have to tear up the cement. But maybe they could paint a tree on the facing factory wall.

**Social Darwinism** — "We are beginning to learn more and more that in a competitive system more

institutions will disappear. We are weeding out the poor managers and the weak institutions and that is a good thing." — John Heinman, a Wall St. analyst, commenting on the fact that some 130 banks will fail this year, the highest number since 1933.

**But he's not volunteering** — Chester Adamsky was an exec at Raytheon, a top war contractor, who got probation for taking \$237,000 in kickbacks from subcontractors. A firm law 'n order man, Adamsky thinks he probably should have been jailed. "I believe in a strong judicial system," he says. "Like in Saudi Arabia, when you steal you get your hand cut off."

## —CALENDAR—

### CALIFORNIA

#### Oakland

**U.S.-Soviet Summit: What Road to Peace?** Speakers: Jeff Hammel, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5; Marie Cobbs, member of International Association of Machinists Local 562. Sat., Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

### COLORADO

#### Denver

**The U.S.-Soviet Summit.** Speaker: David Martin, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 1156-C and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. 25 W 3rd Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**The Reagan-Gorbachev Summit: Will it Bring Peace?** Speaker: Susie Winsten, member Socialist Workers Party, visited Soviet Union in 1984. Sat., Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

### See Nicaragua for yourself on a cultural workers delegation

Ventana, an organization of U.S. cultural workers in solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution, is sponsoring its seventh delegation to Nicaragua Jan. 9 through 18. The delegation will visit at the invitation of the Sandinista Cultural Workers Association.

Total cost of travel, group transportation, food, lodging, and interpreters is approximately \$985. For more information call Ventana at (212) 586-3700, or Sharon Kernis at (718) 383-3264. Or write to 250 W 54th St., Room 800, New York, N.Y. 10019.

### MISSOURI

#### St. Louis

**Marcos Must Go: Philippine People Demand Democracy.** Speakers: Dr. Arturo Taca, leader, Movement for Free Philippines; Tony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Dec. 7, 7 p.m. 3109 S Grand, Rm. 22. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

### NEW YORK

#### Albany

**Layoffs: Will 'Buy American' Save our Jobs?** Speakers: Walt Snyder, economist, member of Professional Employees Federation; George Kontanis, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. 352 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

#### Manhattan

**Laos: 10 Years Later.** A Celebration of 10th Anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Speaker: Kithong Vongsay, Laotian ambassador to UN. Mon., Dec. 2. Buffet, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 304 E 14th St. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Ad Hoc Committee to Celebrate 10th Anniversary.

**The Politics of AIDS Hysteria: A Government Attack on Democratic Rights.** Speaker: Bruce Marcus, member Socialist Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 925-1668.

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Greensboro

**Repression in the Philippines: U.S.-backed Dictatorship in Crisis.** Slideshow and presentation by Tim McGloin, Friends of the Filipino People. Sun., Dec. 8, 5 p.m. 2219 E Market St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

### OHIO

#### Cincinnati

**Strength Through Struggle.** A labor history film. Discussion to follow. Sat., Dec. 7, 7 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

#### Cleveland

**The Middle East: Who are the Real Terrorists?** Speakers to be announced. Sat., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more in-

formation call (216) 451-6150.

#### Toledo

**Nicaraguan Labor Leaders Speak.** Speakers: Manuel Chavez Ocampo and Francisco Nazario Cano Torres, Nicaraguan Association of Rural Workers. Wed., Dec. 4, 7 p.m. Catholic Social Services Building, 1933 Spielbusch, 1st Floor. Ausp: Farm Labor Organizing Committee, MECHA, Toledo Area Committee on Central America, Toledo Metro Mission.

**Whipped-up AIDS Scare Aimed at Gay Rights.** Speakers: Sue Carter, president of Toledo National Organization for Women; Bob Pouliot, Toledo AIDS Task Force; Roberta Scherr, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Dec. 8, 7 p.m. 1701 W Bancroft. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

### TEXAS

#### Dallas

**Stop Attacks on Gay and Lesbian Rights.** Translation to Spanish. Sat., Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. 132 N Beckley. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

#### Houston

**The U.S. War Drive and the Reagan-Gorbachev Summit.** Speakers: John Sarge, longtime antiwar activist, member Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

### UTAH

#### Price

**The Fight for Mine Safety: Mine Operators Put Profits First — United Mine Workers Fights for Safety.** Speakers: Cecelia Moriarity, Socialist Workers Party, member UMW Local 2176; others. Sun., Dec. 15, 3 p.m. 23 S Carbon, Room 19. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

#### Salt Lake City

**After the Summit: Are We Closer to Peace?** Speakers: representative of MX Information Center/Salt Lake Freeze; Grady Walker, participant in direct action against nuclear testing in Nevada; representative of Joe Hill Club; and Mary Zinns, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State St., 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

### WEST VIRGINIA

#### Morgantown

**AIDS: Behind the Antigay Scare Campaign.** Speakers: Rev. Pat Mechem, West Virginia AIDS Task Force, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church; Janice Mann, Student Clergy of Metropolitan Community Church and prominent lesbian rights activist; Janielle Clements, health education specialist for West Virginia University Health Service; representative of Young Socialist Alliance. Fri., Dec. 6. Dinner, 6 p.m.; forum 7 p.m. 221 Pleasant. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

## Phila. racists threaten family

Continued from front page

quarters to demand action against the racists.

"Hey, neighbor, ain't you heard? Philly's not Johannesburg!" they chanted.

On November 23, Operation PUSH called off a planned motorcade in solidarity with the victims of these racist mobilizations after a meeting with top city officials.

In the week leading up to the racist assault, cars had cruised the neighborhood shouting threatening remarks at the victimized families. "I'm gonna tell you something," yelled one woman. "You can't protect this house forever."

Racist meetings of hundreds during the week at a nearby church and a parochial

school that many of the local youths attend insured that the racist mobilizations were well-publicized and organized.

