

## Nicaragua condemns use of U.S. advisers in war

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In a national broadcast interview with Sandinista television on April 8, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega condemned the deepening direct involvement of U.S. personnel in Washington's mercenary war against Nicaragua. He also appealed especially to the Honduran government to resist U.S. government pressures to start a military conflict with Nicaraguan troops.

Ortega explained that Washington is building "a sixth army" in Central America, alongside the armies of Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. This sixth army is the mercenary forces who are financed and run by the U.S. government and who launch attacks on Nicaragua, mainly from bases in Honduras. The mercenary army "is a threat to the stability of Honduras," Ortega said, and also "a threat to Nicaragua and to the Central American region."

The Sandinistas have recently charged that Washington is beginning to "Vietnamize" the mercenary war. Asked to elaborate on this, Ortega said, "The Vietnamization is already the reality. That is, the first steps have been taken."

"The United States started the policy of Vietnamization using the mercenary forces," he said. However, "they weren't able to overthrow the Sandinista revolution with the mercenaries. On the contrary, the mercenaries are being defeated by the Nicaraguan people. So, the United States is now moving to a new phase, which is to involve their helicopters and air force officers in Honduras in support of the mercenaries. In addition, President Reagan is now asking for authorization so that U.S. military advisers can go to Honduras to train the mercenaries."

This is "a step in the process of massive intervention of U.S. forces" against Nicaragua, he said.

To cover up the deepening direct U.S. role, Ortega explained, Washington is trying to force Honduran troops into a military conflict with Nicaraguan troops, to make it



U.S. helicopter over airstrip being built in Honduras. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega warned that Washington is increasing direct involvement of U.S. personnel in contra war.

look as though the actual confrontation is between Honduras and Nicaragua, not Washington and Nicaragua.

"They've tried this before on various occasions," he said. The most recent attempt was in late March, he explained, after Sandinista troops successfully attacked several key *contra* bases located in Honduras.

"As we were defeating the mercenaries, hitting their main camps," Ortega said, "the United States put pressure on Honduras to use its troops against Nicaragua and in defense of the mercenaries. The U.S. government launched a campaign that Nicaragua had invaded Honduras in order to justify such an action and also to justify the participation of U.S. [forces] in supposed support of Honduras."

"Honduras didn't fall into the trap," he

continued, but Washington nevertheless used the invasion story to send its helicopters to transport Honduran troops to the border with Nicaragua. Gradually, however, "Reagan's lies were exposed," said Ortega. It became clear in world public opinion that there was no Nicaraguan invasion of Honduras, but rather battles between Nicaraguan troops and the *contras*.

The U.S. strategy, he said, remains for Honduras to claim it has been militarily attacked by Nicaragua in order to ask for U.S. aid. That way, he explained, "the United States will have the opportunity in the course of a supposed defense of Honduras to launch its own forces against Nicaragua."

"We hope Honduras will stand firm" in the face of Washington's plan, Ortega said, "that it won't lend itself to this game, that it won't accept this." A conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua, he explained, would bring "upheaval, pain, and destruction to the countries of Central America."

Asked what the current relations are between Honduras and Nicaragua, Ortega said relations "are characterized by the decision of the Honduran government and the decision of the Nicaraguan people to not

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## All out for April 19 antiwar protest

BY STEVEN FUCHS

SAN FRANCISCO — "The time has come for those of us truly concerned about peace to take to the streets." That is how Carlos Muñoz of the Faculty Committee for Human Rights in El Salvador explained the importance of the April 19 Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice.

As Washington escalates its aggression against the people of Nicaragua, the demonstration takes on even greater importance.

Many thousands of people will march on April 19 to demand no U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean; end U.S. support for South African apartheid; jobs and justice, not war; and freeze and reverse the nuclear arms race.

The march is supported by a wide range of unions, including seven AFL-CIO labor councils, as well as peace, anti-apartheid, and solidarity groups and women's, student, Latino, and Black organizations.

The Service Employees International Union ran a half-page ad in their newspaper for the march. Local unions of machinists and oil workers have heard speakers from the mobilization committee.

Painters and Tapers Union Local 15 wrote to the coalition that they will organize a contingent behind their union banner. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union held a meeting to discuss plans for a contingent. Workers came from shops in San Francisco, Oakland, and Napa Valley.

Protesters will come from as far away as Texas. Activists from the University of Houston wrote the coalition saying the Texas Mobilization endorsed the action. They are bringing a contingent and their banner, "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua."

Groups in several California cities are organizing buses to the march. The San Jose Board of Supervisors voted to provide buses at half price to the local coalition.

Many thousands of people have heard about the mobilization from mailings and newsletters of supporting organizations. Community newspapers, including the *Bay Guardian* and the Black weekly *Sun Reporter*, are running ads or articles about the demonstration.

Washington's escalation of its contra

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## Working people come to aid of Hormel strikers

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

AUSTIN, Minn., April 9 — Workers and farmers from around the country are answering the call by striking meatpackers to join them in their fight against Hormel's union-busting. Delegations of unionists, farmers, and students from scores of cities and towns are arriving here to participate in the April 9-12 action to support the strike.

In the week leading up to the action, teams of striking meatpackers and their supporters have been fanning out across the Northwest and Midwest leafleting plant gates and speaking to workers in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and South Dakota. The strikers have also been speaking on college campuses in the area to build these demonstrations.

Young supporters of this struggle have joined strikers in door-to-door leafleting for the action here.

The strikers, who are members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9, have made a special effort to reach out to other members of their union. In the last week, meetings with fellow UFCW members were organized in nearby Albert Lea (see story page 4) and Dubuque, Iowa. The strikers have also met with union members from the Hormel plant in Ottumwa, Iowa. More than 50 workers in Ottumwa were locked out and fired by

the company for honoring P-9's picket line at their plant.

Building support among other UFCW members is particularly important since the union's top officialdom withdrew the strike sanction less than a month ago. These top officials are now trying to place Local P-9 into trusteeship, replacing the local's

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Militant/Tom Jaax

## Reagan prepares new military attacks on people of Libya

BY FRED FELDMAN

The frame-up charge of terrorism is being used to justify new war moves against Libya. At his April 9 news conference, President Reagan threatened new military action against Libya, claiming that there was "considerable evidence" that Libyan head of state Muammar el-Qaddafi was responsible for "terrorist acts."

Two U.S. aircraft carriers remained stationed in the Mediterranean. According to the April 10 *New York Times*, "the Reagan administration is positioning itself for possible military action against Libya."

No specific act was cited and, as usual in the war propaganda against Libya, none of the alleged "considerable evidence" was supplied. Instead, Reagan launched into a racist tirade against Qaddafi as the "mad dog of the Middle East."

U.S. officials have also revealed that

Washington has rejected at least seven attempts by Qaddafi to discuss a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The new threats followed the March 27 announcement that the largest naval force assembled in the Mediterranean since World War II was pulling back from waters near Libya. The fleet launched attacks on Libya March 24 and 25 that killed 56 people.

To prepare the ground for new attacks on Libya, the Reagan administration and the capitalist media — again without evidence — portray Qaddafi as responsible for the April 5 bombing of a West Berlin discotheque, in which two people died, and the April 2 explosion of a bomb in a TWA jetliner that killed four people.

In order to further isolate Libya and lend credibility to the frame-up, Washington is

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# Socialist press well-received at Jersey factories

BY BOB ROWAND

NEWARK, N.J. — A growing number of workers in the Newark area are following the developments in the meatpackers' strike against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota. This has been demonstrated

by the response to *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* sales teams at factories and picket lines over the past several weeks.

## SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

Hats and buttons of the striking meatpackers' UFCW Local P-9 are worn by Upsala College

on campus and a two-day boycott of classes to support the strikers' demands. Sales of the monthly *Young Socialist* have been particularly brisk, and the *Militant* has been well received by both the workers and the students.

The maintenance workers were particularly glad to see a member of their union billed as a featured speaker at a Newark Militant Labor Forum. The Upsala striker will appear along with a representative of the flight attendants' union on strike against TWA and of the North Jersey P-9 Support Group.

The leaflet announcing the meeting features on its reverse side "The Hormel Strike at a Glance" reprinted from the *Militant* and a list of Hormel products to be boycotted.

We've recently added several plants that we have never gone to before or have not sold at for a while.

At the GM Linden plant a team has been going now for a little

over a month selling a few papers each week.

At Howmedico, a pharmaceutical plant organized by the electronic workers, the first team to go there sold seven *Militants*. Interest in the Hormel strike was high. Several of the workers had heard about it and were glad to see a paper that was on the side of the strikers. One worker, who had already gone into work before we arrived, came out to get a *Militant* after seeing it inside the plant.

At Maidenform, a large garment shop, four *Militants* were sold on the team's first visit. One worker who had been following the strike more closely than others wanted to stop and talk for a while before buying a paper and going into work.

We have also begun selling to area meatpackers and Teamster-organized truck drivers in the meatpacking district of lower Manhattan. This sale goes out at 1 p.m., which is the end of the day for the meatpackers. The first team to sell there sold two *Militants* and two *Perspectiva Mundiales*.

While all 19 sales teams don't go out every week, some teams are selling each week. Our task is to get more teams out regularly. When they do go out most teams sell some papers and find that workers are watching developments in Nicaragua and are being inspired by the big victories in the Philippines and in Haiti. Many are looking to win one in Austin, Minnesota.

## N.Y. forum hears leader of striking flight attendants

BY DON DAVIS

NEW YORK — Two leaders of strikes against TWA and Hormel described the challenges they have faced, lessons they have learned, and the pride they feel in the fights waged by their unions. They spoke at an inspiring Militant Labor Forum here April 4.

Both Karen Lantz and Merrill Evans pointed to the fighting spirit of the members of their unions: the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA), and Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) in Austin, Minnesota.

Lantz, national vice-president of IFFA, noted that TWA President Carl Icahn had predicted before the strike that the flight attendants would be "running over each other's backs to get back to work."

As the TWA strike entered its fifth week, she said, 95 percent of IFFA members at TWA were still on strike, and a nationwide television hookup of union members had just resulted in a 97 percent vote to continue to strike.

Both outlined the outrageous concession demands they faced and the low tactics used by the bosses to break the strikes.

TWA was able to fly 85-90 percent of its schedule — not the 100 percent the company claimed — by flying planes that mechanics declared unsafe and by threatening other TWA employees with dismissal if they did not work as flight attendants, Lantz said.

She added that the company's tactics made it more likely that unorganized TWA ground personnel would vote to unionize in an election to be held later this month.

Evans noted that Local P-9 had not gone on strike since 1933 and had granted concessions in 16 of the last 23 years. Despite this, he said, Hormel — the most profitable meatpacking company — was demanding extensive new concessions.

He said the company and the State of Minnesota were threatening to deny all fu-

ture benefits to workers on disability if they did not go back to work during the strike. And he told the story of one farmer threatened by a bank with foreclosure if he did not scab. The farmer still refused to cross the picket line.

Referring to Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich, he said, "We have got a progressive Democratic governor. With one phone call from the Hormel company he called out the National Guard."

Lantz and Evans agreed that all unions are under attack and that only labor solidarity could turn back the employer offensive.

Lantz noted that IFFA is a young union, just nine years old April 1, and that many of its members did not understand before

this strike what solidarity meant. "But," she said, "they do understand now."

She said the willingness of P-9ers on solidarity tours around the country to walk TWA picket lines set an inspiring example that should be emulated by other unionists.

Evans opened his remarks by saying, "The same thing is happening to all of us. If you carry a union card in this country you are under assault."

"It's calculated. It's planned. And it's going to get worse if we don't stop it."

He emphasized the importance of the "Adopt A Family" program initiated by Local P-9, which asks unions and others to pledge a certain amount per month to aid strikers.

This scares the companies, Evans said, "because it means they can't starve us out."

He blasted the International leadership of the UFCW for withdrawing its support for the Hormel strike.

Pointing to the slogan on the back of his P-9 jacket, "No retreat, no surrender," he said, "That's exactly what we're going to do. We're going to beat them and that's all there is to it."

The audience donated more than \$70 to a collection that was to be split between the two unions, but, in an act of solidarity, the IFFA strikers donated their share to P-9.

The forum was taped by radio station WBAI, which played excerpts over the following days.



Militant/Harry Ring

Karen Lantz, vice-president of flight attendants' union.

## St. Louis TWA strike solidarity

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN AND BOB MILLER

ST. LOUIS — Since members of the International Federation of Flight Attendants struck TWA on March 7 they have held rallies here several times a week attended by hundreds of unionists.

Some 200 unionists joined 150 flight attendants at a support rally March 20 at the Operating Engineers' hall. Officials of the central labor council, building-trades council, Region 5 of the United Auto Workers, Teamsters, unionized public employees, and teachers' union, along with local leaders of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the Coalition of Labor Union Women, offered their support for the flight attendants' strike.

Mike McDermott, head of the St. Louis flight attendants' local opened the rally by saying, "Ronald Reagan started something and we're going to do something to finish it, along with our brothers and sisters who are up in that cold weather in Austin, Minnesota." McDermott's reference to the Hormel strikers drew cheers and loud applause.

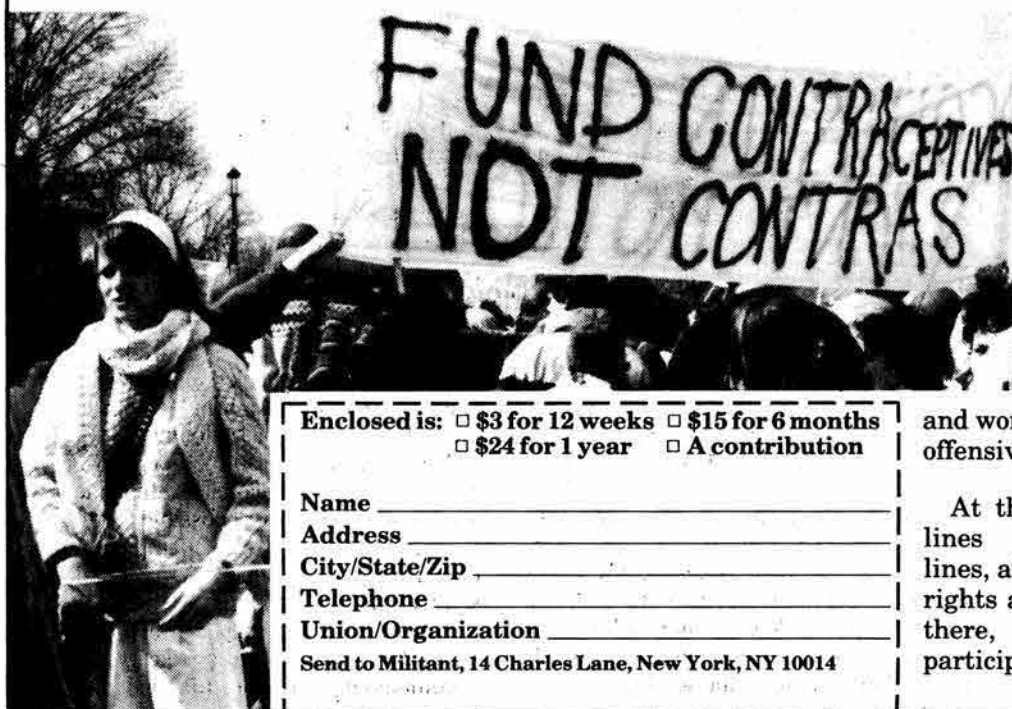
Pam Ross, representing Central NOW in St. Louis, hit Carl Icahn's sexist remarks about the striking TWA workers. When Ross asked, "How many times has TWA sponsored a seminar on sexual harassment?" The flight attendants shouted "Never!" Eighty-five percent of the striking members of the flight attendants' union are women.

A dozen members of Teamsters Local 600 were recognized by a standing ovation by the strikers. The Teamsters are the only unionists honoring the flight attendants' picket line here. At the airport in St. Louis, Teamsters have turned away trucks about to make deliveries to TWA.

On March 23, some 400 flight attendants and their supporters rallied at United Auto Workers Local 25's hall.

In the best-publicized car wash in St. Louis, six members of the St. Louis Cardinals football team washed cars to raise money for the striking TWA flight attendants. In a press statement they said that they were doing it because "we're all workers."

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That's the way you'll get facts about Washington's war against working people at home and abroad: from South Africa and Nicaragua, to embattled workers and farmers in the U.S. Read our ideas on how to stop apartheid, war, the oppression of Blacks

and women, and the employer offensive against all workers.

At the plant gates, picket lines and unemployment lines, at antiwar and abortion rights actions, the *Militant* is there, reporting the news, participating in struggle.

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# Winnie Mandela: 'Time for crying is over'

BY GEORGE KAPLAN

"You are told that your leaders in prison and in exile are terrorists. But I tell you that the terrorists are in Pretoria and Cape Town. The government are the terrorists. They are the ones who must be behind bars."

Anti-apartheid leader Winnie Mandela said this at the April 5 funeral of one of the young victims of the regime of South African President Pieter Botha. Held in the town of Brandfort in the Orange Free State Province, the funeral was attended by 3,000 people.

"We no longer come to the funerals of our young heroes to shed tears. The time for crying is over. We can no longer waste our tears. The struggle cannot be won unless we take direct action against the Botha regime. The time has come where we must show that we are disciplined and trained warriors."

She also commented on rumors that the government might soon release Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress who has been held in prison since 1962 for the crime of fighting apartheid. Apartheid is a racist system that seeks to guarantee a monopoly of political

power to the white rulers by denying all rights to the 85 percent of the population that is Black.

"I want to remind you that the Botha regime will not free your leaders," Winnie Mandela said. "You are the ones who must free your leaders, and you can only free them if you take direct action against the Botha regime."

Winnie Mandela spoke in Brandfort in defiance of a banning order that bars her from making public speeches. The banning order forced her to live in exile in Brandfort from 1976 to 1985.

The South African media are barred from quoting persons who are proclaimed banned. But two newspapers defied the restrictions by quoting from Mandela's speech.

On April 2 Mandela had returned to her family home in Soweto, a 1.5-million-per-

son Black township near Johannesburg, after she received word that the government had given up its effort to continue the ban on her. She had been under tight restrictions or in prison for the last 24 years. She was given a triumphal welcome by relatives and a crowd of neighbors and passersby.

In December Mandela was arrested twice for attempting to return to her home. She had defied the regime by leaving her place of forced exile in Brandfort after her house there was burned to the ground by arsonists believed to be linked to the apartheid regime. Although she was released from jail, she still faces charges that could lead to imprisonment for up to three years.

At that time the government gave up its efforts to force her to return to exile in Brandfort, but barred her from the Johannesburg area.

The government indicated the ban would

be dropped after a court declared 14 arrests without charges to be invalid on the grounds that the government had failed to justify them beyond stating that they were "in the interests of the security of the state."

It was the first time detention orders had been thrown out by the courts.

Since the government has followed the same procedure in imposing other bans, the decision was thought likely to lead to the lifting of the remaining bans on six anti-apartheid fighters, including Mandela.

On April 4, however, the apartheid regime said the ban on Mandela was still in force. Mandela then left her home in Soweto at the advice of her lawyer.

According to the April 5 *Washington Post*, "Observers believe the administration may be stalling on the withdrawal of Mandela's restriction order while it seeks a new way of silencing her."



Winnie Mandela

## Steelworkers approve LTV contract

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

CHICAGO — Members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) employed by LTV Steel approved a new contract by a vote of 13,081 to 8,464. The 40-month contract cuts wages and benefits by \$3.15 an hour and will cost each steelworker an estimated \$6,600 a year.

In addition, the cost-of-living adjustment was lost, and workers with more than two weeks' vacation lost one week's vacation. Three paid holidays were also eliminated.

The LTV Steel contract was the first basic steel contract to be settled this year. Previously, steel contracts were negotiated on an industrywide basis. But last year, the steel industry's Big Six — U.S. Steel, LTV, Bethlehem Steel, Inland Steel, Armco, and National Steel — announced they would no longer carry out coordinated bargaining with the union. The old basic steel contract does not expire until July 31, 1986, but LTV successfully pushed for an earlier deadline. The company argued that

they needed to reduce their labor costs to remain financially solvent.

Cleveland-based LTV Steel, a subsidiary of LTV Corp. of Dallas, is the second-largest steel producer in the United States. The new contract covers 30,500 workers at 24 plants. This includes 8,000 who have been laid off for less than two years.

Apparently many of these laid-off workers believe that the concessions might mean job security. At the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, plant, which was idled indefinitely last year, workers voted 2,700 to 130 in favor of the contract. But in the large Cleveland mills, where employment is relatively high, the vote went two to one against the contract.

The two mills in Chicago and East Chicago, Indiana, both rejected the contract.

At mass meetings held in Pennsylvania, Cleveland, and Northern Indiana, union negotiators urged a yes vote. "If the contract is turned down, the banks could force

the company into bankruptcy in 30 days," warned Frank Valenta, USWA District 28 director from Cleveland.

"This isn't a concessionary package; it's an investment in the company," said chief USWA negotiator Anthony Rainaldi.

Many union members didn't see it that way. Unionists interviewed at the informational meetings around the country expressed their opposition to more concessions.

In return for their "investment in the company," LTV workers are being offered a phony profit-sharing plan. Under this plan, workers would receive LTV stock equivalent to the value of the concessions they made if the company returns to profitability. The stock would be held in trust and would pay a 5 percent dividend in more stock. After two years, employees could withdraw the stock and convert it to common shares at the rate of \$16 a share. But the company strongly urges workers to

Continued on Page 16

### Pledge Scoreboard

City	Pledged
Atlanta	1055
Baltimore	1014
Birmingham	—
Boston	390
Capital District, N.Y.	290
Charleston, W. Va.	1830
Chicago	1740
Cincinnati	1105
Cleveland	1215
Dallas	4035
Denver	1860
Detroit	3075
Greensboro, N.C.	1405
Houston	7770
Kansas City	1285
Los Angeles	6635
Louisville	800
Miami	1440
Milwaukee	600
Morgantown, W. Va.	900
New Orleans	2205
New York	7045
Newark	4645
Oakland	6585
Philadelphia	1800
Phoenix	860
Pittsburgh	1430
Portland	1541
Price, Utah	600
Salt Lake City	2075
San Diego	1950
San Francisco	2830
San Jose	3575
Seattle	2250
St. Louis	1075
Tidewater, Va.	450
Toledo	1620
Twin Cities	4125
Washington D.C.	2140
Other cities	685
<b>Total pledged</b>	<b>87,930</b>
<b>Total paid</b>	<b>19,400</b>

## \$100,000 Socialist Publication Fund

On March 15 we launched the Socialist Publication Fund with the goal of raising \$100,000 by May 10.

A major purpose of the fund is to help finance publication of the *Militant*, our Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, and other socialist publication projects.

Checks should be made out to:  
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Enclosed is my contribution to the Socialist Publication Fund of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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## We need your fund pledge now

BY PAT GROGAN

At midpoint in the Socialist Publication Fund drive, we have received contributions totalling \$19,400. These very generous pledges have come in from 500 readers and supporters.

The most important next step, if we are to reach our goal of raising \$100,000 by May 10, is for everyone who hasn't gotten around to it yet to *make your pledge now*.

The backbone of our fundraising efforts always comes from those who help distribute the socialist publications, who help sell the press every week on the job, on the campuses, at anti-apartheid and women's rights actions, and on the picket lines.

And we know that many more than 500 plan to contribute to the fund drive, which makes it possible to maintain and expand our socialist press.

So, if you haven't done it yet, make your pledge this week. With four weeks to go before the May 10 deadline, this still leaves plenty of time to space out payments on your pledge.

Every contribution, large and small, is needed and will be put to good use.

One supporter from Tucson marked the memo line on her check with the note: "for the eyewitness reports from Haiti."

But in addition to making it possible for us to bring you firsthand reports from Haiti, Nicaragua, Cuba, the Philippines, and elsewhere, your contribution also helps us bring socialist books and pamphlets to people in struggle throughout the world.

Last week's *Militant* reported on a meeting at the National Press Club in Manila to launch the circulation of books from Pathfinder Press and from the José Martí publishing house in Cuba. Speakers commented that the precious democratic rights won by the Filipino people now enable them to study and learn from revolutionary struggles in Cuba, Nicaragua, South Africa, and elsewhere in the world.

Pathfinder Press is also stepping up dis-

tribution in Japan, Hong Kong, India, Australia, and New Zealand.

Big strides have been made in Ireland. A promotional tour last October opened accounts with 17 bookstores. Among the bookstores that have begun circulating books from Pathfinder are two that are linked to Sinn Féin, the main Irish nationalist organization fighting to reunify Ireland.

The bestsellers have been *Nicaragua: the Sandinista People's Revolution* and *Fidel Castro Speeches 1984-1985: War and Crisis in the Americas*.

In an October 12 review, the Irish nationalist paper *Andersonstown News*, a mass circulation paper in West Belfast, recommended the Nicaragua book to those "who are interested in Nicaragua ... a country politically and economically controlled by the working class and the peasants." It argued that "schools would be improved if such a book was added to the curriculum."

*An Phoblacht/Republican News*, the weekly paper of Sinn Féin, recommended both books as containing important lessons for the Irish people.

To aid promotion of the Nicaragua book, People's Democracy, Irish section of the Fourth International (a world Marxist organization), held meetings and receptions in Belfast and Dublin.

In Britain, big labor struggles, such as the British miners' strike, as well as an upsurge in Britain's Black communities, have spurred interest in Pathfinder titles, especially the writings of Malcolm X.

Your contribution to the Socialist Publication Fund helps make this expanded international distribution possible. It also allows us to offer books and pamphlets at reduced prices to fighters in colonial and semicolonial countries.

If you want to help in this effort to strengthen international solidarity, use the accompanying coupon to send in your pledge or donation now.



# Working people aid Hormel strikers

Continued from front page

elected leaders with appointed officials.

In repudiation of these attacks, UFCW locals in the Midwest have been stepping up their support for the strike. Dozens of members of UFCW locals in Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, along with the Dane County Central Labor Council brought 100,000 pounds of food to Austin April 4.

The UFCW local in St. Paul donated \$500 to a second food caravan, which brought 80,000 pounds of food to the strikers the same day. This caravan was organized by the strike support groups from Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Members of UFCW Local P-6 at the Farmstead plant in Albert Lea were recently laid off for refusing to work on meat from the struck Hormel plant in Austin.

Members of these locals, as well as members of the UFCW locals in Ottumwa; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Fremont, Nebraska, will be participating with other UFCW members in the solidarity actions here.

Working people across the country have been following the eight-month-long strike to win a decent contract from Hormel. Thousands of working people in scores of cities have heard strikers explain their struggle.

This hard-fought strike has inspired workers and farmers, especially those who are themselves fighting against attacks from the bosses and the government. Many of these embattled workers will be coming to Austin to show their solidarity for the Hormel strikers.

Delegations of striking TWA flight attendants plan to attend the action. Chicago Tribune strikers are sending a contingent to Austin. Cannery workers on strike in Watsonville, California, will be traveling hundreds of miles to participate. Farmers who are fighting foreclosures are also planning to participate in these actions.

Chillicothe, Missouri, farmers who have been blockading federal farm loan agencies for the past month (see story page 5) will be sending a delegation to Austin.

Charlie Tenniston, a central activist from Chillicothe, told the *Militant* the farmers are coming to Austin because

"Hormel is squeezing farmers. They're stealing our hogs and not paying us a price, the same way they deny workers a rightful wage." Tenniston also said that these farmers were no longer selling their hogs to Hormel to show support for the workers' struggle.

The Chillicothe farmers will be joined by farm activists from Kirksville, Missouri, who have also recently organized protest actions. Farm activists from Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance, North American Farm Alliance, and Minnesota Groundswell will also be participating.

Delegations of working people are coming to the action from as far away as Seattle, Washington, and Bath, Maine.

The unionists and farmers will be joined by high school and college students from Minneapolis-St. Paul and other cities.

As momentum builds toward the actions against Hormel's union-busting, the cops have begun a campaign to try to intimidate the union and its allies. Local cops have threatened to arrest 100 people on each day of the action. They have boasted that they will bring in ambulances to "scare" union members and their supporters.

Mower County Sheriff Wayne Goodnature and Austin Police Chief Don Hoffman charged April 9 that the action could turn into a "full-scale riot." They joined Hormel officials in calling on Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich to once again send the National Guard to the plant gate. Perpich had sent the Guard to herd scabs for the company in January. The troops were finally withdrawn 33 days later.

In response to this latest call for troops, a governor's spokesperson said that the request was "premature. It is still a local problem," he continued, "unless something develops that is really out of hand."

The union has charged that the only violence in the strike has been the cops and scabs who have attacked strikers and supporters. Hormel and the cops, they explain, are responsible for these attacks.

The strikers also explain that these activities, like the first national solidarity action when 4,000 people marched in support of P-9 here February 15, will be peaceful demonstrations of support for their fight against union-busting.

## Strike activists denounce criminal syndicalism charges

BY TOM JAAX

AUSTIN, Minn. — In an escalation of his attacks on the meatpackers' strike, Mower County prosecutor Fred Kraft upped the ante in the criminal syndicalism charge against Ray Rogers, striking Local P-9's consultant.

At a March 31 hearing for Rogers, the county attorney amended the charge to state that Rogers not only committed criminal syndicalism, but joined organizations that advocate and promote criminal syndicalism. Under the amended charge, the government claims that both the striking local and Rogers' company, Corporate Campaign, Inc., advocate criminal syndicalism.

State law defines criminal syndicalism as "the doctrine which advocates crime, malicious damage or injury to the property of an employer, violence or other unlawful methods of terrorism as a means of accomplishing industrial or political ends." It is a felony punishable by five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. This statute has not been

used since 1921 when it was employed against union organizers.

According to Emily Bass, Rogers' attorney, the amended charge opens the door for the government to accuse any union member or supporter of the local's fight against Hormel with "criminal syndicalist conspiracy."

The charge against Rogers stems from a February 6 demonstration at Hormel's plant gates where he was singled out for arrest. Rogers has characterized the charge as a witch-hunt red-scare tactic.

During the hearing, defense attorney Mark Wernick moved that the charge be dismissed. The statute, he argued, was unconstitutional since it interfered with the strikers' First Amendment right to picket. Wernick also argued there was no reason to believe that any crime would be committed.

Citing a leaflet's headline, "Shut down Hormel," which was published to build national strike support actions here, Kraft moved to revoke Rogers' bail. He told the court, "The First Amendment doesn't give Rogers the right to advocate a shutdown of Hormel." The county attorney added that any attempt to stop Hormel employees (scabs) from entering the plant is in and of itself a "serious crime."

There is a strike, Kraft told the court, and the union local and Rogers are on one side, encouraging the workers to fight the company. Therefore, he continued, they are promoting criminal syndicalism.

Presiding Judge Bruce Stone refused to either dismiss the charges against Rogers or revoke bail. He did, however, set a tentative trial date in the criminal syndicalism case for April 21.

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The Unionist

Volume 51 / Number 24  
The Unionist / Austin, Minnesota

March 28, 1986

### I Have a Dream...

I have a dream that one day out in the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be made low, the rough places will be made plains, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I will go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to climb up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: My country 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing, Land where my fathers died, Land of the Pilgrims' pride, From every mountainside, Let freedom ring.

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that; let freedom ring from the Stone Mountain of Georgia.

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.



March 28 Unionist. Local P-9 paper honored Martin Luther King, Jr., and noted King was slain during his efforts to help Memphis sanitation workers win union recognition.

## Albert Lea workers meet to aid Austin unionists

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

ALBERT LEA, Minn. — Over 50 years ago, meatpackers from Hormel's Austin plant raced to nearby Albert Lea in answer to a call for help from workers fighting for a union at Wilson's meatpacking plant. At that time, the combined forces of the Austin and Albert Lea workers successfully drove the scabs from the plant and forced the company to recognize the union.

Austin meatpackers returned to Albert Lea Sunday, April 4, to build the mass solidarity actions called for April 9-12 to support their current fight against Hormel's union-busting. Some 250 workers participated in the meeting here, including members of UFCW Local P-6 from the Albert Lea area. It was sponsored by the Strikers United Support Group. Unionists from Albert Lea who have been organizing weekly plant-gate collections for the strikers requested the meeting to help build the upcoming events in Austin.

The meeting was billed as an opportunity for the Albert Lea workers to hear the strikers explain their struggle and answer the lies and slanders of the company, the big-business media, and the top officials of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

Jim Guyette, president of striking UFCW Local P-9, opened the meeting. Contrary to reports in the media, he said, the struggle in Austin is far from over. The strike and boycott of Hormel products called by the local is affecting the com-

pany. "Orders are not being met," Guyette reported, "for the first time in the company's history."

The local, he said, has offered to accept a contract similar to those in effect at the company's other plants, but the company has rejected these proposals. They are hoping to starve the strikers out, Guyette explained, and bust the local.

The strikers have been able to hang tough because of the solidarity they have received from other working people. Despite public attacks by the top officialdom of the UFCW and the withdrawing of the strike sanction, Guyette said, the local has won broad support from unions, including from other locals of the UFCW across the country.

Just the day before, Guyette said, two caravans brought 180,000 pounds of food for the strikers. The UFCW locals in Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as well as in Minnesota, played major roles in organizing these caravans.

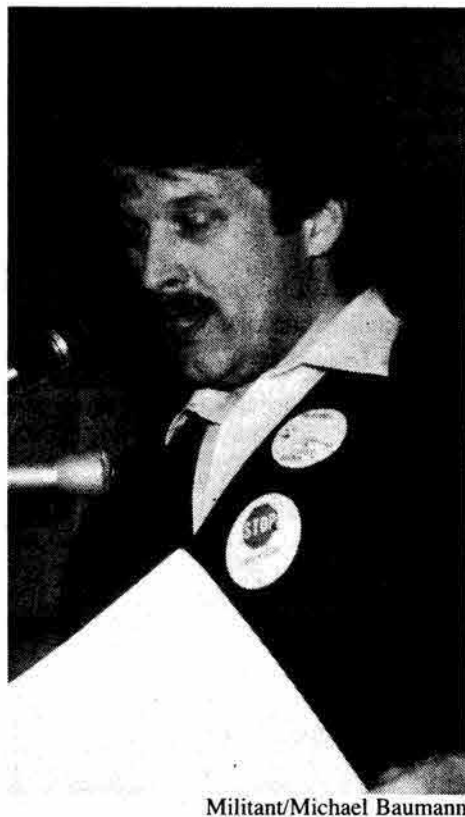
Longshoremen in Oakland, California, he reported, refused to unload Hormel products. Mass leafleting for the Hormel boycott was being organized by workers in Philadelphia, Houston, and Boston. Strikers and supporters, Guyette said, were currently speaking to local unions and other organizations about the strike in over a dozen cities across the country.