Rev. William Yeats, head of the city's southwest Philadelphia task force, said, "Whites believe that real estate agents had inserted these families in order to bust up the neighborhood. Someone is giving away houses to someone we don't know."

Another racist put it this way: "We're trying to make the point that we are a tight-knit neighborhood that is being surrounded by a Black sea."

Southwest Philadelphia has been the scene of racist violence and police terror for decades. In the 1970s, battles over segregated playgrounds forced schools to close early one year.

## —IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

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

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

**ARIZONA:** Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 3750 West McDowell Road #3. Zip: 85009. Tel: (602) 272-4026.

**CALIFORNIA:** Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46 1/2 Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

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**FLORIDA:** Miami: SWP, YSA, 137 NE 54th St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 370486. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:** YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 222-4434.

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# Unlikely supporters of Central American struggles

BY DON DAVIS

**Living at Risk.** Directed by Alfred Guzzetti, Susan Meiselas, and Richard Rogers. A New Yorker Films release. **Witness to War.** Directed by Deborah Shaffer. Produced by David Goodman and Skylight Pictures. A First Run Features release.

The obvious justice of the struggles being waged by Central America's workers and farmers wins some unlikely supporters to their side.

This theme is explored in two new documentaries.

*Living at Risk* tells the story of five children of a weal-

## FILM REVIEW

thy Nicaraguan rancher who have chosen to actively support the Sandinista revolution at a time when many of their class have fled to more comfortable conditions in Miami and elsewhere.

*Witness to War* is a 30-minute film about Charlie Clements, a U.S. Air Force combat pilot in Vietnam who became a doctor and spent a year treating civilians in a rebel-held area of El Salvador.

The two films were at New York's Film Forum recently and will be shown in other cities.

The hour-long documentary on Nicaragua follows five of the six children of Don Carlos Barrios.

Like many well-off Nicaraguans, he opposed the outrageous corruption and brutality of the Somoza dictatorship but turned against the Sandinista government when it initiated deepgoing measures to aid the workers and peasants — the vast majority of the country's population.

Don Carlos has left, along with his eldest son, but his wife and other children remain. Several had joined the anti-Somoza fight while teenagers. Now in their 20s and 30s, they are playing leading roles in the revolution.

As the camera follows them in their work, the viewer sees the desperate poverty the Sandinistas inherited, the effects of the U.S.-supported war of the counterrevolutionaries, known as *contras*, and the progress that is being made despite these adverse conditions.

One of the sons, Mauricio, serves as a doctor in a remote area of the north, where the war is at its height. Doctors, teachers, land reform officials, and others bringing the gains of the revolution to the people of the north are special targets of the *contras*. The fact that Mauricio's predecessor and three other health-care workers were brutally tortured and murdered by the *contras* points to the aptness of the film's title.

Because areas like this lack running water and sewers, it is common for people to suffer from diseases that have been virtually wiped out in industrialized countries. The shriveled body of a young boy with tuberculosis drives home the point.

Another son, Miguel, directs land-reform efforts in the north, making him another prime target for the *contras*.

Miguel is shown meeting with skeptical small farmers about a government plan to introduce sorghum into the region as a way of expanding and diversifying the food supply. He is also shown at a ceremony where farmers and agricultural workers are given title to lands they have been working for absentee landlords. The picture of simply dressed peasant men lined up on a platform proudly displaying framed titles to their land speaks volumes about the strength of the Nicaraguan revolution.

The Barrios are also shown at their homes, living in conditions they themselves point out are far better than those of most Nicaraguans.

Why do they stay when they could live more safely elsewhere? One says he would feel "very empty" living a comfortable life while others are working for a better Nicaragua.

An even more surprising route brought Charlie Clements to Guazapa, a rebel stronghold just 20 miles from San Salvador, capital of El Salvador.

The son of a U.S. Air Force officer, he was an honors graduate of the Air Force Academy. He flew dozens of combat missions in Southeast Asia before realizing that the U.S. government was not fighting for freedom and democracy there.

His refusal to fly any more combat missions landed him in a psychiatric hospital in Texas. After a period of reflection he became a Quaker and a doctor and, in 1982, volunteered to treat civilians in Guazapa.

The movie cuts back and forth between Clements speaking to audiences in the United States about his experiences in El Salvador and clips of Guazapa.

Peasant women are interviewed, telling of the rape, torture, and murder wrought by the government troops who treat everyone in the region as a rebel supporter.

Clements explains that many Salvadoran peasants have to turn over half their crop to the landlord. In a good year, he says, they can survive. In a bad year, they face the choice of paying the landlord and watching their children starve, or not paying him and being forced off their land.

It's not hard, Clements observes, to see what makes these people revolutionaries.

## Nicaragua reaches cease-fire with Miskito 'contras'

Continued from front page

Honduras and join the counterrevolutionary group MISURA, led by Steadman Fagoth. The preacher told Chow, "We have to fight for our rights."

Chow and 300 other Miskito youths were trained by Somoza's ex-National Guardsmen in a Honduran camp occasionally visited by U.S. advisers. The guardsmen were members of Washington's main mercenary group, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN). Fagoth himself had been an informer for Somoza prior to the revolution.

After two years of fighting with Fagoth's forces, under the direction of National Guardsmen who brutally mistreated the Miskito *contras*, Chow left MISURA. He joined the other Miskito contra group, MISURASATA, led by Brooklyn Rivera. MISURASATA was allied with the CIA mercenary group, the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE).

Chow eventually became a chief of a MISURASATA band in Southern Zelaya Province led by a Rama Indian called "El Coyote." The band suffered some big defeats in their attempts to attack Sandinista

troops. Demoralization spread in the ranks.

Some Miskitos, like Chow, became more open to a proposal from the Sandinistas that the two sides establish a cease-fire and begin peace talks.

Following the lead of ARDE, however, El Coyote firmly opposed the idea of a cease-fire.