Members of the UFCW, Guyette continued, are also fighting inside the union to force the UFCW International Executive Committee to end its attacks on the strike. Members of UFCW Local P-40 in Cudahy, Wisconsin, he said, will be voting to stop paying their dues to the International until the International Executive Committee restores the sanction to the P-9 strike.

In closing, Guyette called on workers to come to Austin to help "show that the strike is not over." By coming to Austin April 9-12, Guyette said, working people will be showing "that workers, when they go out on strike, have the right to win."

Mike Dudely, one of over 500 members of UFCW Local 431 at Hormel's plant in Ottumwa, Iowa, who were fired and then locked out for honoring P-9's roving picket lines, also spoke. He reported that the fired workers had recently convinced union officials to arbitrate their firings as one case. Originally, he explained, the officials wanted to arbitrate the firings on a case-by-case basis, which would have allowed the company to victimize militant workers. He told the crowd, "The entire labor movement centers in Austin, Minnesota, and Ottumwa, Iowa. We have to win," he said, "and we will win."

Presentations were also made by P-9 attorneys Emily Bass and Margaret Winter and by Ray Rogers, the local's consultant and head of Corporate Campaign Inc.



Jim Guyette

Militant/Michael Baumann



# Missouri farm protest deepens

## Rally hits gov't loan policies, U.S. war; backs P-9

BY KATHIE FITZGERALD

CHILLICOTHE, Mo. — Some 2,000 farmers jammed into the lot of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) office here Sunday, April 6, spilling onto the street and across it. The FmHA building has been the site of a tractor sit-in since March 17. The farmers are protesting FmHA lending policies and the farm crisis itself, which is deepening across Missouri and the Midwest.

At the microphone was Charlie Tenniston, a Livingston County farmer and one of the central leaders of the protest. "Four weeks ago," Tenniston said, "10 of us farmers met in the local cafe, and we realized that not one of us would be farming next year unless something happened. We're losing farms all across Missouri and the Midwest. And we decided to stop it. Twenty-one days ago in the pouring rain we walked in here. We knew if we didn't take a stand, it would be all over. We stood up, and we're going to continue standing up."

Throwing his arms open to encompass the huge crowd, Tenniston said, "Look what we've done in 21 days. Think what we can do in another 21 days. When the churches are behind us, when the unions are behind us, when the city people are behind us, how can we lose?"

One of the themes of the farmers' protest here in Chillicothe has been opposition to the U.S. government's policies in Central America. Tenniston told the crowd, "They are sending \$100 million to Central America to kill people. To kill people who are just like us. Is that right?"

"No!" the crowd roared.

"They should send that money to Missouri and the Midwest," said Tenniston.

"You know, we used to live in a small world on our farms. If there were problems in the cities, we didn't worry about it. If there was hunger in Africa, we didn't worry about it. But now they are coming after our small world — and black, brown,

and yellow people are standing up all over the world. We have to get behind them because together we can win!"

"We're not only fighting for our farms," he continued, "but what this country is supposed to be all about. Freedom! Justice for all — of all colors — and we have to remember that."

As Tenniston finished his speech, a roar went up from the crowd as the first of 100 tractors led by the prominent civil rights figure and Democratic politician Jesse Jackson came into view. With the tractorcade came an additional 600 farmers, swelling the crowd to almost 3,000.

Jackson told the crowd, "We must fight together as brothers and sisters, not die apart as fools. This is not a real farm crisis. It's a national economic crisis, and it's a government-induced crisis. There is no reason there cannot be a moratorium on foreclosures. If we can play basketball and football together, if we can die on foreign shores together, we can stand up and fight together!"

The size of the crowd, the largest to gather in recent years, is testimony to the determination of central Missouri farmers to continue the protest begun here in Chillicothe.

Fueling that protest is the fact that, despite planting time being only a few weeks away, only 10 percent of the millions FmHA has for operating loans in Missouri has been disbursed. All lenders have tightened their loan requirements, and as a result, farmers across the Midwest are being kept from their fields. In a show of hands, over half the rallying farmers indicated that they still had not heard whether the FmHA or any other lender in the area would provide the loans needed to begin planting corn, soybeans, and other crops.

"FmHA might have been better off if they had given that operating money," said Roger Allison, director of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center and another central leader of the protest. "Today is a beautiful

day to be in the fields, but we haven't got the money we need to spend to plant."

While state and national FmHA investigations of the local FmHA's loan procedures continue, the farmers here have launched an investigation of their own. With the help of two local attorneys, affidavits of numerous farmers are being taken, and a class action suit is being discussed.

Also attending the rally was a delegation of Hormel workers from Austin, Minnesota; Ottumwa, Iowa; and Fremont, Nebraska.

Merle Hansen, president of the North American Farm Alliance, encouraged the crowd to attend the rally planned by the Hormel strikers in Austin on April 12, saying that farmers and workers have to stand together. When Hansen said there was a delegation of Hormel workers present, the crowd cheered.

The Hormel workers were able to get together with local farmers who have already been organizing support for the Austin April 9-12 support activities. By the time the rally was over, a farmer had donated a bus to leave for Austin on Thursday, April 10, and it was three-quarters filled.

The Hormel workers were also able to meet with Jackson, who agreed to speak to the Austin rally via phone hook-up and to



Militant/Marty Pettit

Picket protesting U.S. government farm policy at Chillicothe, Missouri, office of Farmers Home Administration on March 17.

help publicize the action.

The mood of the farmers at the rally was one of elation at the size of the turnout. It was also one of determination. Several times in the last few weeks local officials have floated a series of court injunctions against the tractor sit-in. But as support for the farmers has continued to grow, they have backed off.

As Charlie Tenniston told the rally, "We're staying here, and we're staying on our farms. They are going to have to drag us off."

## N.Y. boosts sales drive

BY HARRY RING

It won't show up on the scoreboard until next week, but our New York sales campaigners had such a sensational success in our circulation drive this past weekend that we can't wait a week to report it.

The current scoreboard — covering the period of Easter weekend — shows us 10 percent behind schedule in our 10-week drive to sell 45,000 single copies and 2,000 subscriptions to the *Militant* and our Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*.

And if you run down the scoreboard, you'll see that a contributing factor was that New York did poorly that week.

With this week a target point in the drive, the members of the New York Socialist Workers Party resolved to turn that situation around — and they did.

On Saturday, April 5, New York sold 474 copies of the *Militant*, and 194 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*.

In addition, they obtained 36 subscriptions, including five to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

We talked with Diane Wang, the director of the New York drive. She pointed out that the results for the *Militant* were greater in that one day than in the best entire week of last spring's sales drive. And, for *PM*, the figure was more than double any previous good week.

How did they do it? Easy, says Wang. They motivated sales people politically, they organized carefully, and they took advantage of the greater receptivity to our publications.

At the SWP weekly meeting previous to the sale, ambitious goals were laid. People were organized into selling teams and specific areas assigned. Each team had a captain, whose duties included wakeup calls to ensure that everyone was out on the street early.

Another big factor, Wang added, was that the Young Socialist Alliance decided to get solidly behind the drive, "and the fact is, they led the way."

And, in addition, Wang explained, "we got a big shot in the arm the night before. We had a wonderful meeting of the Militant Labor Forum in solidarity with the striking TWA flight attendants. Karen Lantz, vice-president of the striking union, spoke. And sharing the platform with her was Merrill Evans, a striking Hormel worker from Austin, Minnesota. After hearing these two fighters, everyone wanted to get out and sell."

Forty-eight people participated in the day's effort, including several SWP active supporters.

Before they set out Saturday morning, they had an invaluable briefing session.

Holbrook Mahn, who has long been a top salesperson of our press, gave a how-to rap. Illustrating as he talked, Mahn explained that simply holding the *Militant* aloft, or hawking like a news vendor, is the least productive approach. Far better, he explained, is to approach people individually and talk with them directly about the paper.

With that, the teams went out.

Two people went to the Columbia University campus, where student activism has, as on so many campuses, taken a big upswing. The team had some valuable discussions and sold 19 *Militants* and 14 *Young Socialists*, monthly newspaper reflecting the views of the YSA.

Four people in Brooklyn's main Haitian community got impressive results. With the issue featuring our firsthand coverage from Haiti, they sold 58 papers and six subscriptions, plus books and pamphlets.

Meanwhile, in Newark, another point was being proven. You can petition to get a socialist candidate on the ballot and still do well in the circulation campaign.

After being undemocratically ruled off the ballot for mayor, the Newark SWP made a snap decision to enter an area congressional race. With 100 petition signatures required, they collected more than 800 signatures on nominating petitions. And they sold 351 copies of the *Militant*, 48 *PMs*, 15 *Young Socialists*, 11 *Militant* subscriptions, and two *PM* subscriptions.

## SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #4: Totals as of Militant issue #13, PM issue #6)

Area	SINGLE ISSUES			
	Militants and <i>Perspectiva</i> <i>Mundials</i> sold this week	Total sold so far	10-week goal	Subscriptions sold so far
Atlanta	105	290	1,040	8
Baltimore	81	299	810	17
Birmingham	39	181	900	2
Boston	100	522	1,000	43
Capital District, N.Y.	67	235	650	24
Charleston, W. Va.	70	302	600	4
Chicago	85	353	1,500	8
Cincinnati	24	139	600	3
Cleveland	32	253	900	15
Dallas	86	611	1,700	18
Denver	53	251	800	11
Detroit	82	777	1,570	18
Greensboro, N.C.	55	223	650	19
Houston	125	596	1,800	28
Kansas City	59	363	1,120	8
Los Angeles	239	761	2,000	40
Louisville	33	151	375	5
Miami	40	181	550	16
Milwaukee	25	210	750	19
Morgantown, W. Va.	78	310	700	5
New Orleans	68	225	650	21
New York	68	713	3,250	27
Newark	189	701	2,600	38
Oakland	77	342	935	9
Philadelphia	31	257	1,000	3
Phoenix	106	453	1,250	22
Pittsburgh	44	213	800	13
Portland	73	234	650	11
Price, Utah	14	55	250	0
Salt Lake City	70	249	640	8
San Diego	22	132	580	2
San Francisco	82	389	1,300	16
San Jose	43	347	1,000	9
Seattle	64	326	800	13
St. Louis	102	395	1,250	13
Tidewater, Va.	28	154	375	3
Toledo	47	218	500	31
Twin Cities	118	630	1,600	20
Washington, D.C.	118	390	800	21
Total sold this week	2,842			
Total sold so far		13,431		591
10-week national goal			45,000	2,000
Percent of national goal reached			30%	30%
To be on schedule			40%	40%

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# Nicaragua leader heads religious peace walk

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Three thousand people attended an open-air mass here on February 28, marking the completion of a 14-day march called "Vía Crucis for Peace and Life." The march was led by Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaragua's foreign minister and a Catholic priest. D'Escoto is also a member of the Sandinista Assembly, the consultative leadership body of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The march reenacted the traditional Catholic Stations of the Cross ceremony, with participants walking 200 miles from the northern town of Jalapa to Managua. Seventy people, according to march organizers, walked the whole way. Thousands, many of them peasants, participated in the march at different points along its route.

The majority of marchers viewed the action as a protest of the U.S. mercenary war against their country. "We are going to obtain peace," said Isidra López, a war refugee displaced from her home by the fighting. "This action is for the total liberation of the country, so that there will be no more aggressors, so that our sons will triumph over the enemy," she told *Barricada*, daily newspaper of the FSLN. *Barricada* carried short front-page articles on the march each day.

The march was the second action in an "evangelical insurrection" first called for

by D'Escoto in July 1985. At that time, he took leave from his duties as foreign minister to go on a month-long fast against the war.

In an interview at that time with the Central American Historical Institute (IHCA), D'Escoto said that "this war financed by the United States is a phenomenon of such a nature that all conventional methods of defense we have been using — and which we should continue using to defend the life of our people — are insufficient."

"Up until now, we have successfully fought the U.S. government's aggressions in the military, diplomatic, economic, and legal trenches."

"Now is the time to occupy a fifth trench in this struggle, the 'theological trench.' Those of us who are Christians, believers, must also occupy this new trench to overcome Reagan."

When he decided to call the Vía Crucis, D'Escoto gave a second interview to the IHCA, excerpts of which were printed on the editorial page of the February 14 *Barricada*. D'Escoto explained that the Vía Crucis had two purposes: "humble prayer directed to the Lord to end the killing and obtain peace and life and the categorical rejection of the lies that try to manipulate religion against a revolution that was made for the poor and for justice."

D'Escoto was asked how he could spend so much time away from his duties as foreign minister. "I already know some



Fourteen-day religious march for peace. Nicaragua's Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, who is also a Catholic priest, organized it.

people are laughing at me, saying I'm crazy or 'extravagant,' that I'm wandering about, that I'm doing something abnormal," he replied. He explained that he is both "a minister of God and a minister of the people," stressing that he saw no "theoretical or practical complications" in leading the march.

## Cardinal Obando y Bravo

The Vía Crucis came shortly after Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, head of the Catholic church hierarchy, visited the United States. He refused to speak out against the U.S.-organized *contra* war and made statements aimed at encouraging Congress to approve \$100 million in aid to the mercenaries.

Obando also held a mass in Miami last year with the participation of *contra* leaders. He calls for "reconciliation" between Nicaraguan workers and peasants and their "brothers," the mercenaries.

Throughout the Vía Crucis, D'Escoto called on Obando to change his stance and urged him to join the march for the final mass in Managua. Obando refused because, as an assistant told the capitalist daily *La Prensa*, it was a "Vía Crucis of the People's Church."

D'Escoto replied that his group of followers "is not a parallel church. This is the apostolic, Roman Church."

Many marchers saw the Vía Crucis as a public way to challenge the support given to the *contras* by the top church hierarchy. Church officials here were themselves divided. In Darío City, priests locked the doors of their church to keep the marchers out when they passed through town. Thousands then joined the marchers for outdoor masses in protest.

Bishop Rubén López Ardón, of the northern city of Estelí, officially blessed

the Vía Crucis when it entered that city. Twenty thousand people turned out to greet the marchers in Estelí, according to *Barricada*.

On February 21, in a major address to Nicaragua's National Assembly on the economy, President Daniel Ortega took up the Vía Crucis briefly in the course of calling for national unity to defend Nicaragua from U.S. aggression.

Ortega said that "the united efforts of the workers and peasants, their sweat, and their sacrifices in defense of the revolution, are guaranteed to the degree that the youth, women, and patriotic producers join in the economic and military defense of the revolution. Combined with the efforts of intellectuals, journalists, artists, technicians, professionals, and religious believers, we are appealing for unity to those sectors that refuse to accept this reality."

"Our foreign minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto, is carrying out a further act for peace," said Ortega. "This is a Christian act, an act in favor of national unity. It is a genuine manifestation of Christianity — concerned for peace, concerned for life, concerned for the rights of Nicaraguans."

## Factory workers

The march came into Managua along the Northern Highway, the main industrial belt, where organizers hoped that many workers from the factories would join in. The Association of Nicaraguan Women had announced that their base committees in the factories would help organize delegations of workers and neighborhood residents to join the march. Leaflets were also up in the markets encouraging people to participate.

Workers at several Northern Highway factories said they were sympathetic to the antiwar themes of the demonstration as the march went by at 5:00 p.m. But few joined in.

Two dozen workers watched the demonstration from the Danto sporting goods factory. Orlando Gómez, a young mechanic, said the march was another demonstration of Nicaragua's desire for peace.

At the Texnica textile plant, about a dozen workers hung over the wall to watch the march go by. Some did not know what it was, but said that it was good that Christians were having a march for peace.

A large crowd of workers stood in front of the Managua electric power plant and waved as the march went by. Douglas Avilés, a warehouseman at the plant, said they had scheduled a rally that same afternoon to welcome back workers who had spent two months harvesting coffee in the mountains. They decided to step outside to greet the Vía Crucis marchers and then went back to their rally.

"The revolution is not just for those who were forged in the struggle," said Avilés. "It's also for Christians who have the same goals of freedom and justice. This march will help if it strengthens their morale."

Of the 3,000 people who gathered at the Plaza of the Revolution for the final mass, it appeared that one-third were international visitors, many of them members of religious or pacifist organizations.

Sixty priests and ministers were on the

Continued on Page 8

## CIA-financed radio calls for support to Cardinal Obando

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The CIA-financed radio station "15th of September" called on Nicaraguans to turn out in large numbers for the Easter week mass celebrated here by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

The station is the official voice of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the largest of the mercenary groups sponsored by Washington to wage war on Nicaragua. The FDN called Obando "our cardinal." Obando has not only refused to repudiate the terrorists' support, but has more and more openly identified himself with U.S. government policy, demanding that the Sandinistas lay down their arms and negotiate with "our brothers," the FDN.

During Easter week, tens of thousands of Nicaraguans across the country participated in church services, as they do every year. Many Nicaraguan working people remain members of the Catholic Church. Government ministries and factories gave people most or all of the week off.

Several thousand attended the March 27 mass led by Obando or participated the

next day in a Stations of the Cross procession that ended in the Plaza of the Revolution. Addressing the marchers, Obando again called for "national reconciliation" with the mercenaries.

Among the marchers were both supporters of Obando and people who look to the Christian base communities, which are led by priests who have condemned the U.S. mercenary war and Obando's thinly veiled support for it.