As Chow became convinced he wanted no more part of the contra war, ARDE forces attempted to kill him. Chow decided to desert MISURASATA and turn himself in to Nicaraguan authorities. He joined the Ministry of the Interior troops in Southern Zelaya a month later. Chow called on other Miskitos still in the contra group to stop fighting the Sandinistas and instead fight the FDN and ARDE forces, "because they have killed Indians."

The developing dialogue between Miskito contra groups and the Nicaraguan government has led to a cease-fire with most of these groups operating inside Nicaragua.

This development is based first and foremost on the demand of the Miskito communities themselves for an end to the war, which they have suffered the most from.

It comes in the context of the revolution's project to establish regional government autonomy for the Atlantic Coast. The autonomy plan is designed to increase the participation of Miskitos and other *costeños* in decisions on how to overcome the extreme backwardness of the area, develop its resources, and promote the cultures and languages of Indians and Blacks. The autonomy discussion is deepening confidence within the indigenous communities that Indians can in fact advance their rights through the revolution.

The government program to organize the return of Miskitos to the Río Coco, their traditional homeland on the border with Honduras, has also deepened confidence. In 1982 when mercenary assaults on the Río Coco threatened the lives of the Miskitos, the government moved thousands of them to resettlements in the interior of the

country.

In July of this year the government began organizing the return of those Miskitos who wanted to go back to the river. As of October, 7,192 Miskitos had gone back.

### Cease-fire and dialogue

The changing political situation has led to divisions among the Miskito contra groups. Today many different factions of both MISURASATA and MISURA exist. Those wings of the two groups that are inside Nicaragua have been the most influenced by the demands of their communities that they cease fighting.

Today in Southern Zelaya Province, a cease-fire and dialogue exists between almost all the Miskito contra groups and Sandinista armed forces. The FDN and ARDE, however, are continuing military attacks on civilians and on economic targets, hoping to block the autonomy discussion and the talks between Miskito contra groups and the Sandinistas.

In Northern Zelaya Province, where most Miskitos live, a cease-fire has also been achieved with many of the Miskito groups who have been part of the contra war there. According to Armando Rojas, head of the regional autonomy commission for the province, some members of these groups are living in their original villages, retaining their weapons, and taking part in the assemblies of Miskitos discussing autonomy. Others remain in camps in the mountains.

In the north, the cease-fire began last May. Eduardo Panting, then commander-in-chief of MISURA, made an agreement with Sandinista authorities to observe a cease-fire. He did this over the objections of some MISURA leaders in Honduras.

Shortly after the cease-fire agreement, however, Panting was shot to death in what appeared to be a CIA warning to all Miskito *contras* attracted to the cease-fire.

Other MISURA leaders inside Nicara-

gua, however, pursued the dialogue with the Sandinistas and a cease-fire has now been in effect for six months. MISURASATA units are also observing the agreement, and Ministry of the Interior officials have been able to begin talks with some members of KISAN, a Miskito group formed by some MISURA and MISURASATA factions in Honduras in September.

Some Miskito contra wings closely allied to the CIA, however, have refused to participate in the dialogue and cease-fire.

### Washington tries to stop cease-fire

The U.S. government is trying to reverse the progress being made. Lt. Commander José González, Ministry of the Interior delegate to Northern Zelaya Province, outlined Washington's tactics aimed at sabotaging the cease-fire and related autonomy discussions.

In September the CIA infiltrated some 1,800 FDN troops into the central region of Northern Zelaya. Their goal was to seize one of the gold-mining towns there and engulf the whole province in fighting again, thus disrupting the cease-fire and autonomy discussion. Few of the mercenaries were from the Atlantic Coast; many were ex-National Guardsmen.

The FDN offensive in the gold-mining region has now been broken, although fighting still continues.

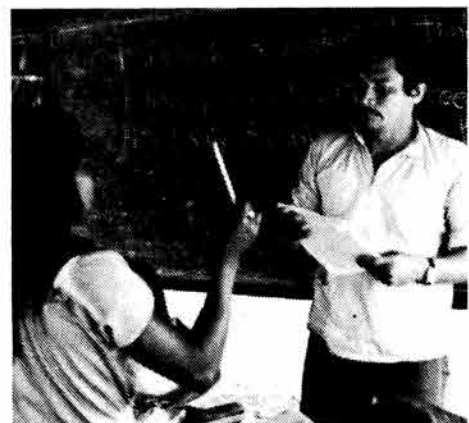
Threats have been made against the lives of Miskito contra leaders who are continuing the dialogue with the Nicaraguan government, González said. Miskitos attempting to return to their communities on the Río Coco have been ambushed. The mercenaries have also tried to set up provocations where Sandinista troops would break the cease-fire.

Washington has gotten some Miskito *contras* outside the country to make statements against the cease-fire in the hopes of confusing Miskitos inside the country.

González indicated that any wing of the Miskito *contras* — if it seriously wants to discuss peace — can enter Nicaragua without fear. "Any representative of the *costeño* people who moves in the direction of peace will have all the guarantees the government has given," he explained.

"But anyone who comes with a line of war will be answered in the same language."

González stressed that the Sandinistas are willing to talk with Miskito *contras* regardless of their past or present affiliation: "We are not interested in whether they're from KISAN, MISURA, or MISURASATA. What interests us is that they be involved in the process of peace and autonomy and respect the Sandinista revolution."



Militant/Jane Harris

Miskitos learn to write in English and their native language as part of Nicaraguan government's literacy campaign.

## 'Defending land we got through revolution'

Continued from Page 7

has been great joy for us. For example, this child-care center, the houses, the settlement. In Somoza's time we couldn't read or write. Today we are studying and advancing. We are very happy here."

Gloria Jiménez is clearly proud of the role of women in the camp. She explained that, when the men are mobilized for defense, the women step in and run the whole community. They take on all the production work and also contribute to defense by doing revolutionary vigilance, the night

watch patrols that are needed throughout Nicaragua.