Several members of the Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs, the organization of women whose children have been killed in the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship or by the *contras*, appeared on television shortly before Obando's mass. They announced they would attend the mass because they were Catholics.

However, they denounced the "15th of September" radio station and Obando. They said they wanted people to know that their participation in the mass in no way reflected political support for the cardinal or the mercenary war. "Our religious sentiments are being manipulated by the *contras*," said one.

## 'IP' on growing South African struggle

For nearly eight months, South Africa's apartheid regime clamped a draconian state of emergency on the country, detaining tens of thousands of anti-apartheid activists and murdering hundreds. But neither that crackdown nor the continuing repression that follows the state of emergency's formal lifting has been able to curb the popular struggle for majority rule.

The April 21 *Intercontinental Press* steps back to look at the growth of this massive upheaval over recent months. Despite the repression, "the resistance has tended to increase as more and more sectors of the population have become actively involved in the struggle to sweep away the hated apartheid system," Ernest Harsch writes.

Since the state of emergency was first imposed, Harsch notes, Black workers have forged the Congress of South African Trade Unions, which is throwing its weight behind the anti-apartheid struggle. Consumer and rent boycotts are continuing in

many Black townships, while new forms of popular organization are emerging. Political ferment is beginning to spread even more to the countryside.

As this process deepens, popular support is also growing for the outlawed African National Congress, the organization leading the struggle for a democratic South Africa.

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# Sandinista unions seek unified May Day celebration

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) has called on all Nicaraguan workers to unite to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the nationwide strike wave launched by U.S. workers on May 1, 1886, to demand the eight-hour day.

"This great strike was brutally crushed by the exploiting classes through the use of police and provocateurs," said the CST in a January 13 statement. "This heroic gesture has merited the perpetual respect and homage of the international proletariat, which has made each first of May a time of struggle for its demands."

The CST called on "all union organizations in the country, without exception, and regardless of their ideology or religion" to unite in a broad committee to organize a mass rally on May Day. They also called for unity in defending the country from the U.S.-backed mercenaries, the *contras*; in increasing production to improve living standards and promote economic development; and in combating hoarding and speculation.

The CST, which is based on industrial workers, was joined in its May Day call by other national unions that support the Sandinista National Liberation Front: the Rural Workers Association (ATC), the National Union of Government Employees (UNE), the Health Workers Federation (FET-SALUD), the National Association of Nicaraguan Educators (ANDEN), the Nicaraguan Council of Professional Organizations (CONAPRO), and the Nicaraguan Journalists Union (UPN). Together, they represent 202,000 of the 228,000 organized workers in Nicaragua.

## CST campaigns for unity of workers

The CST call for a united May Day is part of its campaign to overcome long-standing divisions that exist among Nicaraguan workers.

The CST, with 111,000 members, and the other Sandinista unions represent 89 percent of organized workers. But a significant number belong to other union federations. The largest of these is the General Workers Federation-Independent (CGT-I), with 17,000 members and a large base among construction workers. It is led by the Nicaraguan Socialist Party.

The Council on Trade Union Unification (CUS), the Federation of Trade Union Unity and Action (CAUS), the Workers Front (FO), and the Nicaraguan Workers Federation (CTN), each have between 1,000 and 3,000 members.

All these union federations existed before the 1979 revolution that overthrew the Somoza dictatorship. Many of their members and leaders left to help form the CST in 1979. Union membership jumped from 27,000 to 228,000 after the victory of the revolution and an organizing drive by the CST. Today, most Nicaraguan workers are organized.

The FO is led by the Marxist Leninist Party of Nicaragua and the CAUS by the Nicaraguan Communist Party. While the CGT-I, the FO, and the CAUS have some differences in perspectives, they all function as ultraleft, sectarian opponents of the FSLN and CST.

## Right-wing led unions

The CUS joined with landlords, bankers, businessmen, and U.S.-backed politicians in 1984 to form the Democratic Coordinating Committee. The central leader of the coordinating committee, Arturo Cruz, is now one of the top public leaders of the mercenaries.

When the *Militant* visited the CUS headquarters in Managua in February, their bulletin board featured an article titled "Nicaragua Under the Dictatorship" from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions' paper and letters of support from figures such as AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland denouncing supposed "trade union repression" by the Sandinistas.

The CTN is also a right-wing opposition union. It is split into two groups, one of

which, the CTN-Autonomous, is affiliated with the People's Social Christian Party and participated in the May Day negotiations. Several leaders of the other CTN wing have been involved in terrorist operations organized by the mercenary group, Nicaraguan Democratic Force.

The CST won the big majority of its membership coming out of the 1979 revolution. Since then, it has made some progress in winning more workers away from the other union federations. In 1985, for instance, it won the leadership of the Atlantic Coast sailors in Bluefields, who had been affiliated with the rightist CUS.

However, these other federations still have a following. With its May Day call, the CST hopes to unite workers from all the federations in a common action and to publicly protest Washington's attacks on Nicaragua.

## Debate over committee composition

Leaders of the CST met with the other federations during January and announced that the CAUS, CGT-I, CUS, and CTN-Autonomous had agreed to form a joint committee to hold a unified May Day rally.

A February 5 organizing meeting was held where this unified committee was supposed to be launched.

No sooner had the meeting begun, however, than Roberto Moreno of CAUS interrupted, demanding to know why the CST had invited representatives of the other Sandinista unions — ATC, UNE, UPN, ANDEN, and FET-SALUD. Moreno said that the agreement was that only the five



Militant photos by Arnold Weissberg and Bill Gretter  
A previous May Day in Nicaragua. Inset, Lucio Jiménez, general secretary of Sandinista Workers Federation, which seeks unified action with non-Sandinista unions.

union federations could make up the committee.

CST leader Denis Meléndez argued that all organizations representing workers should be invited to have representatives on the committee. The CST represented industrial workers, but the more than 40,000 farm workers in the ATC, and the tens of thousands of workers in ANDEN, UNE, FET-SALUD, and UPN needed to be represented by their own organizations.

Moreno replied that only union federations with a distinct political line should be allowed to constitute the committee. Since these other five supported the Sandinistas, the CST should speak for them. Moreno

and leaders of the CGT-I, CUS, and CTN accused the CST of "hegemonism" and of "breaking promises."

This debate lasted three hours, without reaching any agreement.

On February 12, the CUS, CAUS, CTN, and CGT-I issued a joint statement saying they would agree to add the ATC to the committee, but not the other Sandinista unions.

This was initially rejected by the CST, and negotiations for a unified May Day action broke down. The CST continued its plans for the May Day action.

The CGT-I, CAUS, CTN-Autonomous,  
Continued on Page 14

# Nicaragua defense minister reviews war

BY CINDY JAQUITH

JUIGALPA, Nicaragua — Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega warned in a major speech here April 5 that Washington is trying to provoke a direct military confrontation between the Honduran and Nicaraguan armies. He underscored at the same time that the Nicaraguan people are "more and better organized, more and better armed" than before to repel whatever aggression Washington tries to launch.

Ortega was addressing three newly formed military battalions, made up in their majority of peasant youth, and their families.

The day before, the first of some 4,500 U.S. soldiers arrived in Honduras for war exercises near the Nicaraguan border, and other provocative U.S. maneuvers close to Nicaraguan territory were announced.

Meanwhile, Honduran President José Azcona Hoyo, after several days of vacillation, announced he would ask for more U.S. military aid. He reaffirmed Honduras' "special security relationship with the United States" and called for "national reconciliation" in Nicaragua, referring to Reagan's demand that the Sandinistas lay down their arms and hold a dialogue with the mercenaries.

In his speech, Sandinista leader Ortega took up the current military situation facing Nicaragua's workers and peasants and reviewed Washington's war strategy against the Sandinista revolution.

"The United States mistakenly thought that with the Somozaist mercenaries and traitors of [Edén] Pastora they were going to be able to overthrow the Sandinista revolution in the short term," he said. "They mistakenly thought that with the Somozaist mercenaries operating from Honduras and Costa Rica, and with their internal spokesmen of reaction, of the right wing, of the sell-out bourgeoisie, of *La Prensa* and the corrupt clergy, they would be able to change the political and military relationship of forces in Nicaragua."

By the end of 1985, he said, the U.S. government had hoped to find "a confused country, a desperate and destabilized people" in Nicaragua. "Reagan was hoping our people would be down on their knees begging the pardon of the North Americans

and accepting their shameful conditions for ending their unjust war."

"But what has happened?" Ortega asked. "And especially, what has happened in the last few months?"

"The Nicaraguan revolution has demonstrated in daily practice, in the carrying out of its social program — in spite of the difficulties — that it is continuing steadfastly to advance."

Ortega also pointed to the Sandinista army's smashing of several mercenary bases in Honduras in late March. "The latest operations of our army in Honduran-Nicaraguan border territory have demonstrated the greater maturity, the institutional strengthening, and the equipment" of the Sandinista armed forces, he said. At the same time, he added, the severe blows dealt to the mercenaries' camps revealed their "progressive defeat."

## Latest steps in U.S. escalation

Turning to the most recent escalation of Washington's war, Ortega said that with the new military maneuvers in Honduras, 80,000 U.S. troops will have passed through that country since 1981, "acclimatizing themselves, preparing all the conditions to be able to directly attack Nicaragua militarily with their forces."

The use of U.S. helicopters, piloted by U.S. personnel, to transport Honduran troops to the border with Nicaragua in late March, he said, was another step to "condition U.S. public opinion and Latin American public opinion little by little to the [U.S.] presence in the border area."

Ortega focused his remarks on the danger of a direct clash between Nicaraguan and Honduran troops. During the previous week, the Sandinista daily *Barricada* had featured statements by Honduran officials warning that Washington was trying to force them into a war with Nicaragua.

An anonymous Honduran official told U.S. reporters that when Sandinista troops moved in to destroy the mercenary camps in Honduras, the Honduran government had decided that "since the confrontations were not with us, we let them pass through." Only after several days of direct U.S. pressure did Honduran President Azcona declare Nicaragua had "invaded" his country.

On April 2, Azcona sent a communiqué to the Nicaraguan government. It said, in part, "The Honduran government is acting with all due deliberation and calm, despite the demands of sectors interested in starting up an armed conflict with Nicaragua." Honduras, he said, "cannot leave in foreign or inexperienced hands the managing of this situation." Two days later, however, he called for more U.S. aid.

Summarizing the implications of all these developments, Ortega told the soldiers in Juigalpa:

"Let's be clear. In practical terms, the escalation now has nothing to do with the mercenaries in the most important sense. The mercenaries are already a secondary point [with Reagan]. With them, it's a question of time before they are finally smashed and broken up."

Reagan's goal now, he said, "is to substitute the direct involvement of the Honduran army" for the mercenaries. "This is the new situation," Ortega continued. "So, we are on the edge of a confrontation of armies in the coming months."

Ortega emphasized that the Nicaraguan people do not want war with the Honduran people. He reiterated that the Sandinistas' recent operation against mercenary bases in Honduras was not an invasion of that neighboring country.

"The one who is invading Honduras is really the United States," he explained.

The Sandinista leader also took up land reform, a question of great importance here in Nicaragua's Region 5, which has one of the country's widest gaps between rich landlords and poor peasants. In the provinces of Chontales and Boaco, which make up Region 5, it is estimated that 1,000 landlord families own more than a million acres of land, while 15,000 poor peasant families are struggling to survive on just 78,300 acres.

"In these difficult moments," said Ortega, "we have decided to continue advancing with the economic and social transformations of the revolution. In the next three years, the Sandinista revolution will give poor peasants 519,000 acres of land [in Region 5]. This year, the Sandinista revolution will give 138,400 acres to the poor peasantry of Boaco and Chontales."



# Local protests say 'No to contra aid'

## Atlanta

BY KATE DAHER

ATLANTA — More than 150 people attended a meeting March 26 at Atlanta University to oppose aid to the *contras* from Nicaragua to Angola.

The meeting featured Roberto Vargas, Nicaraguan poet and counselor for cultural and labor affairs, embassy of Nicaragua; Rev. Joseph Lowery, president, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; David Ndaba, African National Congress of South Africa; and John Stockwell, former director of the CIA covert action program in Angola.

Vargas said Nicaragua expects Congress to vote for the entire \$100 million aid package for the *contras*.

"It is you, the American people, that must stop Congress and the hysteria coming out of Reagan. It is in your hands."

To a cheering audience, Lowery said, "We have seen the downfall of many dictators — of Somoza, of Duvalier, of Marcos, and soon, very soon, Botha."

Adding his support to those opposing aid to the *contras*, he said, "If you are involved in violating human rights, you don't arm the people. The government of Nicaragua has enough confidence in its people to arm them against a government that has invaded them four times."

Stockwell traced the history of CIA covert actions around the world. He explained that the CIA has committed some 10,000 to 20,000 covert actions against Third World countries over the last 40 years.

Greetings were also heard from the Peoples Republic of Angola.

The meeting was sponsored by the Atlanta Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, Atlanta Committee on Latin America, African National Congress, and others.

## Detroit

BY TIM CRAINE

DETROIT — More than 100 people turned out on Saturday, March 29, for a community forum on Nicaragua and Central America sponsored by Detroit Congressman John Conyers and the Michigan Interfaith Committee on Central American Human Rights.

Speakers at the forum included a wide range of community activists, many of whom spoke from firsthand experience in Central America. All spoke against U.S. intervention and denounced the Reagan administration for its campaign of lies about Central America.

Rev. Bill Kellerman of Cass United Methodist Church recently traveled to Nicaragua with Witness for Peace. He reported on the atrocities of the *contras*, who have kidnapped and killed church leaders, teachers, and health-care workers.

High school student Tamara Robinson, who had traveled to Nicaragua last summer as part of a youth tour, described taking part in nightly vigilance against the *contras* with young people in Estelí. She expressed the hope that North American youth would not be sent to fight against the youth of Nicaragua.

John VanDermeer, a University of Michigan biology professor currently working for the Nicaraguan agriculture ministry, testified to the impact the U.S.-backed war and embargo have had on the Nicaraguan economy. But the spirit of the Nicaraguan people and support for the Sandinista government remain as high as ever, he said.

Kit Concannon and Bill O'Brien reported on a recent trip to refugee camps in El Salvador. They refuted the lie that the Duarte government has brought democracy and an end to the death squads. O'Brien introduced Raul Gonzalez, a Salvadoran who is living in Detroit in a sanctuary at St. Rita's church. O'Brien also charged that Duarte has replaced massive death squad killing with more sophisticated techniques of repression and torture. Concannon described the massive aerial bombing taking place against peasants in the liberated zones and the displacement of refugees that has resulted.

Virginia Smith, sister of Father James

Carney, a revolutionary priest who was murdered by the Honduran army and the CIA in 1983, spoke about her brother's involvement with the peasant movement of Honduras. She denounced the U.S. military buildup in Honduras and the U.S. role in promoting conflict between Nicaragua and Honduras. "A wonderful country is being turned into a cement runway," she charged.

Investigative journalist Russell Bellant spoke about evidence linking right-wing groups in the United States with the Nicaraguan *contras*. Bellant had earlier helped expose the fact that the Detroit-based World Medical Relief "charity" funnels funds to the Nicaraguan *contras*.

Representative Conyers spoke about the vote in the House of Representatives and denounced the Reagan administration for using disinformation and red-baiting to achieve its goals. The previous week had seen heightened hysteria around the Gulf of Sidra events and the alleged Nicaraguan invasion of Honduras. But by this time, the lies were beginning to unravel. Conyers held up the day's Detroit *News* and *Free Press* with the headlines "U.S. admits provoking Khadafy" and "Honduras pressured into admitting raid." "Sometimes you don't even have to read the *Daily World* or the *Militant* to get the truth," he quipped.

Actions opposing contra aid and U.S. intervention in Central America are being planned. On Tuesday, April 14, at 4:15 p.m. there will be a picket line at the McNamara Federal Building, and on Saturday, April 26, at noon, a regional demonstration at Kennedy Square.

## St. Louis

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

ST. LOUIS — In response to Reagan's request for an additional \$100 million to overthrow the Nicaraguan government, all the solidarity groups in St. Louis joined together to organize the first major march in several years against the U.S. war in Central America.

Some 375 people turned out on Saturday, March 22, to demonstrate against any aid to the *contras*. The main speakers at the rally were Barry Romo, a Vietnam veteran and national coordinator of Vietnam Veterans Against War; Mary Dutcher, a member of the Witness for Peace delegation kidnapped by *contras* last year; and Msgr. John Shockey, cochairperson for the St. Louis Archdiocese Human Rights Commission.

The next week the U.S. government launched a propaganda campaign claiming that Nicaragua had invaded Honduras. On a few days' notice, 175 people rallied and picketed the Federal Building at noon March 28 to protest this further escalation of the war. Martin Collins, a leader of the British Labour Committee on Ireland, was warmly received by the crowd when he offered solidarity greetings from opponents of the U.S. war on Nicaragua in Britain. Another large demonstration is planned in mid-April.

The chairperson of the rally invited people to return downtown at 4:00 p.m. that day to join a demonstration demanding "Hands off Africa, stop U.S. aggression against Libya and Angola." Some 25 people carried signs reading, "Fight South Africa, not Libya and Nicaragua" and "No aid to UNITA" (the Angolan terrorist group) at the second picket line.