### 'We need peace'

Defense is a central question here, as in the rest of Nicaragua. In the fields, the men work with rifles on their shoulders.

"The aggression," one of the men at Santa Rosa explained, "affects production. We have land, but we also have guns to defend the land that we got from the revolution. When we work we have to also have arms."

"We're grateful to you for your solidarity," he added. "You can see the sacrifices we have to make to produce the little we have."

We asked the farmers what message they would like us to take back to working people in the United States. They talked it over for a minute, then told us:

"Our cooperative is named Gregorio Blandino. Our message is to ask you to go and call for an end to the war and an end to the financing of forces based in Honduras. We need peace in order to work."



## U.S. war moves unchecked

The summit meeting staged by the heads of the U.S. and Soviet governments did not bring the people of the world any closer to peace.

Washington is using the event to portray itself as a peacemaker, while continuing war moves and war preparations around the world.

The day after the summit ended President Reagan announced his support for covert U.S. military aid to terrorists who are trying to overthrow the government of Angola in southern Africa.

During the five days of November 16-21, while the capitalist media sought to focus all attention on Geneva, the South African government admitted killing 36 Blacks who dared to protest for their human rights.

The Reagan administration, which said it wanted to talk with Gorbachev about human rights, didn't say a word about apartheid in the days before, during, or after the meeting.

The Nicaraguan people are fighting and dying in order to beat back a mercenary army organized and bankrolled by the U.S. rulers.

Washington continues to support the Israeli regime's terror against the Palestinians and other Arab peoples.

The massive U.S. arms buildup continues, forcing the Soviet Union to strengthen its own arsenal in self-defense. Reagan said he was willing to discuss further Gorbachev's proposal for a 50 percent reduction in nuclear missiles. None of the concrete Soviet proposals to re-

verse or even slow the pace of production, testing, and deployment of weapons were accepted by Washington.

The U.S. government's drive toward imperialist expansion and war is responsible for the massive waste of humanity's resources on weapons.

Washington's arsenal is intended to intimidate or crush peoples fighting imperialist domination. The U.S. rulers want to use their nuclear buildup, including the "star wars" program, to blackmail the Soviet Union and other countries into bowing to imperialist demands.

No advances were scored at the summit in the struggle against Washington's attacks and threats against the working people of the world.

But effective struggles for peace are being waged today.

The heroic struggle of Black people and others in South Africa against apartheid is one.

Another battle for peace is the one being waged by the Nicaraguan people against the U.S.-backed *contras*, with their massive mobilization to defend their revolution against the danger of a U.S. invasion.

The protests around the world against apartheid and against U.S. intervention in Central America are fights for peace. So are the battles against imperialist use of the South Pacific, the Philippines, Western Europe, and elsewhere for military bases, nuclear testing, and nuclear missiles.

It is in struggles like these that the possibility of a peaceful future for humanity is being forged.

## Carlos Fonseca: Nicaragua, Blacks have same cause

We are reprinting a letter written on Jan. 30, 1973, by Carlos Fonseca, founder and central leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) of Nicaragua. Fonseca was killed by Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza's National Guard on Nov. 7, 1976.

The letter is a call to U.S. Blacks for solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people against the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship.

It was printed in the November 5 issue of *Barricada*, the FSLN's daily newspaper, with a brief introduction.

The translation is by the *Militant*.

It will soon be the ninth anniversary of the heroic death of Carlos Fonseca, leader of the revolution and national hero. In honor of his immortal memory, we are beginning to publish letters and extracts from his writings.

## OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

products of his fruitful revolutionary activity for the liberation of Nicaragua as head of the Sandinista National Liberation Front. The letter we are publishing today is an example of the importance he attributed to winning solidarity for the Nicaraguan revolution from Afro-Americans.

The contents of the letter and of the extracts from his anti-imperialist ideas, have historic value. But Carlos' call for solidarity remains valid today since we are confronting another phase of the imperialist aggression that began in the last century, continued with two armed interventions in the present century and subjected us to a vicious dictatorship for 45 years.

Carlos' words are now endorsed by the free people of Nicaragua.

\* \* \*

Afro-American Brother:

We send you this message in the name of the national leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), revolutionary organization that fights in defense of the people of Nicaragua subjugated by Yankee imperialism.

Nicaragua's cause is the cause of Afro-Americans. It is the cause of the exploited and downtrodden all over the world.

With pride we tell you that our African ancestors contributed to the historic formation of the Nicaraguan people. During the centuries of Spanish colonialism, the west coast of Nicaragua's territory was a refuge for rebel African slaves who escaped from white captivity in the Antilles [Caribbean islands].

The colonizing aggression of the United States against Nicaragua begins in the middle of the 19th century. The aggressive expedition headed by William Walker stood out in that epoch. This hangman, at the same time that he set out to conquer Nicaragua, also wanted to establish a Black slave trade from Africa to the American continent. The patriotism of the Nicaraguan people, who took up arms, smashed those plans.

Later, U.S. colonial aggression intensified, and today Nicaragua is, in fact, reduced to the condition of a North American colony.

North American domination, which plunders the natural resources of Nicaragua, also turns the country into a military base of Yankee aggression against other peoples and into a strategic base for the installation of inter-oceanic communications.

The oppressed of Nicaragua have never resigned themselves to live in chains. In the historic struggle of Nicaragua, Augusto César Sandino, hero and martyr, stands out. He symbolized the patriotism of Latin America at the First Tricontinental Conference, which took place in 1966. [The First Tricontinental Conference was a meeting of anti-imperialist fighters from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, held in Havana, Cuba.]

The Nicaraguan struggle for freedom has resumed in recent years, confronting today the traitor Anastasio Somoza Debayle, puppet of the U.S. corporations.

A large number of Sandinista Front members have offered their lives in the current struggle, demonstrating that we are ready to fight until the final victory.

The difficult march of our small country requires the moral and material solidarity of our Afro-American brothers.