## Newport News

BY JAY RESSLER

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Nearly 50 people picketed the headquarters of the Christian Broadcasting Network in Virginia Beach March 22 demanding an end to all U.S. aid to the U.S.-sponsored *contras* fighting against the people of Nicaragua.

The action was called to protest both President Ronald Reagan's attempts to win congressional approval for \$100 million in additional aid for the *contra* mercenaries and the large sums of private donations sent to the *contras* under the auspices of such ultra-rightist outfits as Pat Richardson's Christian Broadcasting Network.

Endorsers of the demonstration included

Pledge of Resistance, Tidewater Nicaragua Project, Peninsula Peace Education Center, Central America Solidarity and Activity (CASA), Progressive Students Network, Socialist Workers Party, Tidewater National Organization for Women, and Pax Christi.

The protest culminated a series of activities for Central America Week in the Tidewater. CASA sponsored a tour of area campuses for photojournalist Wendy Schaul speaking on "Behind the Lines in El Salvador." Speaking to public meetings at Hampton University, William and Mary College, and Old Dominion University, Schaul made a powerful case for ending U.S. backing of the Salvadoran dictatorship. Eighty people attended the meeting at Old Dominion University. At the William and Mary College meeting a lively debate followed Schaul's talk and slideshow when right-wingers organized by the Young Americans for Freedom, including a former U.S. adviser to the Salvadoran military, intervened.

Students opposed to U.S. intervention in Central America came out of the meeting more confident in their ability to take on the right wing politically and more determined than ever to organize effective actions against U.S. aid to the Salvadoran government and to the *contras* fighting against Nicaragua.

## Morgantown

BY PATTI SANCHEZ

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — "The contra aid issue is hot topic number one this week," Andy Klatt told a meeting of 75 people, mainly students, at West Virginia University March 20.

He and Annie Kafka gave a slideshow on their participation in a school construction brigade in San Pedro, Nicaragua, this January.

## Sharp rise in rural hunger

People who live in rural areas are the victims of a sharp increase in hunger and malnutrition.

The latest in a series of studies confirming this is in a report titled, "Rising Poverty, Declining Health: The Nutritional Status of the Rural Poor." The study was made by the Public Voice for Food and Health Policy. Much of its statistical data is derived from official Census Bureau reports.

According to the report, in 1983, there were 13.5 million rural poor people, an increase of nearly 40 percent from four years previous.

(In 1983, the Census Bureau said a family of four with an income of \$195 a week was officially poor.)

The study group defined the hungry rural poor as those living below the officially defined poverty level, who consumed less than two-thirds of the government-recommended daily intake of nine nutrients.

In terms of Vitamins A and C, iron, protein, and calcium, the rural poor were getting significantly less than urban people, including even the urban poor.

These nutrient deficiencies, the report said, were due to a lack of fresh vegetables, fruit, milk, beef or chicken.

As a result of this diet deficiency, infant mortality rates are much higher in rural than urban areas. In 1983, it was 16.29 per 1,000 live births in rural counties, against 11.13 in urban counties.

Poor diet has also meant much higher rates of stunted growth and learning difficulties among rural children — 7.3 percent of rural poor children suffered these things against 2.4 percent of urban poor children.

The authors of the study attribute increased hunger among the rural poor to the Reagan administration's attacks on food assistance programs, coupled with the devastating effects of a continuing recession in rural areas.

Virtually all the means of livelihood associated with rural areas are in serious decline. These include farming, fishing, forestry, mining, and oil industries.

In many rural areas, the jobless rate is

Contras attacked this town while they were there, leaving a 10-year-old girl and her father wounded and trucks and buildings riddled with bullet holes.

"There was no military or economic target in town. The *contras* just came in to shoot it up!" Annie explained while showing slides of the damage.

They were driven back in about two hours by the militia, which had been organized and trained since the last *contra* attack on this town in July.

The slideshow opened a lively discussion on U.S. support for the mercenaries. Many had questions:

"Who are the *contras*?"

"Are we reacting to a Soviet threat?"

"What was the atmosphere? Is it a totalitarian dictatorship?"

"Why is the Reagan administration so dead set against the Nicaraguan government?"

Klatt ended the program by warning everyone, "You can't depend on Congress."

"We need an antiwar movement. The movement against the war in Vietnam was at first small and vilified, but it succeeded in convincing a majority of the American people the war was wrong. We must build that movement again," he said.

Klatt encouraged everyone present to get involved and to join the Latin American Solidarity Project.

Afterward, one student said, "Nothing can replace hearing someone who has really been there." He heard about this event at a pro-*contra* rally, organized on campus the day before by Americans for Biblical Government.

Most of the 75 students and faculty who attended this prowar rally were against giving anything to the *contras*. After listening to right-wing speakers, the audience made clear its disagreement, first through comments, finally by overriding the faint clapping with loud razzing.

double the national figure.

That, of course, has not stopped the administration from chopping away at the food stamp program and other forms of assistance. And it hasn't stirred Congress to stop the cutbacks.

For 1987, the White House is recommending a \$600 million cut in food assistance programs, including a \$400 million cut in child nutrition programs.

## Peace march

Continued from Page 6

stage to lead the mass. Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaragua's minister of culture, and Fernando Cardenal, minister of education, were also on the stage. Both are Catholic priests. No official representative of the Nicaraguan government spoke, however.

'Violence is antievangelical'

D'Escoto gave the sermon at the mass. "Our Lord asks us not only to change this world but also to change the methods of changing our society. . . . We must say that violence is antievangelical," he said.

D'Escoto said that Nicaragua had to defend itself with arms from the U.S.-backed mercenaries. At the same time, he said, Nicaraguans should become "promoters of an evangelical form of struggle" that would bring closer the "Kingdom of God."

When D'Escoto mentioned the name of Cardinal Obando, the crowd responded with chants of "We want peace!"

"Brother Miguel Obando," continued D'Escoto, "brother in the priesthood that you have betrayed; brother in the people that you have sold out; and brother because we are sons of the same father: Listen!"

"The Lord has taken pity on you, Miguel Obando. You are still alive. You still have time to repent. The Lord and all our people want you to repent, want you to return to the position that is yours in our church."

At the end of the mass, a collection was taken to help finance the construction of a huge cross on a mountaintop here in Nicaragua.



# U.S. gov't threatens new attacks on Libya

Continued from front page

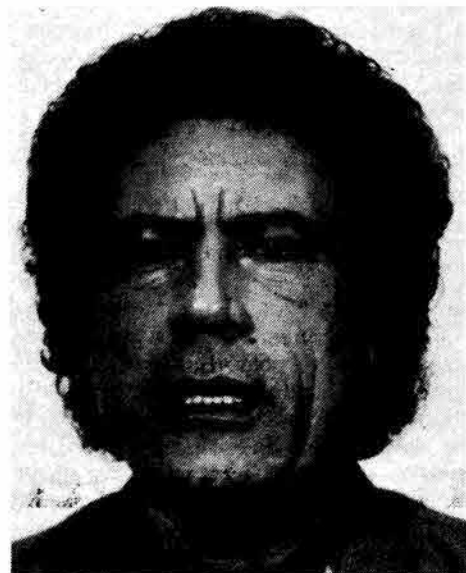
urging its imperialist allies in Europe to expel Libyan diplomats and other Libyans as "terrorists."

The French government expelled two Libyans. Later the West German government expelled two Libyan diplomats.

Washington's planning for attacks on Libya have included proposals to the U.S.-backed government of Hosni Mubarak in Egypt for a joint invasion of Libya. According to a report by Ibrahim Nafeh in the March 31 issue of the semi-official Cairo daily *Al Ahran*, the Egyptian government has rejected three such offers.

Nafeh revealed that Washington's decision to seek a joint U.S.-Egyptian attack came at a July 1985 meeting in Washington chaired by then National Security Adviser Robert MacFarlane. This was followed by visits to Cairo by Vice Admiral John Poin-dexter, who succeeded MacFarlane, and other officials. The Reagan administration (fearing, according to the *New York Times*, that "American public opinion would not tolerate substantial loss of American lives in a military assault on Libya") had not given final approval to the plan.

According to a *Washington Post* report, the Pentagon estimated that "as many as six divisions, or 90,000 men, would have to be used if direct U.S. military involvement was required."



**Muammar el-Qaddafi, Libyan head of state.**

U.S. officials critical of the invasion plan, according to the *Washington Post*, warned that "through a series of so-called revolutionary committees, Qaddafi has organized and armed the population, in some instances down to individual blocks, in the Libyan capital of Tripoli."

The *Washington Post* admitted that, at the request of the government, it had suppressed information relating to the invasion proposal that it had received in December and January.

Some U.S. officials claim that discussions of a joint U.S.-Egyptian attack are continuing. In 1977, the Egyptian regime fought a brief border war against Libya and has massed troops on the Libyan border several times since.

Over the years, the U.S. authorities' chief justification for going after the Li-



**Libyan youths demonstrate in defense of government and against Washington's attacks. U.S. government and media portray Libyans as subhuman to justify attacks.**

byan government has been its alleged support for "international terrorism." This is a frame-up.

Although Washington has yet to present any proof of Libyan involvement in any terrorist act, the U.S. capitalist media have presented the claims of Libyan terrorism as though they were beyond dispute.

When U.S. officials talk about "terrorism," they always include popular liberation struggles like those in Palestine, Ireland, southern Africa, Central America, and elsewhere.

Since the Libyan government has backed many of these struggles, that automatically constitutes support for terrorism in Washington's eyes.

Such accusations, moreover, divert attention from the real source of international terror — the world system of imperialist domination headed by Washington. The

U.S.-organized mercenary war against Nicaragua, which has taken thousands of lives, is one example. Others are the military attack on Libya and the U.S. government's virtually open endorsement in November of a CIA proposal to spur assassination attempts against Qaddafi and a "campaign of sabotage and violence" against Libya.

The source of many of the stories about Libyan terrorism was revealed back in July 1981 when the CIA told a congressional committee that it had launched a campaign of "disinformation" against Qaddafi. "Disinformation" is CIA language for what normal people call lies.

## Examples of "disinformation"

In 1981 the U.S. government claimed that Libyan "hit squads" were converging

on the United States to assassinate Reagan and other officials. That story turned out to be a concoction by the U.S. and Israeli intelligence agencies.

Although Reagan claimed "irrefutable" proof of Libyan involvement in the December 1985 terrorist attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports, no actual evidence was ever presented.

The lie campaign about terrorism aims to smear not only all Libyans, but all Arabs (aside from a few "moderate" kings and sultans) as subhuman terrorists.

Racism was obvious in the attempt by the U.S. government and capitalist media to convict May Elias Mansur of responsibility for the TWA bombing, despite the lack of any evidence. Mansur, a Lebanese supporter of one of the groups resisting U.S. and Israeli attempts to dominate her country, was a passenger on an earlier flight of the plane that was bombed.

Despite the absence of evidence, newspapers like the *New York Post* carried racist, sexist headlines portraying her as "terror gal" and "woman of murder."

On April 5 she held a news conference in Beirut. Insisting that she would never strike at innocent women and children, as the TWA bombing had done, she said she would sue the U.S. government for laying false charges against her.

The real reason for Washington's continued assault on Libya is not "terrorism," but the fact that Libya follows policies that are opposed on many issues to those of U.S. imperialism. Qaddafi must be overthrown, according to Secretary of State George Shultz, because he "is doing things that are against our interests."

The U.S. rulers are bitterly opposed to the democratic rights of nations to govern themselves and determine their own policies. They are escalating wars against Libya, Nicaragua, Angola, and other countries that dare to exercise these rights.

## Why Libya is target of imperialism

BY FRED FELDMAN

Libya is a North African nation of 3.6 million people. The overwhelming majority are Arabic-speaking. Islam is the religion of 97 percent of the population.

Libyans have been suffering under and resisting imperialist domination for most of the 20th century.

The Italian imperialists invaded Libya in 1911, waging a war of conquest that continued until all of Libya was conquered in 1932.

During World War II, the U.S.-British-French imperialist alliance invaded Libya, forced out the Italian occupiers (who were allied with Germany in World War II), and placed the country under British and French administration.

In 1951, Libya was granted formal independence under King Idris, who served imperialist interests.

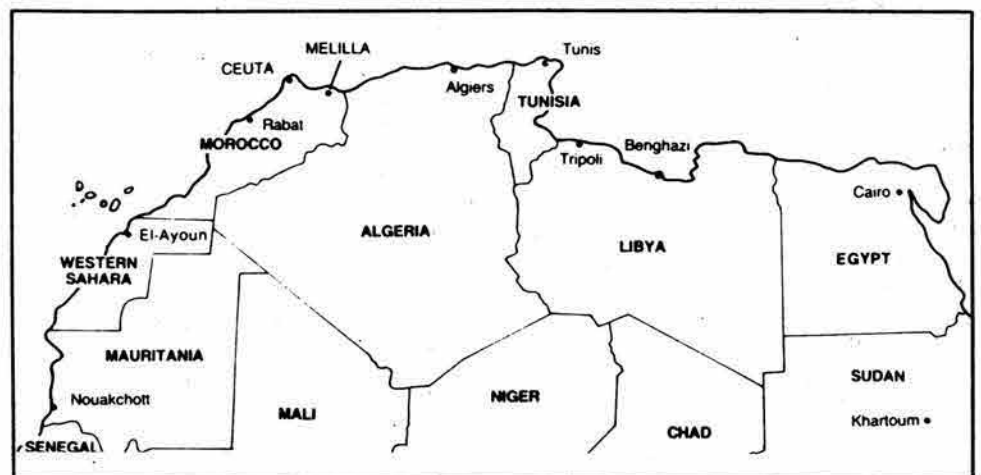
British troops continued to be stationed in Libya, and Washington established its biggest air base outside the United States — the Wheelus base near the capital city of Tripoli.

Libya under imperialist domination was one of the poorest countries in the world, with an average annual income per person of about \$100. The discovery of oil in the late 1950s began to change things. Under Idris, virtually the entire oil industry was held by foreign companies. The oil barons and the monarchy and its friends monopolized the country's growing wealth. About 10 percent of the population received more than half the national income.

In 1969, while King Idris was traveling abroad with some \$60 million in spending money, a military Revolutionary Command Council led by Muammar el-Qaddafi took power. It abolished the monarchy and took measures to improve living conditions and break the control of the imperialist powers.

The British troops were forced to leave, and Washington had to shut down the Wheelus base.

In 1971 the government also nationalized the holdings of four major oil companies and later took 51 percent ownership of the rest.



**North Africa, showing Libya and neighboring countries.**

The uses to which oil wealth was put were radically different than under the old regime. While substantial inequality still exists, the masses have made big gains.

A \$500 monthly minimum wage was established for many categories of workers. By law, universal primary education was instituted, and education at all levels was made free of charge. So was medical care and housing. According to the 1986 World Almanac, the literacy rate has risen to 40 percent.

One effect of the regime's measures was to wipe out the old aristocracy that supported the monarchy. The main beneficiaries were the workers, peasants, and sections of the middle classes.

"Khadafy clearly has considerable support from the younger and poorer elements of Libya's population — who have benefited most from his revolution," conceded the July 14, 1981, *Wall Street Journal*. As the imperialist threats to topple the regime have escalated, including attempts to foster a military coup, the regime has sought to mobilize its supporters through creating a wide network of committees.

Qaddafi also opposed imperialist domination in the Middle East and North Africa. For instance, he has backed forces in Chad that are fighting the French-dominated government there. He opposed the Eryp-

tian government's separate peace with the Israeli rulers at the expense of the Palestinians and other Arab states. He backed the Lebanese people's fight against U.S. and Israeli occupation forces in Lebanon. When the Iraqi regime invaded Iran in 1980, with the backing of the U.S. government, Qaddafi backed Iran.

And soon after Washington cut off all aid to the Nicaraguan government, Libya provided the country with a \$100 million loan. The Libyan government has continued to voice support for the Nicaraguan revolution.

While the Libyan government refuses to take orders from imperialism, dependence on imperialism as a market for its single export makes Libya more vulnerable to imperialist pressure exerted through the sharp decline in oil prices and economic embargoes. Aside from oil — which generates 99 percent of government revenues — there is little industry.

Although the Qaddafi regime supports many liberation struggles, Qaddafi has also made deals at the expense of people fighting for their rights. When he signed a 1984 treaty purporting to establish a political unification of the Libyan republic and the Moroccan monarchy, Qaddafi broke with the people of the Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara, who are fighting for their national rights.

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# Why Haitian people are fighting to make Creole the country's official language

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

*Kreyòl pale, kreyòl konprann.*  
(Creole speaks, Creole understands.)  
*Pale franse pa bay lespri pou sa.*  
(Speaking French doesn't make you smart.)

These Haitian proverbs tell you a lot about how most Haitians view the fact that French — a language spoken by less than 10 percent of the population — is the country's official language.

All Haitians speak Creole. It has been their mother tongue for more than 200 years.

Yet all official business and almost all education are carried out in French.

Laws are written in French. Court sessions and government meetings use French. Businessmen hold their discussions in French. Most religious services, until recently, were conducted in French.

This excludes the big majority of Haitians — peasants, small traders, workers, and the unemployed — from official political life. It denies them the opportunity to seek better paying jobs — many of which require French. For those Haitians who can afford to send their children to school, they are taught in a foreign language, French. Landlords, bosses, and cops can haul people into court, where they are tried in a language they cannot understand.

Most Haitians confront French as an unintelligible language used by government officials, landlords, or others trying to swindle them.

Thus, "I'm speaking to you in Creole," is a Haitian saying that means "I'm telling the truth. I'm being honest."

Another Haitian proverb defiantly asserts: "Your speaking French doesn't scare me."

## Creole: a language, not a dialect

The Haitian ruling classes have always denigrated Creole, saying it is a patois, or broken-down form of French. They say it is a crude French dialect, spoken only by the masses, who are "too backward and uneducated" to learn "proper" French.

With the overthrow of dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier, establishing Creole as Haiti's national language is a top priority for the Haitian people. Without the democratic right to be able to use Creole in school, government business, and the major media, the bulk of the Haitian people cannot participate equally in the political, civil, and social life of the country.

In fact, the wealthy themselves learn Creole as children, from their servants, and Creole is usually spoken at home and among friends. The upper class maintains

the myth of the "superiority" of French to deepen class divisions and class privileges and to justify denying the workers and peasants their civil rights.

The U.S. and French ruling classes, who have dominated Haiti since the mid-1800s, share the racist view that French and English are superior to the "native language," Creole. They support discrimination against the Creole-speaking majority to help keep the handful of rich Haitians in power and to protect imperialist investments in Haiti.

Creole is, in fact, a language in its own right spoken by millions of people in a dozen countries around the world.

While some words and expressions are similar to French, Creole grammar and vocabulary are so different that someone knowing only French cannot understand Creole, and vice-versa.

"Present-day Creole stands in relation to French as French stood to Latin," writes linguist Max Adler. "It differs from French not only in its vocabulary and grammar, but also in its spirit, being a colorful language, using poetic imagery. [Creole] is rich in proverbs and sayings, and musical in expression."

## Language developed by slaves

Creole was first developed by the African slaves brought to the French colonies, including Haiti, during the 1600s and 1700s. The slaveowners deliberately mixed groups of slaves from different African tribes, hoping that their different languages would make it impossible for them to communicate and organize rebellions.

However, the slavemasters were forced to teach the slaves enough common vocabulary so they could take orders and work together on the plantations and in the mills and distilleries.

The slaves "eagerly gathered each word that they could steal from the mouths of their masters," writes Haitian intellectual Michaelson Hyppolite. Little by little, they built up a new language, "the indispensable element for [winning] liberty," he adds.

Most of the vocabulary of Creole is based on French; the language of the slaveowners in Haiti. Many of the early slave traders were Portuguese, however, and their language also had an important influence. Other words came from African languages and from the Caribbean Indians in Haiti, who mixed with the first African slaves. English and Spanish have also had an influence.

As new generations of slaves were born in the colonies, Creole became their native language. Creole vocabulary increased and its grammar grew more complicated as it



Militant/Harvey McArthur

Slogan to left of Haitian flag reads: We want the government to reduce the price of everything. Long live democracy.

became a full-fledged language.

A similar language evolution occurred in the colonies of other European powers. Slaves developed new languages with words drawn from English, Spanish, Dutch, German, and Portuguese. Linguists classify all these languages as "creoles," though they often have another specific name, such as Gullah and Papiamentu.

Some of these Creoles are still spoken by many peoples in the Caribbean, Central America, and the Pacific islands. An English-based Creole is spoken on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, for example.

French-based Creole languages, such as the one spoken in Haiti, are by far the most widespread. They are usually referred to simply as Creole. With some regional variations, Haiti's Creole is also spoken by most people in the Caribbean countries of Guadeloupe, Martinique, Dominica, and St. Lucia. Creoles are also spoken in the Indian Ocean island states of Reunion, Mauritius, and the Seychelles. The Seychelles, a former French and British colony, made Creole one of its three official languages after winning independence.

During the 1797-1804 revolution, when Haiti's slave population rose up and won its independence from France, Haitian leaders Toussaint L'Ouverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines issued orders and wrote decrees in Creole. Haitian troops marched to face French cannon and bayonets singing freedom songs in Creole.

One of Dessalines' orders, "*Koupe tet, boule kay*" (cut off their heads, burn their houses), is remembered today as a symbol of unconditional struggle against oppression and foreign domination.

With independence and the expulsion of the French from Haiti, Creole was the language of all Haitians. A new ruling class emerged, however, based on leaders of the revolutionary armies and city merchants, who controlled trade and commerce. They made French the official language in order to help exclude the majority of Haitians from political life and consolidate their rule.

Not until 1961 was Creole legally recognized as a language by the Haitian government. But the Duvaliers kept French as the official language. This was part of their efforts to restrict politics to the small circle of ruling elite.

## Creole and the fight against Duvalier

Within the opposition to the Duvalier regime, activists and writers turned to Creole to reach the workers and peasants and involve them in the fight against the dictatorship.

A few underground newspapers, such as *Liberasyon* and *Demokrasi*, began publishing in Creole in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Poets and writers began to use Creole more, including those who addressed political questions.

The poet Felix Morrisseau-Leroy, one of the first to promote the use of Creole, explained that this was the only way he could reach the majority of Haitians. Even though Haiti's 80 percent illiteracy rate meant that most could not read, someone could read his poems to them, he said. If it was in Creole, they could understand. But if he had continued to write in French, there was no way most Haitians would ever appreciate his poetry.

Several Haitian radio stations began to broadcast in Creole during the 1970s. The initiative was taken by Radio Haiti-Inter and Radio Metropole, where broadcasters wanted to reach the Haitian people with news and analysis critical of the regime.

When a *Militant* reporting team visited Haiti in March, we saw copies of many underground leaflets distributed during the recent fight against Duvalier. All were written in Creole.

Most newspapers still publish in French, but some now include articles or pages in Creole. Some weekly Creole-language papers exist, and there are plans to launch a daily paper in Creole.

With Duvalier's overthrow, the Catholic church hierarchy announced its intention to launch a national literacy campaign, to be conducted in Creole.

Today, hundreds of poets, novelists, and other writers throughout the Creole-speaking world are contributing to an explosion of Creole literature. As in Haiti, independence movements and political struggles in Guadeloupe, Martinique, Reunion, and the Seychelles spurred a wider use of Creole.

This growth in Creole literature during the 1970s led to the development of a standard alphabet and spelling norms by the early 1980s. This in turn made it easier to learn to read and write in Creole and made it easier to share the growing Creole literature around the world.

Cuba plays an important role in promoting this new Creole literature. Tens of thousands of Haitian refugees went to Cuba during the 1970s and 1980s. They joined the Haitian community there, which dates back to the early years of this century. Cuba's revolutionary government encourages Haitians to preserve and develop their culture, including the Creole language.

In 1981, the renowned Cuban publishing house and promoter of Latin American literature, Casa de las Americas, established annual awards for literature and poetry written in Creole. Today, dozens of authors from different countries submit works for this competition. And Radio Havana has daily programs in Creole that broadcast throughout the Caribbean.

It is only by making Creole the official language of Haiti that all Haitians will be able to exercise their rights as equal citizens. Workers and peasants especially need this democratic right to be able to participate in the political action and discussion taking place in Haiti today on how to deal with the tremendous economic and social problems facing the nation.

## Real minimum wage down 26 percent

The real value of the minimum wage is at its lowest level since 1955.

The \$3.35-an-hour minimum wage has not increased since January 1981. In the same time, the cost of living has risen by 26 percent. This means that a full-time worker, working all year, will earn only 75 percent of the official poverty level wage for a family of three.

Nearly 8 million workers are paid at or below the minimum wage. In fact the minimum wage as such doesn't really exist. Many employers simply ignore the law and pay subminimum wages. Another 10 million workers, primarily in retailing, service industries, and agriculture, are not covered by the minimum wage at all.

Furthermore, according to Sar Levitan and Isaac Shapiro of the George Washington University Center for Social Policy Studies, "Almost half of minimum-wage workers are 25 years or older, and one of every four is a head of household." In 1984, they pointed out, "2.1 million individuals worked full-time throughout the year but remained in poverty. . . . Millions more live in these impoverished families."

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# Washington sends aid to Haitian generals

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The demand of the Haitian people for an elected civilian government to replace the current military-dominated ruling council is growing.

Washington's response to the mobilizations calling for this fundamental democratic step was to rush \$384,000 worth of riot gear to the army in early March. The shipment, requested by the Haitian government, included 150 shotguns with 10,000 rounds of birdshot, 5,000 teargas canisters, gas masks, bulletproof vests, radios, and loudspeakers.

Haitian youth have charged that the U.S. government also sent hard-rubber truncheons that were used to beat a number of anti-government protesters in the capital city of Port-au-Prince on March 21. The U.S. embassy in Haiti issued a statement calling this an "unfounded allegation." But *Washington Post* reporter Edward Cody, in a dispatch from Port-au-Prince, remarked that "young men burning tires during disorders March 24 said they did not believe the denial."

The U.S. embassy claimed it was giving the army riot gear so the military has "the capacity to confront internal security emergencies without having to resort to infantry weapons with their lethal capacity."

On April 3, during a visit to Haiti, Elliott Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs, announced that Washington would increase its military assistance still further. He was accompanied by Brig. Gen. Fred Gorden, director of the Inter-American Region in the Defense Department.

While Abrams admitted that Haiti's most pressing needs were for food and jobs, he asserted, "But if you want to maintain order in the country, then the military is going to have to modernize and professionalize, which it wishes to. Obviously a new democratic Haiti will need a new professional force to maintain order."

While this point may be obvious to Abrams, it is not shared by many Haitians. At a demonstration of several thousand in front of the National Palace on March 20 to welcome back Daniel Fignolé, a former president of Haiti, dozens of youthful protesters told the *Militant*: "We don't need military aid from the United States. We don't need guns. We need things to put in our heads. We need technical assistance; we need work."

According to the April 4 *New York Times*, "Diplomatic sources said the United States might send three or four military advisers to teach techniques for maintaining internal security."

Abrams affirmed that "certainly training" would be provided to the Haitian army by Washington. He declined to specify whether more military equipment would also be part of the deal.

The problem confronting the Haitian army and its White House backers is that the hated Tontons Macoutes, which were the main police force under the dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier, were disarmed and forced to flee by the Haitian masses as part of the struggle to overthrow Duvalier. The Macoutes were a private paramilitary force of about 15,000 armed thugs, with an estimated 300,000 collaborators. They were notorious for their brutality, arbitrariness, and thievery. In the weeks before and after Duvalier fled on February 7, many Macoutes were beaten and killed by crowds and individuals who wanted justice after almost three decades of suffering at the hands of these killers.

## Abrams: food aid more difficult

While U.S. military aid seems to be readily available in large quantities, emergency food aid is another matter, said Abrams. "There are limits on what we can give right now," he whined. Emergency food shipments worth \$10 million were recently approved by Washington.

Almost 90 percent of all Haitian children suffer from varying degrees of malnutrition. According to 1974 statistics, out of 129 Third World countries, Haiti was 127th in calorie intake and 129th in protein consumption. The yearly per capita income of the 50 percent of the working population that actually has a job runs to about \$130 — not enough to cover the cost of a single meal per day.

Massive emergency food aid from Washington to the Haitian people is not a

question of charity. It is wealthy U.S. ruling families that over the decades have siphoned off much of the wealth produced by that nation's workers and peasants and left Haiti the poorest nation in the Americas.

About 200 U.S. companies invest in Haiti. They employ thousands of workers, most of whom receive less than the meager \$3-a-day minimum wage. These companies can count on a profit margin of anywhere between 30 and 100 percent.

U.S. businessmen also make money through unequal trade relations with Haiti. The bulk of Haiti's trade is with the United States. Haiti exports coffee, cocoa, mangoes, essential oils, and commodities made in the U.S.-owned factories. It imports manufactured goods, food, and oil. The value of Haiti's imports from the United States far outstrips what it receives for its exports.

Another way the U.S. and other imperialists have ripped off Haiti's wealth is through bank loans, which the Haitian people are then forced to pay back — with interest. Hundreds of millions of dollars leave the country this way.

So the demand for emergency food aid from Washington to feed the people of Haiti is a matter of simple justice.

## Recovering what Duvalier stole

Assistant Secretary of State Abrams was also less than forthcoming about how the U.S. government would help the Haitian people recover the vast riches stolen from the country by Duvalier. While expressing sympathy for the effort, Abrams claimed it would be much harder than getting back some of the bucks that Ferdinand Marcos stole from the Filipino people. "We had the Marcos documents, and we could give them to the new government of the Philippines," said Abrams. "We don't have the Duvalier documents."

Duvalier is currently living in exile in an isolated luxury villa on the French Riviera. He left Haiti's Central Bank with \$1 million or less in cash reserves.

# N.Y. picket: free Puerto Rican patriots

BY PAT WRIGHT

NEW YORK — In a spirited demonstration, 125 people picketed the Manhattan Correctional Center March 22 to demand the release of nine Puerto Rican independence activists being held there.

The activists were arrested, along with four others, last August 13 in coordinated raids in Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Texas by the FBI and U.S. marshals. All 13 activists are charged with allegedly participating in a 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo armored truck in Hartford, Connecticut. The FBI claims that the activists are members of the Macheteros (literally, machete wielders), an organization that supports Puerto Rican independence.

Four of the activists have been released on bail. The nine who are being held at the correctional center have been denied bail under the 1984 Bail Reform Act. This bill restricts the right to bail for anyone the U.S. government claims is "dangerous."

Since the raids last August, the FBI has stepped up its harassment of independence activists on the island. This harassment escalated March 21 with the arrest of three more activists. The FBI claims they are also members of the Macheteros and were involved in the 1983 robbery. One of those arrested was Roberto José Maldonado. Maldonado is president of the Puerto Rican Institute of Human Rights and the defense attorney for Filiberto Ojeda, one of the 13 activists arrested last August.

The picket line commemorated two important events in the international struggle for national liberation — the Ponce massacre in Puerto Rico and the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa.

In Puerto Rico, 18 people were killed March 21, 1937, when a peaceful demonstration demanding an end to U.S. colonial rule was attacked. Twenty-three years later, in South Africa, 69 people were killed by the U.S.-backed apartheid regime during a protest against the pass laws and apartheid rule.

As the demonstrators picketed the



Militant/Harvey McArthur

**Demonstration at Haiti's National Palace to welcome back former president Daniel Fignolé and to demand ouster of military junta. Washington is backing regime with riot gear and military advisers.**

On the morning Duvalier fled into exile, reporters waiting at the airport saw trucks arriving shortly after midnight packed with fancy bags and luggage — despite the 2-suitcase limit allegedly imposed by Washington, which provided the plane for his getaway.

Duvalier owns expensive properties around the world, and has a considerable amount stashed away in foreign bank accounts. Estimates of his wealth run from \$200 to \$750 million. The military junta has dragged its feet on trying to find and freeze the tyrant's assets. And Abrams' statement makes clear that Washington isn't rushing to help unload its crony of his ill-gotten wealth.

## Fauntroy urges support for gov't

A congressional delegation, led by liberal Democrat Walter Fauntroy, Washington, D.C.'s non-voting delegate in Congress, went to Haiti at the beginning of April. Fauntroy heaped praise on Gen. Henri Namphy, the head of the current junta. Namphy was appointed Haitian army chief of staff in 1984 by Jean-Claude Duvalier. The general had also been a close collaborator of François Duvalier, Jean-

Claude's father and predecessor.

"How lucky you are in Haiti that you have in power the interim government of Gen. Henri Namphy," gushed Fauntroy as he was leaving. "I am certain that [Namphy] is an honest man. He deserves your confidence and your support. I urge the Haitian people to back the army high command during the coming critical days and months," he continued.

Massive demonstrations are demanding the ouster of the government because it has done nothing either to bring to justice the criminals who murdered and robbed the people under Duvalier, or to alleviate the poverty and illiteracy of Haiti. This didn't prevent Fauntroy from claiming that the government "is making big progress in the process of democratization," adding, "I hope that the Haitian citizens are quickly informed of this."

Apparently they weren't. One Haitian reporter at the airport as Fauntroy was leaving expressed the anger felt by many Haitians for the legislator's praise of the army and lecturing of the Haitian people. Alluding to "Papa Doc," François Duvalier's nickname, the reporter shouted, "Thanks 'Papa' Namphy. Thanks 'Papa' Fauntroy. But a new era has begun in Haiti."

prison, some prisoners could be seen waving the Puerto Rican flag from the windows.

After the picket line, the demonstrators gathered for a rally. Speakers at the rally included Roger Wareham from the New York 8 + Defense Committee, Black activists whom the government tried to frame up for their political activities; George Harrison of the Irish freedom struggle; Ana López, of the National Committee to Free

Puerto Rican Prisoners of War; Digna Sánchez of MADRE, a Nicaragua solidarity organization; Esperanza Martel of the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression; and Carlos Feliciano, a Puerto Rican independence activist who was victimized for his political ideas in the 1960s.

The picket and rally were sponsored by the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression. The committee plans to continue the fight until all the prisoners are released.

# All out for April 19 protest

## Continued from front page

war against Nicaragua has already spurred many protests in the Bay Area. The April 19 march will build upon that momentum.

Some 600 people protested March 18 against the Reagan administration's proposal to send \$100 million to the Nicaraguan mercenaries.

On March 28 some 200 people picketed against *contra* aid and the U.S. attack on Libya.

The next night 300 people picketed a *contra* fundraising dance. The Emergency Response Network is holding another demonstration April 14.

The Bay Area has also seen a big upsurge in the fight against apartheid. In the first week of April, thousands have protested at the University of California at Berkeley, at times facing brutal police violence. (See back page story.)