It is clear that we are not asking for charity. We are calling for deeds that signify a sacrifice for the cause.

## MOVE bombing: capitalist violence

Five weeks of televised hearings into the May 13, 1985, cop bombing of Philadelphia's Black community ended November 6.

The bombing of the home of MOVE, a Black organization, left 11 people dead, including four children. It also set off a fire that destroyed 61 homes.

The rulers of Philadelphia sought to make an example of MOVE because its members were Black, took the name Africa, wore dreadlocks, and defied the authorities' demands for conformity and obedience.

After some facts about the bombing began to be made public, the pressure mounted on the city administration for an investigation. For example, fire fighters revealed that they were never ordered to put out the fire that burned down the 61 homes.

Mayor Wilson Goode finally handpicked a commission to hold hearings on the bombing. Even this commission couldn't whitewash what had happened — the calculated slaughter of MOVE members.

Birdie Africa, a child who survived the bombing, revealed that MOVE members were forced back into the burning building by police gunfire. Other evidence supported him on this.

Mayor Goode had earlier defended the bombing and taken full responsibility for it. As the truth came out, he shifted. Goode testified that he had not been informed until 20 minutes beforehand about the plan to use a bomb and that the police commissioner and city manager "did not follow my directives."

Both these men, as well as other witnesses, contradicted Goode's version. The head of the cops' bomb

squad refused to testify on the grounds that his testimony might be self-incriminating.

The police commissioner was forced to resign. The city manager quit earlier.

Now the city's top businessmen and politicians would like to put an end to further investigations.

But they have a problem. A great many working people in Philadelphia now realize that the murderous attack on MOVE was wrong.

The MOVE bombing was an example of the racist, anti-working class violence that is built into U.S. capitalism.

A system in which a small capitalist class enriches itself from the labor of the vast majority needs weapons of violence and intimidation at home and abroad.

Philadelphia's city officials are like all capitalist politicians and government bureaucrats, whether Democrat or Republican, male or female, Black or white. They are servants of this capitalist class. They make and carry out whatever decisions capitalists deem necessary to protect their interests — including murdering working people.

It was only pressure from working people that forced these hearings to take place and get out at least some of the truth. The actions of workers and farmers can raise the political price the capitalist class pays for its savagery.

Only the struggle of the working class and working farmers to take political power out of the hands of this ruling class through the formation of our own government — a workers' and farmers' government — can abolish capitalism and its violence against us.

## Cops acquitted in racist killing

Continued from front page

was white. The only Black person there was the victim, and he was unable to testify, unfortunately."

The prosecutors sabotaged the case. They insisted on calling Chief Medical Examiner Gross as their expert witness, even though Gross is currently under investigation by the city and the state for misconduct, stemming precisely from his handling of the Stewart case.

In the aftermath of the obscene "not guilty" verdict, Louis Clayton Jones called on the state attorney general to investigate the district attorney's handling of the case.

He is also demanding an investigation into the rulings of Judge Jeffrey Atlas during the trial, rulings that substantially aided the cop defendants.

Brooklyn State Assemblyman Albert Vann has called for a state investigation of the case. Vann told the press, "It is clear to those of us who are lay people that Michael Stewart did not kill himself." Vann warned that the verdict would serve as a green light for more cop violence.

In an interview immediately after the verdict was announced, Mayor Koch conceded that "the outcome of the case will cause many people distress." But he added, "It was very difficult to criticize a jury."

Koch, however, has had no difficulty criticizing other court decisions — ones he didn't like. Earlier this year, he roundly criticized a Bronx grand jury for indicting a cop in the shooting death of 66-year-old Eleanor Bumpurs, who was also Black.

Just last month, Koch criticized a court ruling to sentence eight Black activists, known as the New York 8+, to community service instead of prison.

However, no case of police violence has been more thoroughly and publicly documented than the Michael Stewart case. For weeks, the working people of New York read daily eyewitness accounts of the brutal beating of Stewart. The verdict shocked and angered the city's working people.

This put pressure on the city administration. The day following the acquittal, Koch felt moved to announce a city investigation of the case. Koch, who has stubbornly refused to act in any cases of racist cop violence, piously said he had ordered the investigation because "a man died while in police custody."

The likelihood that this move would prove a new whitewash was pointed to by Andrea González, recently the Socialist Workers Party's candidate for mayor.

The acquittal of the cops who killed Stewart, she said, "like the bombing of the home of the Philadelphia Black community organization, MOVE, proves once again that for the rulers of this country, our lives — the lives of working people, especially the oppressed nationalities — are cheap."

She, too, insisted on the need for a full-scale investigation of all the factors leading up to "this racist mockery of justice."

The role of all complicit city officials, including the mayor, should be fully probed, she declared.

All partisans of democratic rights are obligated to speak out, she said. The justice denied Michael Stewart will inevitably be denied to others.

She also called for administrative action to fire the cops responsible for Stewart's death.



# Grenada's revolutionary voice sorely missed at UN

At the recent commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the performance of the delegations from Grenada and Nicaragua stood in sharp contrast to each other.

This had not been the case during the years when the revolutionary government led by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was in power in Grenada.

Oct. 25, 1985, marked the second anniversary of the U.S. Marines' invasion of Grenada. Their job was to occupy the island and reverse the far-reaching popular ad-



## BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Rashaad Ali

vances that were the result of the March 1979 revolution led by Bishop and the team of revolutionaries around him in the New Jewel Movement.

The invasion came one week after Prime Minister Bishop and five other central leaders were murdered in cold blood at the orders of a clique of army, government, and party officials organized by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

The revolutionary voice and internationalist policies of the Grenadian government during the Bishop years sounded more like President Daniel Ortega from free and

independent Nicaragua than like the sheep-like bleating of the current Grenadian delegation headed by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize.

Grenada's new chief representative to the United Nations is Dr. Lamuel Stanislaus, a Grenadian-born U.S. citizen who supports the U.S. invasion of his homeland.