Carlos Muñoz, a Berkeley professor, told the *Militant*, "I think the events that have transpired on the Berkeley campus recently underscore the urgency for mass political action."

Patricia Vattuone, a leader of the Chicano student group MECHA at Berkeley, said, "The April 19 demonstration will show how broad-based the anti-apartheid movement is."

The San Francisco Anti-Apartheid Committee is planning to organize a contingent at the action.

The march will assemble at 11:00 a.m. at Delores Park in San Francisco. A rally will take place at the Civic Center in front of City Hall at 1:00 p.m.

Rally speakers include Jack Henning, secretary-treasurer, California Federation of Labor; Dona Celina Travis from Nicaragua; a representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador; Rev. Cecil Williams; and Carlos Melendez, of the American GI forum.

United Mine Workers President Richard Trumka, a leader of the anti-apartheid boycott of Shell Oil Co., will introduce a South African unionist, who will also speak.

A representative of the South West African Peoples Organization; U.C. Berkeley Associated Students President Pedro Noguera; Alameda County Supervisor John George; a leader of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement; Delores Huerta of the United Farmworkers Union; Rosie Pegueros-lev, state action coordinator of the National Organization for Women; and representatives of the Mobilization Against AIDS; American Indian Treaty Council, and American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee are also speaking.

The mobilization needs volunteers. For more information call (415) 621-7326 or 431-2572, or contact the Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice, 255 9th St., San Francisco, California.



# Norfolk: school resegregation plan opposed

BY CHRISTINE GAUVREAU

NORFOLK, Va. — Opponents of the resegregation of Norfolk public schools denounced a so-called compromise neighborhood schools plan as nothing more than a previous resegregation plan "with window dressing." The Rev. James Harris announced March 25 that the Norfolk Coalition for Quality Education, a group favoring the use of school busing to maintain desegregation, was organizing an April 13 mass rally to protest the new plan. Harris, who is president of the coalition, was joined at the March 25 news conference by representatives from 22 community organizations, including the Norfolk NAACP and the Tidewater National Organization for Women.

The coalition is also planning as part of its protest an economic boycott of the city-owned and run Waterside mall.

The Norfolk School Committee had been expected to vote on March 20 to implement a city-government plan to eliminate busing in the elementary schools. Instead, it voted to hold a second public hearing and vote April 14 on the "compromise" plan.

The plan is being promoted by Bishop L.E. Willis, a prominent Black businessman and radio personality, and supported by several Black elected officials, including school committee members Dr. Lucy Wilson and Rev. G. Wesley Hardy, as well as others.

Thomas Johnson, head of the school committee, and Joseph Leafe, mayor of Norfolk, hailed the new resegregation plan as a "constructive step" that could lessen community opposition to the elimination of busing for the city's elementary students.

Norfolk first began crosstown busing to desegregate the school system in 1970. It came after years of struggle led by the city's Black community.

## Pro-busing activists don't buy plan

The details of the "Resegregation Plan #2," as pro-busing activists have accurately dubbed it, hit the papers the morning of the March 20 public hearing. Its announcement was calculated to confuse and demoralize Black parents who were mobilizing for the hearing.

Instead, the school committee members entering the administration building were met by a picket line of parents and others carrying signs that read "No compromise" and "It's not the bus, it's us."

Hundreds of probusing supporters packed the hearing chambers, and even the antibusing *Virginian Pilot* was forced to report that not one of the opponents of the city's resegregation plan that testified spoke in favor of the "compromise."

The modified neighborhood schools plan, while exempting sixth graders from resegregation, would still result in one-half of all Black elementary students being placed in schools 90 to 100 percent Black and one-half of the white students assigned to schools over 70 percent white. Two elementary schools would be closed.

Testimony at the hearing on March 20 revealed the resolve in the ranks of the defenders of desegregated education.

A former steelworker, Anthony Tippins, who as a child attended segregated schools, said, "I recall the used textbooks, being bused by a white school to attend a Black school that was further away, not having an adequate library, no typewriters that worked. These things were for the white schools."

Joseph Rose, a 30-year veteran of the schools fight, recalled the "massive resistance" to desegregation organized by the Virginia state legislature. The legislature's campaign resulted in Norfolk closing down junior highs and high schools for nine months in 1959 to prevent Black students from attending white schools.

## 'Fear a return to segregation'

Vanessa Covington, representing Students for Justice, a group that boycotted classes the day before and morning of the hearing, said she knew she would face disciplinary action when she returned to school but had to fight for what she believed in.

Marian Flickinger, representing the Norfolk Federation of Teachers, said, "We fear a return to segregation, and that these limitations would deny some of our children access to the advantages afforded by multi-

cultural education."

One young white father took the floor to explain that he had come out to speak against busing. He said that he had always been for integrated education, though, and after listening to the testimony he wanted to say if that meant busing then "busing it must be."

Support for desegregation among many white working people was dramatized by the testimony of Kit Collins. She held up a yellowed newspaper photo of herself blocking the entrance of Blacks into her school in 1959. She then proceeded to explain that she was "forced bused" and that was when her "real education" began. She said she came to the hearing to apologize to those Black former students in the audience that she had confronted in 1959. "I wish today," she concluded, "that I had been walking with my arms around my brothers and sisters."

Mark Zola of the Socialist Workers Party testified that the plan was aimed at "taking away the basic democratic rights that have strengthened the working class."

A half-dozen Black parents, citing difficulties in caring for sick children in schools across town, spoke in favor of the neighborhood schools plan and were gently chided by others in the audience. The school committee's own polls, however, show overwhelming support in the Black community for the maintenance of busing.

## Norfolk Tea Party

White opponents of desegregation attended the hearing wearing the buttons of the city council candidate of the Norfolk Tea Party, a racist, antibusing outfit. Their testimony revealed the real bigotry and racism behind the codewords "neighborhood schools."

One racist testified that the "NAACP is no better than the Ku Klux Klan." Another,



Militant/Chris Davis

Pro-busing demonstration of 10,000 in 1983 in Norfolk, Virginia. Norfolk Coalition for Quality Education is leading fight to maintain desegregation of city schools.

a white businessman, declared that "white people want freedom too, sometimes," and announced he was moving his family to nearby Virginia Beach if busing continued.

The Norfolk Tea Party has threatened a boycott of the schools if busing is not halted.

The move to resegregate the schools, bolstered by a recent federal appeals court ruling, has emboldened racist forces in the Tidewater area here. There have been two cross-burnings in recent weeks. So far, no arrests have been made in connection with these acts of racist terror.

The fight to defend desegregated educa-

tion in Norfolk has important national implications. Assistant U.S. Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, who testified on behalf of the city government's plan in the federal appeals court, gloated that the court's approval had cleared the way legally for the elimination of busing in 379 school districts around the country.

Henry Marsh, attorney for Black plaintiffs suing to halt the plan, said that if the school committee is successful "this precedent will be used to undermine the 1954 Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*." Marsh is now preparing an appeal to the Supreme Court.

# Armed cops repossess Minn. family farm

BY JIM ALTENBERG

WORTHINGTON, Minn. — Officials of the Production Credit Association (PCA), a federal loan agency, backed by 40 armed state and county police, forcibly repossessed cattle and machinery belonging to Stanley Van Iperen and his sons, all of Lake Wilson, Minnesota.

In what was the biggest use of force against farmers in decades, cops with drawn shotguns came onto the Van Iperen farm March 13 to seize his property. When he asked about written authorization, Van Iperen was told by Murray County Sheriff Ron McKenzie that none was needed.

A caravan of police cars, semitrailers, and other vehicles came into the area unannounced. Roads were sealed off. As they loaded cattle onto trucks, repossessors attempted to physically prevent Van Iperen from counting what they were taking.

When farmers began to gather to protest, cops moved on to a second Van Iperen farm. They brought a small tank, or "people pusher." Three people were arrested, including Van Iperen's son Orville. Farmers' attempts to call U.S. Congressman Vin Weber to protest were also blocked, when phone service in the area was suddenly cut off.

The cattle were trucked under armed escort to a cattle leasing station, 200 miles away.

For months the Van Iperens have waged a series of court battles to keep their dairy operation. On February 7 farmers blockaded Van Iperen's farm with snowbanks and machinery, and successfully prevented the PCA from carrying out a judge's order to seize his property. The courts have continued to obstruct Van Iperen's efforts to negotiate with the PCA. A subsequent court order allowed the cops to move on the farm March 13.

At a March 14 meeting of Groundswell, a Minnesota grassroots farmers' group, Groundswell foreclosures chairperson Paul Sobocinski took up some of the issues raised by the cop attack. The Van Iperens, he pointed out, had sought to work with their creditors at every turn. They had held meetings with the PCA, filed lawsuits, gone through trials and hearings. They worked with Groundswell to come to a settlement, only to be repeatedly denied relief. This shows, Sobocinski said, what the

so-called voluntary mediation between farmers and creditors now being touted by Minnesota politicians is really worth.

Other activists said that the government was prepared and willing to use violence against farmers and workers who are fighting for their rights.

Geoff Mirelowitz, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Minnesota, said that the government aimed to intimidate all of us. The recent use of the National Guard against Local P-9 in Austin and the cop attack on the Van Iperens showed, he said, that workers and farmers faced a common enemy in the government and its wealthy backers.

Groundswell co-chair Bobbi Polzine

# N.Y. gay rights law under attack

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — Mayor Edward Koch signed a homosexual rights bill into law April 2 and at the same time opened the way for moves that go in the direction of gutting the bill.

Koch said he would offer "clarifying" amendments to the measure and two leaders of the city council promptly announced they would introduce another.

The new statute makes it illegal to discriminate in employment, housing, and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation.

In housing, owners of one- and two-family homes are exempted from compliance. Now, a city council amendment would extend the exemption to three- and four-family homes with an owner occupant. This would put thousands of apartments out of reach of the new law.

Proponents of this curb on the bill are Peter Vallone, Democratic majority leader in the council, and Samuel Horwitz, a Brooklyn Democrat. The Democrats enjoy a 35-1 majority over Republicans in the city council.

One of Koch's proposed amendments would assure opponents of lesbian and gay rights that the bill would not require schools to teach the nature of homosexuality.

Another of his amendments would specify that the measure does not require

told the meeting that her two sons want to join the National Guard. "I told them that if they did, some day they'd come around a corner with fixed bayonets and meet their mother. 'Oh no, Mom, we'd never hurt you,' they had replied. Yes you would, and you'd have to or you'd be court-martialed. And they'll teach you to like it."

Polzine went on to explain that the National Guard troops sent to Austin included many young farmers, and that Guard units were being trained for use in the rural areas of the Midwest. In fact, she pointed out, she had asked Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich if he would ever order the Guard out against farmers. He refused to say that he would not.

— or permit — affirmative-action goals in hiring homosexuals. Since the bill already states it doesn't "authorize or require" affirmative action, the only function of the amendment is to insert the word "permit."

The moves by Koch and the Democratic city council leaders evoked an angry reaction among supporters of the statute.

"They are just trying to gut the bill," charged Eleanor Cooper, a spokesperson for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Meanwhile, Councilman Noach Dear, a Brooklyn Democrat and leader of the virulently homophobic opposition to the bill, announced he would open a drive for petition signatures to have a referendum to repeal the bill put on the November ballot.

The bill was adopted last month after 15 years of stiff resistance. Despite dogged efforts by supporters of homosexual rights, the bill was buried in committee each year, except once when it was defeated on the council floor. This year enough pressure was mounted to get it on the floor and win a 21-14 majority.

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## Sharpeville commemoration in Houston

BY WILLIE M. REID

HOUSTON — "We rally today to commemorate the lives of those who died in Sharpeville," explained Frank Drozak, president of the Seafarers International Union. "Twenty-six years ago, they peacefully marched to protest the pass laws and the South African police killed 69 of them."

"It would have been good if we had also marched today," he continued, "because not much has changed in South Africa. And even though the state of emergency has been lifted, the police are still free to attack and arrest Blacks at will."

Drozak and William Lucy, International secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union, were the two national speakers at this local March 22 Labor Against Apartheid rally. It was one of seven actions across the country called for that day by the national AFL-CIO.

More than 250 trade unionists, anti-apartheid activists, and others enthusiastically expressed their opposition to apartheid.

Several participated in a brief ceremony where Shell Oil credit cards were cut up in protest of that company's helping to fuel South Africa's racist, superexploitative system.

"We're asked by Shell, why us?" said Lucy. "Our answer from the movement is why not Shell. Shell's role is unique. It is integrated into the South African economy by a network of laws because of the energy resource they produce and control. Shell oil fuels the army, police, and trans-

portation industry in South Africa."

Shell USA is 100 percent owned by Royal Dutch Shell, parent company of Shell South Africa. It provides 28 percent of the company's profits and it exports the badly needed oil South Africa cannot provide for itself.

The AFL-CIO also invited Joseph Rakgoadi, a Black South African trade unionist, to speak. He received a standing ovation. Rakgoadi reported on the Black workers' support for sanctions against South Africa and on support for the Shell boycott.

"For many years we Blacks in South Africa lived without the products Shell supplies," Rakgoadi said. "The human suffering we've experienced for 300 years is more important than a temporary suffering from loss of jobs" due to sanctions.

"Our victory, with your support, will be an achievement for the people of the world."

## High school students hear South African speaker in Miami

BY MATT MONROE

MIAMI — Nmonde Ngubo, a founding member of the National Union of Mineworkers in South Africa and now a staff member of the United Mine Workers of America, spoke to 50 high school students here recently.

She spoke at the mostly Black and Latino Jackson High School during a tour of the Miami area.

Students listened as Ngubo described her experiences as a young anti-apartheid fighter in South Africa.

They applauded as she intro-



Houston anti-apartheid unionist at AFL-CIO sponsored rally cut credit card in support of Shell boycott.

duced the anti-apartheid video *Sun City*, made by Artists United Against Apartheid, and watched closely the scenes of police beating young Black South Africans.

In the discussions that followed, students asked what actions they could take to join the struggle against apartheid.

They pointed out that one of their fellow students had recently won a citywide essay contest with a paper entitled "Why Black Americans Should Support the Anti-apartheid Movement."

The speaking engagement at Jackson High was organized by a student. She met anti-apartheid activists on a van going from Miami to the March 9 abortion rights demonstration in Washington, D.C., and arranged the high school speaking event through them.

Several Jackson High School students are planning to meet soon

to form a student group against apartheid.

Matt Monroe is a member of the Miami chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance.

## Contra aid protest at White House

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An angry crowd of over 500 gathered in front of the White House during President Reagan's nationally televised March 16 hard-sell speech for contra aid.

The demonstration was called on 48 hours' notice by activists from the Coalition to Stop U.S. War on Nicaragua, a newly formed Washington-area group of solidarity, religious, labor, anti-

apartheid, women's liberation, and student activists and organizations.

The previous day a Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE) rally of 400 people featured Jesse Jackson and Ray Hooker, a Sandinista member of Nicaragua's National Assembly who represents that country's Atlantic Coast region. They urged participants, who were attending a SANE national convention, to show up at the contra-aid protest.

Some of the slogans on the many handmade signs at the White House action read: "Contras kill — Sandinistas build," "Nicaragua is supported by the entire world," "No clinic bombings in the U.S. or Nicaragua," "Money for U.S. farmers — not for killing Nicaraguan farmers," "Medicaid, not contra aid," "No contra aid from Nicaragua to Angola," and simply, "The president lies!"

Ten days prior to the picket, the Coalition to Stop U.S. War on Nicaragua organized an action of 150 protesting a benefit for the contras held at a plush Hyatt Regency Hotel. The well-heeled rightists sponsoring the prowar gala were embarrassed by the low turnout of 100.

On March 14 Hooker also addressed a meeting of nearly 300 gathered at a sanctuary church to protest the relocation of 16,000 Navajo and Hopi Native Americans from their reservation lands in the Big Mountain area of Arizona.

The meeting heard American Indian Movement leader Vernon Bellecourt, who is a strong supporter of the Nicaraguan revolution. Bellecourt denounced American Indian figure Russell Means, who has publicly supported Mistiko Indian leaders on the Atlantic Coast who have teamed up with the contras.

# Rabid anti-abortionists force way into Fla. clinic

BY PAT SILVERTHORN

MIAMI — National leaders of right-wing antiabortion groups, along with local supporters, led a violent attack March 26 against the Ladies Center, a Pensacola women's clinic that performs abortions.

The Ladies Center was bombed in June 1984 and again on Christmas Day 1984, when it was razed to the ground by two right-wing fanatics who said the bombing was a "gift of Jesus on his birthday."

The clinic was forced to close temporarily after this latest attack because of the extensive damage to medical equipment. But it reopened two days later. Clinic officials said they were determined to stand up to the right-wingers and would not shut their doors.

The attack was described by the anti-abortion fanatics as part of their stepped-up campaign to invade and destroy clinics that perform abortions.

On Tuesday morning, March 26, more than 50 right-wing opponents of abortion rights picketed in front of the Ladies Center. The crowd came with cameras, bullhorns, and tape recorders, which they used to disrupt the clinic's functioning and to harass the women patients.

Before police arrived to turn the crowd back, four of the right-wingers stormed their way through the clinic's front doors. Two women working in the clinic were injured in the attack.

Rev. John Burt, one of the attackers, slammed the center's director, Linda Tagger, against a wall and held her with his forearm against her neck as the other three locked themselves behind the clinic doors and began destroying medical equipment and upending files.