"How can he be effective or even credible on issues like the debt crisis, or apartheid, or Nicaragua?" Dessima Williams, revolutionary Grenada's former delegate to the Organization of American States, told reporters, referring to Stanislaus.

Since the invasion, the new government of Grenada has condoned Washington's reactionary policies in Central America. And it didn't help lead the fight against British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at the recent meeting of the Commonwealth over sanctions against South Africa.

The Nicaraguan delegation, on the other hand, stood tall at the United Nations and put forward proposals for peace in Central America. It pointed to the U.S. imperialists as the enemy of humanity.

Ortega opened his U.N. speech by condemning the "inhuman decision of the apartheid regime to kill patriot Benjamin Moloise," a Black South African poet and member of the African National Congress (ANC) who was executed in October.

"There will never be peace on earth while people are oppressed by the criminal policy of apartheid in South Africa," Ortega told the UN General Assembly. "There will never be peace as long as colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, racism, and any other forms of exploitation and domination exist on the earth," he de-

clared.

Denouncing the U.S.-backed war against Nicaragua, Ortega said the U.S. rulers disregard the self-determination of oppressed peoples — "as they did in Maurice Bishop's small island of Grenada."

Like Ortega, Maurice Bishop would have used this platform to defend the interests of the oppressed and exploited of the world. As Bishop told thousands of us at Hunter College in New York on June 5, 1983:

"The people of Palestine and their sole authentic representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, will always have the full support of the fraternal people of Grenada."

At that same meeting, Bishop said, "The South African racists who have spent so much time inventing all sorts of ingenious ways of oppressing the people of South Africa, the Black majority, are now discovering that in common with all of the national liberation movements around the world that are forced to move to the highest stage of the struggle the African National Congress is also willing to make that step."

Explaining what solidarity with the workers and farmers of the Caribbean and Central America means, Bishop said, "In Grenada, we have been using a slogan and that slogan has been saying that if they touch Cuba or if they touch Nicaragua, then they touch Grenada too."

The way the revolutionary government in Nicaragua conducted its affairs at the United Nations is that of a free people standing proud against the main force of reaction in the world — U.S. imperialism.

Herbert Blaize and his government are an example of the opposite.

## Albany ACTWU local wages fight against takebacks

BY JIM CALLAHAN AND ANDY COATES

ALBANY, N.Y. — Members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) Local 1714 ratified a new contract after a one-day strike against Sealy Mattress Co. October 16.

The strike began after the company threatened to take away health-care benefits, even though last year was one

of work, and "disciplinary action," including dismissal, against workers who did not produce "quality."

Immediately after the vote, 50 of the 65 workers in the local formed a picket line in front of Sealy's manufacturing operations. The company's management appeared genuinely surprised at the unity in action of the pickets and was soon ready to invite the negotiating committee inside to resume talks. Workers, whether inside negotiating, or outside picketing, stuck together. The line was solid and was honored by Teamsters who had deliveries or pickups to make.

Before the strike, the company had singled out different departments, one by one, to harass and cut incentive pay. (Most workers at Sealy are on piece-rate.) The sewing machine operators and quilters have borne the brunt of the company's attack. This department comprises the most skilled jobs in the plant. But since the operators and quilters are mostly women, the company has forced these workers' wages down by lowering the amount paid for each piece of work completed. During the negotiations, the bosses threatened to knock down to base rate the pay of any operator or quilter who made a mistake. Shortly afterward, this threat was expanded plantwide, when the company posted a notice announcing random inspections

of work, and "disciplinary action," including dismissal, against workers who did not produce "quality."

The contemptuous treatment of the negotiating committee by the company was really the ongoing routine of the company toward the union.

The workers' ability to pull together in united action represented a victory for the union. The local won limited but real wage increases — from 25 cents an hour to 32 cents an hour for each of the next three years — and came away with improvements in the health-care package.

On returning to work, most union members felt proud of what had been accomplished, even though some felt that more of a wage increase could have been won. Everybody was happy that the union didn't give in to management's demands.

While the union made advances in the strike, we still have a distance to go in fighting injustice on the job. Throughout the negotiations, the company's clear goal was to weaken the union. The confidence developed in the strike gives us the possibility of building a stronger, more effective local.

Jim Callahan and Andy Coates are members of ACTWU Local 1714 at Sealy Mattress.

## UNION TALK

of the most profitable years in its history.

Throughout negotiations, the company displayed a contemptuous attitude toward the union. This was best illustrated by the fact that management refused to make a wage proposal until 15 minutes before the contract expired.

On October 15 the union membership gathered at the Albany Labor Temple to hear the report and recommendations of the negotiating committee. Union members voted overwhelmingly to strike the company and force

## LETTERS

### Double standard

Why are politicians allowed to kill?

Is it because they're better than everyone else, or high enough in the "political circle" that they have no one to answer to?

Do their political cronies protect each other when the protestations become too loud?

This "political dictatorship" must someday cease to exist because they choose to pick on only the poor and minorities!

They say that their actions are done within the Constitution. But this is only a verbal pretense, because the double standard actions they have used have been exposed time and time again.

There is a conspiracy to murder me by the use of this political dictatorship, a conspiracy by various officials from the City of Gary (Lake County) and throughout the rest of the State of Indiana.

At present, I'm being detained on death row at the Indiana State Prison. I was arrested and accused of killing a police officer after a bank robbery.

False evidence was invented and used as a ruse against me. It was calculated to produce a wrongful conviction and death sentence, cloaked in improper acts with the prosecutorial machinery and resources to give it the appearance of propriety.

Newspapers and other forms of news media have been supporting the would-be conspirators for monetary gain. They thrive on sensationalism, and print only to convict (regardless of whether it's wrong).

A prisoner  
Michigan City, Indiana

### 'Nouvelle Internationale'

The translation in the French *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, shows a lively text, always very precise on the political lines and having sometimes the exact typical French expressions at the right places.

I really enjoyed it!

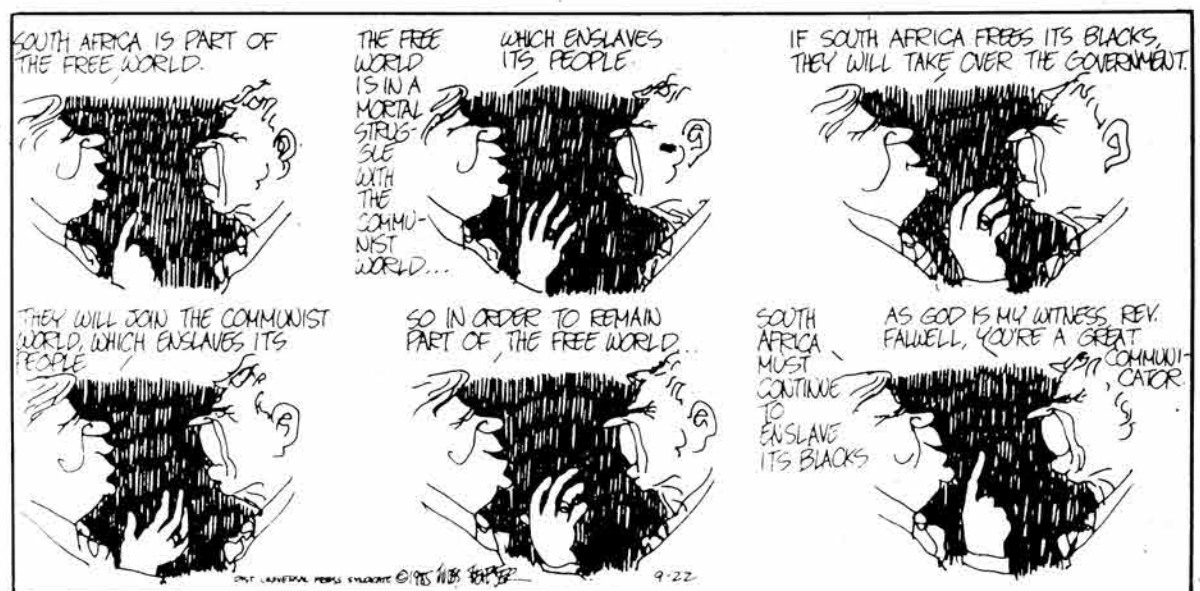
*Nouvelle Internationale* represents a great step forward in international solidarity work and I'm glad to see that it starts with such a great issue.

I would be interested in receiving a detailed list of the French books that you can provide.

Frederick Lerouge  
Dallas, Texas

### Anti-Soviet

Regarding Stansfield Smith's letter in the Nov. 1, 1985, issue, I feel he was adequately corrected about the *Militant's* coverage of Korean Air Lines Flight 007. I think his assertion that the paper is "anti-Soviet cloaked in anti-



Stalinism" is wrong and I object to it strongly.

What is "fair" coverage of the USSR's government and people?

As a Marxist, I believe that the USSR workers' state — like any workers' state should be defended from attack by imperialist forces.

However, as a Marxist I can't forget that Stalin and Stalinism dealt the international socialist revolution a blow nearly as crushing as its traditional foes. Lenin died while fighting it; Trotsky was killed by it, as were many other Bolsheviks. That same organization remains pretty much intact. It still works against the revolution with its "socialism in one country — revolution in stages" program-

matic line, even though there is a workers' state which serves the workers, rather than a capitalist few.

So what can be said? The Soviet government is not a workers' government. They are autocrats who reap the benefits from workers. They are nearly indistinguishable from their U.S. and European counterparts and therefore no more deserving of praise than say Willy Brandt or other Social Democrats.

Given these circumstances, I think the *Militant* strikes a nearly perfect balance of defending the workers' and farmers' state of the USSR, while at the same time refraining from a knee-jerk reaction

in favor of the Soviet government. Such a balance attracted me to the Socialist Workers Party and I hope the party and the paper never develop "pro-Sovietism" to the point that it goes through the flip-flops of positions required by the Communist Party of the United States.

Jack Breese  
Fordland, Missouri

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.



## Unions defy Salvador repression

### Salvadoran labor federation discusses war, int'l solidarity

BY NORTON SANDLER

The workers' movement in El Salvador took a step forward with the successful convention in San Salvador of the FENASTRAS union federation November 7-9.

The 17th congress of FENASTRAS (National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions) was held in the downtown Hotel Ritz. Three hundred members of FENASTRAS attended, as well as representatives from most of the other Salvadoran union federations. Representatives from human rights organizations attended, as did 40 international observers and journalists from several countries.

FENASTRAS is El Salvador's largest trade union federation with 23 union affiliates and 100,000 members. It has been branded "subversive" by President José Napoleón Duarte's government and the right-wing death squads that operate in the country.

#### Recinos' return

An important aspect of the convention was the fact that Héctor Recinos, the country's best-known trade union leader, was able to return to El Salvador for two days to attend the convention.

He had been arrested in 1980 along with nine other leaders of the hydroelectric workers' union (STECCEL).

While the unionists were in jail, Recinos' wife and son were kidnapped and are presumed to be dead. Unions in El Salvador and other countries, including the United States, waged a campaign in defense of the STECEL leaders. Recinos and the other leaders were freed last year. He has been living in exile in Europe since.

#### War is main issue

The war being waged in El Salvador by the government was very much at the heart of the convention.

Washington has poured \$2 billion into El Salvador since 1980. The U.S. government finances and largely organizes the war and police repression. It also props up El Salvador's economy, which is in a severe crisis.

The workers and peasants want an end to the hardships imposed by the government's brutal war. Supporters of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), which is leading the armed struggle against the dictatorship, have been calling for talks with the government. Duarte was finally forced to have a few meetings with the rebel forces but has refused to continue the talks. Instead, he is escalating the war.

Demands for "union freedom, dialogue, and negotiations" were repeated often at the FENASTRAS convention. Participants chanted "Diálogo, sí. Guerra, no!" (Dialogue, yes. War, no!)

There has been a steady increase in public activity by unions, peasant groups, refugees, and human rights activists during the past year. This has included strikes and street demonstrations in the capital city even though Salvadoran working people risk their lives to participate in this type of activity. The FENASTRAS convention was one of a series of public meetings and forums that are being advertised.

#### International solidarity

Convention delegates put a lot of emphasis on the importance of international solidarity. All the international union guests were introduced to the convention and were greeted enthusiastically. The international observers included about 30 unionists from the United States. Official representatives were sent from the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; International Association of Machinists; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and International Longshoremen's and Ware-



Héctor Recinos (left) at 1980 meeting in El Salvador. He was freed from prison as result of international campaign and returned to his country for recent convention. At right, Salvadoran communications workers protest government repression.



housemen's Union. There were also official representatives there from locals of the United Mine Workers of America; Molders and Allied Workers Union; International Union of Electronic Workers; National Education Association; American Postal Workers Union; Service Employees International Union; Office and Professional Employees International Union; and the Santa Clara County AFL-CIO. Unionists from Canada, France, and Mexico also attended.

The presence of international guests was important in helping to prevent the regime from attacking the meeting.

#### 'Nonalignment'

In a position paper on international relations approved by the convention, FENASTRAS stated its position of "nonalignment" in relation to the various international federations and political currents that make up the union movement worldwide. "We have maintained significant fraternal

union relations with organizations in Mexico, the United States, Canada, Europe, Central America, Australia, and the rest of the countries of Latin America," the document explained. "FENASTRAS is already recognized on an international level, and our position of nonalignment allows us to gain the respect and recognition of workers on a world level."

The convention resolved to maintain permanent international representatives of

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## Ga. farmer wins round in eviction fight

BY SARA JEAN JOHNSTON

ATLANTA — "It's not over," said Oscar Lorick, the 66-year-old Black farmer who is fighting to keep his 79-acre farm outside Cochran, Georgia. The farm has been in his family since the reconstruction period after the U.S. Civil War.

"The banks didn't plan to buy me out," said Lorick. "They were just going to take everything I had. But people helped to stop that, and this lawyer is going to file a suit to show that I don't have to leave. Maybe I can get some of my equipment back."

Lorick's lawyer, Alvin McDougald, explained, "Farmers set up a protest to stop the eviction Friday, November 15. That night, AAM [American Agriculture Movement] leaders, the NAACP, Lorick, and I met with Sheriff Coley and people from the Justice Department and secured an 'indefinite stay' on the eviction. I'm working with the NAACP on filing a suit to expose what we see as out-and-out bank fraud."

A week following Sheriff Coley's eviction attempts, this city's big-business media proclaimed, "Cochran farmer's ordeal has happy ending." This was a reference to a Black businessman from Florida, named Dixon, who offered to buy the farm and lease it to Oscar Lorick for \$1 a month. Dixon's wife knew the Loricks when she was a child. After reading about the attempt to evict the Loricks, the Dixons contacted Tommy Kersey of the AAM and made their offer.

[As we go to press, the media is reporting that Dixon was arrested by Sheriff Coley, allegedly for forgery and grand theft. What this will mean for the Loricks remains unclear at this time.]

"Cook banking company tried to place conditions on the Dixons' purchase of the farm," said McDougald. "They wanted Oscar to sign a 'covenant agreement' saying that he wouldn't sue the bank! We told

them what they could do with that proposal."

"This doesn't stop the suit nor our investigation," said James Lingo, representing the NAACP. The NAACP is filing suit charging that the Cook banking company failed to maintain records of Lorick's deposits and improperly seized and auctioned off Lorick's farm in 1984.

"This didn't start with Oscar Lorick, and it won't stop with Oscar Lorick," said Lingo. "We're finding this goes beyond the Cook banking company and involves the FmHA [Farmers Home Administration].

too. The FmHA, Lingo continued, "is involved in the entrapment of farmers. They use their guidelines to do this. They tell the farmers how to farm, then make the farmers take all the risks. And this isn't just in Cochran, it's all over the state. With low farm prices, this crisis will deepen."

The FmHA has been barred from foreclosing on Georgia farmers since 1981, when a south Georgia farm family won a suit against the agency. The suit charged that the FmHA had failed to explain the family's financial alternatives before be-

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## Union forces Hormel to resume negotiations in Minn. strike

BY STEVE WATTENMAKER

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The giant meat-processing George A. Hormel Co. was forced to resume contract negotiations with Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union following a strike-support meeting of national and local UFCW officials in Chicago on November 5.

The meeting was called by UFCW national President William Wynn and included representatives of all the locals in the Hormel chain as well as five international union officials.

Following the meeting a joint statement was issued by Wynn and P-9 President Jim Guyette which read: "The International Union reaffirms its support of Local P-9 and the 1,500 workers on strike in Austin in their efforts to achieve an honorable and fair contract."

The statement also noted the local and international officials' concern with "the issues of health and safety, an effective grievance procedure, common contract ex-

piration dates, and worker dignity, as well as economic matters."

But the section of the joint statement that undoubtedly brought Hormel to the bargaining table was its threat to extend the strike. "If Hormel fails or delays in bargaining in good faith," it said, "the International Union will sanction extension of P-9's picket lines to other Hormel operations."

As negotiations resumed, Local P-9 also announced an extension of their corporate campaign in an effort to keep the heat on Hormel. Supporters of the strike in more than 20 cities have helped distribute leaflets at Burger King restaurants and major food chains alerting customers to the issues in the strike. Burger King is a major purchaser of Hormel's precooked bacon.

At the same time, P-9 has mailed a letter to 50,000 union locals appealing to them to "Adopt a P-9 family" by pledging a monthly financial contribution for as long as the strike continues.