Another woman, a member of the National Organization for Women, who was helping clinic staff organize escorts for patients, was knocked down and injured by the four attackers.

Police had to break down doors inside the clinic and pry the attackers away from medical equipment. Extensive damage was

done by the right-wingers, who ripped boards from the walls, threw equipment on the floor, and ransacked office files.

While the police worked to remove the four, the right-wing mob outside rushed the steps of the clinic. But the women inside the clinic were able to stop them by locking the doors.

The four were arrested on charges of burglary, criminal mischief, and resisting arrest. Two more were arrested outside the clinic for trespassing.

A local antiabortion leader, also named John Burt, was charged with two counts of assault. This makes 121 times that Burt has been arrested for activities against the abortion clinics. Also arrested was Burt's 18-year-old daughter.

Pensacola has been a national focus in the struggle to defend the right to safe, legal abortion. In December 1984, two other clinics, in addition to the Ladies Center, were bombed. For several months, it was not possible to obtain a legal abortion in Pensacola because the violence and threats of violence kept clinics from reopening and doctors from performing abortions.

This latest attack was organized by several national, as well as local, organizations. Five of these organizations held a workshop in Pensacola the night before the attack to teach tactics on how to close down abortion clinics.

The National Pro-Life Activist Workshop was organized by the Pensacola Anti-Abortion Coalition. Joseph Scheidler, who has organized attempted clinic invasions in other cities, and who is the author of the book *Closed: 99 Ways to Stop Abortion*, spoke at the workshop on how to organize the attack for the next day. No action was taken against Scheidler.

Several of those who participated in the attack called themselves "professional protesters." Among them was John Ryan, director of Pro-Life Direct Action in Washington, D.C. Ryan has been arrested over

350 times for attacking abortion clinics and has served less than nine months in jail.

Another attacker was Earl Appleby, national coordinator of Americans for Catholic Values and an aide to Senator Jesse Helms.

Members of the National Organization for Women said they planned to step up their defense of the abortion clinics. "We are drawing the line here," said NOW President Eleanor Smeal. NOW is demanding that the federal government defend the clinics and protect a woman's constitu-

tional right to choose abortion.

Joseph Scheidler is scheduled to appear in Louisville, Kentucky, on April 18 to address an anti-abortion conference.

At the Great Lakes Regional Conference of NOW held in Louisville April 4-6, NOW members from throughout the region signed up to respond to the call of the Louisville chapter to return to that city as soon as plans for an action to defend the clinics are finalized. The Louisville chapter is discussing a candlelight vigil April 17, as well as other activities.

## Berkeley students join protests

Continued from back page

"We're here to say we won't take no for an answer," student government President Pedro Noguera told the crowd, which by noon had grown to 1,500 people.

At 2:00 p.m., Chancellor Heyman issued an open letter to respond to the student demands. His only concession was to agree to close an on-campus IBM computer store for the duration of the semester. IBM does business in South Africa.

Fifteen minutes after Heyman's letter was issued, a wedge of 75 cops in riot gear moved in, clearing a path to one of the entrances. Along the way, they roughed up and shoved the students in an attempt to provoke them. By this time the crowd had grown to 2,000.

At the entrance, police arrested 12 protesters and allowed a small number of employees to enter the building.

Despite the cop provocation, the students were determined to do what they could to maintain a peaceful protest and make clear that the cops and campus administration were the real source of violence.

After the arrests, student leader Patricia Zattuone addressed the crowd and declared the protest a victory. "We kept the building shut tight for most of the day. That's a vic-

tory. I think it shows the power we have."

Protest leaders then led a march around the building to gather students posted at other entrances after which a victory rally was held.

This morning, Wednesday, April 9, students again turned out to keep the building shut down. Once again, they were successful in preventing the central administration from carrying out business as usual.

This time the students were joined by Local 3211 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union, which organizes campus workers. Union officials were on hand in the morning to explain to employees who worked in Winnie Mandela Hall that they have the right not to cross the picket line.

Pointing to one of the big accomplishments of the students, anti-apartheid activist Angela Omulepa explained, "Over the last two days, we took back our rights. We reconquered them. We guaranteed our right to continue to speak out." Protest leaders announced they will escalate the anti-apartheid campaign after next week's spring break.

In a show of continued determination, 1,000 students at a noon rally today roared their approval when a single shanty was erected.



# Protests confront Pakistan regime

BY MALIK MIAH

Some 70,000 people gathered in Karachi, Pakistan, April 4 to mark the seventh anniversary of the execution of the country's former prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. According to *Reuters*, crowds burned effigies of Pakistan's president and military dictator, Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, and his handpicked Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

It was the third major antigovernment demonstration since the Zia regime lifted martial law at the end of 1985. Pakistan has been under direct military rule since 1977.

Karachi is the largest city in Sind Province, home of the country's second largest ethnic group, Sindhis. The province is also where Bhutto's party, the Pakistan People's Party (now led by his daughter Benazir) is strongest.

Pakistan, which is slightly larger than Texas, is an impoverished country of 100 million people that borders India, Iran, Afghanistan, and China. Per capita income is less than \$300 per year. In 1983 its foreign debt was \$9.8 billion.

Pakistan was formed in 1947 after the partition of India by the former colonial ruler, Britain. Areas of India that were majority Muslim became Pakistan. (East Pakistan later won its independence in 1971 from then West Pakistan. It is now the independent nation of Bangladesh.)

Nearly 97 percent of the Pakistani people are of the Islamic faith and Pakistan declared itself an Islamic republic in 1956.

The largest ethnic group is the Punjabis who are more than half the population and dominate most of the military and civil service positions. Smaller ethnic groups include Pushtoons in the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchis in Baluchistan. Both the Pushtoons and Baluchis have fought against the central government for years to establish their own national rights.

The official national language is Urdu, with English used for business and government.

Since independence in 1947 Pakistan has been ruled by the military 22 out of 38 years. The Zia dictatorship came to power in a 1977 coup that overthrew the Bhutto government. As chief of the army staff, General Zia canceled elections and declared martial law. Two years later he had Bhutto convicted of conspiracy for a 1974 murder of a political oppositionist. Bhutto

was hanged mainly as a warning to anyone daring to challenge the military's authority.

Pressure for change and a restoration of democracy is now coming from all sectors of Pakistan's society — workers, peasants, ethnic minorities, students, and sectors of the capitalist class. An 11-party front led by the Pakistan People's Party called the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) is heading the campaign to pressure Zia's regime to call new elections.

The parliament was last elected in February 1985 to a five-year term. Most opposition parties, however, boycotted these elections because of the undemocratic restrictions imposed on them by the government. Currently, for political parties to become legal they must agree not to criticize the armed forces and state their support to Pakistan's Islamic ideology.

Since martial law was lifted three mass

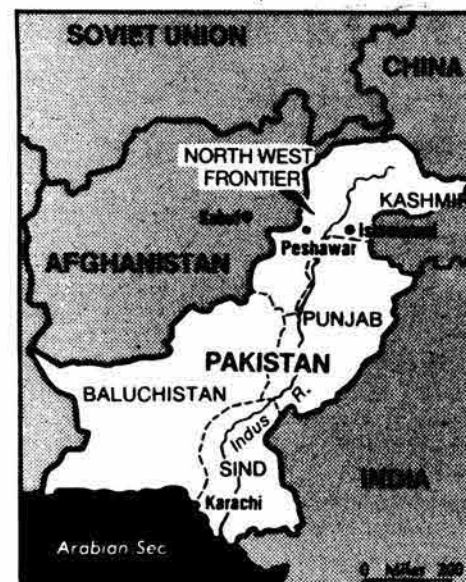
protests have been organized by the MRD — each more than 60,000 people.

This agitation against the government of Zia and his selected prime minister also occurs in the context of Washington's stepped-up support to the Afghan counter-revolutionaries seeking to overthrow the Afghanistan government.

Pakistan's government has been a strong backer of the Afghan terrorists. It provides the U.S.-backed rightists training bases and a supply route to enter Afghanistan. There are more than 3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

It is no wonder that Washington is becoming increasingly concerned about Pakistan's stability. The already bumpy moves toward limited democratic rights could get completely out of hand.

Since the fall of the shah of Iran in 1979, Pakistan's military has been a key player for imperialism in the region. Besides its



role in aiding the Afghan rightists, Pakistan is providing the bulk of counterinsurgency training for the Sri Lankan government's terror war against the democratic struggle of that country's Tamil minority.

## Sandinista unions seek unified May Day

Continued from Page 7

and CUS then announced they had formed the Unitary Committee for the Celebration of May Day — Martyrs of Chicago. The committee issued a call for its own May Day action, which said in part:

"Unity in action in the celebration of May Day is an extremely important step being taken through which the working class, with a high combative spirit, leads the defense of the interests of the working people and the people as a whole — defense of the homeland, the struggle for an honorable peace, against intervention and foreign interference in our internal affairs, and for civic, democratic, and patriotic solutions to the sharp crisis that flays the country.

"For this reason, the working class must intensify its efforts for democratization of the unions and for effective implementation of democratic rights of the working people, including freedom of the unions, freedom of expression, freedom to mobilize, as well as the right to strike."

The call did not mention the U.S.-directed mercenary war against Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, CST General Secretary Lucio Jiménez announced that the CST was willing to accept the proposal of the

other union federations for a united May Day committee that would include representatives of the CST and ATC, but not of the other pro-Sandinista unions. The ATC and CST could speak for these other unions in planning meetings, he said.

Given the willingness of the CST to be flexible and make concessions in the interests of a united action, Jiménez said, he was appealing to the CGT-I, CAUS, and CTN-Autonomous to resume efforts to form a single May Day committee. "We're hoping," he said, "for a more consistent attitude on their part; and even more so now that the reasons they raised for setting up their own committee have disappeared."

Negotiations among the union federations have resumed, although at this writing two committees exist.

The CST-led committee has also issued another May Day action call, signed by the CST, ATC, FETSALUD, ANDEN, and UNE. It says in part: "The military, economic, and political aggression imperialism is imposing on us, and the effects on our economy of the world capitalist crisis, are pounding our country, affecting our families and our workplaces."

"In the face of the defeats we have been dealing to the counterrevolution, Reagan is responding with his immoral discussion over how many millions the United States needs to keep assassinating Nicaraguans. He's looking for a way to legitimize the imperialist plan to destroy the revolution and get rid of the power of the working people."

"We will keep on defeating the aggressors in the battle trenches and in the workplaces as well, with a double effort by everyone, with the discipline and self-sacrifice of combatants, and through conservation [of materials] and more efficiency."

"In saluting the 100th anniversary of May Day, we must make the necessary productive efforts so we can meet the needs of our brother peasants and, through this, strengthen the alliance of the workers and peasants, the fundamental forces of our revolution."

The CST and other unions that are part of this committee have begun holding assemblies of union leaders in each workplace to plan the May Day event. Talks also continue with representatives of the other May Day committee.

## INS witch-hunt effort aims at deporting U.S.-born author

BY JIM WATSON

EL PASO, Texas — A ruling will be handed down here by a federal immigration judge in the case of Margaret Randall, who faces deportation from the country of her birth.

Judge Martin Spiegel held a four-day hearing on Randall's case, ending March 20. At the hearing, an Immigration and Naturalization Service lawyer questioned Randall extensively about her writings and political beliefs.

While resident in Mexico, Randall had given up her U.S. citizenship in 1967 under the mistaken belief that this was necessary to obtain work there. Since then, she has lived in Cuba and Nicaragua and written a number of books about these countries.

She returned to this country in 1984 and applied for permanent residency as a step toward regaining her citizenship.

This was denied in October 1985, principally on the basis of the government's disagreement with her views.

At the hearing held here, Randall's lawyers charged that it was actually her books that were on trial.

"This is like the Scopes Monkey trial... a witch-hunt. Books read in U.S. universities are on trial," declared defense attorney Michael Maggio.

Testifying on Randall's behalf, poet Adrienne Rich declared that if Randall is deported "it would cause a great deal of despair and anger for those who hold diversity of opinion as a necessity."

The witch-hunt nature of the drive to deport Randall was illustrated by some of the questions directed to her by the government lawyer.

Responding to Randall's statement that

she considered herself a Marxist, the lawyer demanded to know: "What is the difference between a Marxist and a communist? Are you kind of communist? Sort of communist?"

The move to deport Randall was made under provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act, a 1950s McCarthyite statute to exclude or deport political "undesirables." It is being challenged in federal court on Randall's behalf by PEN, the international writers' organization, along with the Center for Constitutional Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Judge Spiegel has already ruled that Randall voluntarily yielded her U.S. citizenship and is expected to rule on her deportation by early summer.

PHILADELPHIA — A fundraiser on behalf of Margaret Randall was held here March 15. It was hosted by Feminists in Solidarity with Central American and Caribbean Peoples.

The gathering, attended by more than a hundred people, was addressed by the Black poet Sonia Sanchez and by Dennis Brutus, the exiled South African poet.

Brutus discussed his own long and recently successful fight against the attempt to deport him and he stressed the need to organize a similar campaign to prevent Randall's deportation.

Several hundred dollars were raised for the defense.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

## 'PM': U.S. attacks on Libya

Three aircraft carriers, 27 warships, one flagship, 6 to 12 submarines, 250 planes, 18,000 troops, and a vast array of torpedoes, missiles, and other weapons. Such was the terrorist force that the U.S. used to attack Libya on March 24 and 25.

What did the Libyan people do to deserve this barbaric treatment? President Reagan accuses Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi of being responsible for the attacks on European airports and more recent incidents.

But the truth is that the U.S. government has never presented a shred of evidence to back its accusations.

What Washington really doesn't like about Libya is its opposition to U.S. and Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, Lebanon, and elsewhere in the Middle East.

The latest issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* helps answer Washington's lies against Libya.

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# GE provoked strike by 7,500 workers

## Shop-floor justice was central issue

BY DON GUREWITZ

LYNN, Mass. — Union members gave the demand for respect and justice and the need for unity as the reasons for striking when we walked out against General Electric here February 21. These sentiments along with a militant mood to beat GE lasted throughout the strike, which ended March 20.

The next day, some of the 7,500 workers at three Lynn-area plants began returning to work.

International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 201 leaders called the strike following the suspension of a shop steward on a management frame-up charge that he swore at a foreman. Local 201 leaders explained the suspension was only the straw that broke the camel's back. The company had essentially stopped negotiating with union stewards on the shop floor for several months. Every worker's problem was greeted by the company with "grieve it," and a backlog of over 300 cases had rapidly built up.

This stonewalling extended to higher levels of the grievance procedure as well. Agreements reached with GE's union-relations department, for example, began to be overruled by company personnel who were supposed to have nothing to do with the grievance procedure. In this atmosphere, steward victimizations — including physical assaults by foremen — were becoming regular occurrences.

But for workers walking the picket line, the issues that drove us to strike — in addition to defending the shop stewards — were many and far reaching. One worker spoke for many of us when he explained that "this isn't just about the grievance procedure. It's about everything GE's been doing to us for the past five years."

During this period conditions on the job have deteriorated due to company harassment and victimization of workers. The unjustified attacks on shop stewards were just the tip of the iceberg. Management was acting as if the union didn't exist. There was less and less justice for workers on the shop floor.

We don't have a no-strike clause in our contract and we felt that now was the time to use this fact to push back the company's attack.

### Desire to fight back

This desire to fight back against company abuses was clear on the first day of the strike when 3,700 aircraft division workers in the Lynn plant walked off the job at 8:00 a.m. and marched to the Lynn City Hall for a mass meeting. Worker after worker took the floor to demand that the local leadership call out the thousands of remaining IUE members.

Local 201 has more than 7,500 members working in four GE plants. The majority of workers are in the aircraft division and 2,000 are in the turbine division.

On March 3 some 1,700 aircraft division workers at GE's Everett and Medford plants joined the strike. They held a mass meeting and again the demand to bring out the rest of Local 201's members was raised repeatedly.

Two days later, the strike became

plantwide when 2,000 turbine workers at the Lynn plant joined the walkout.

That same day, 900 workers at the Wilmington, Massachusetts, GE plant walked out. Although a part of Local 201, they are considered as working in a separate unit of the company and cannot legally strike as part of the Lynn-area plants. Wilmington went out over its own unresolved grievances but settled its strike and returned to work after two days. The company accepted a number of their demands.

Back at work, however, Wilmington workers continued to demonstrate their solidarity with our strike. In addition to large quantities of food, they raised \$5,000 in aid.

The GE powerhouse workers, also members of Local 201, joined the strike after a two-day delay that was dictated by safety considerations.

On March 5, the day the turbine workers walked out, thousands of striking workers gathered around a banner reading, "1986 — The year the unions unite." This slogan was picked up from striking Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers in Austin, Minnesota. Another prominent banner read "on strike for justice."

That afternoon Local 201 took a formal vote on whether to continue with a plantwide strike. Before the vote GE management had been telling the news media that an "unpopular leadership" had "forced" its members to strike. When the voting was over, however, the count favored continuing the strike 3,687 to 831. This 82 percent yes vote was the highest strike vote in Local 201's history.

### Solidarity from P-9

Two Local P-9ers who were on a tour building support for their cause in the Boston area spent the day at the IUE strike headquarters. They appeared at the massive strike rally and spoke to another meeting of the 2,000 turbine workers who had just walked out. They also spoke to over a hundred strikers at a meeting that night. A local paper, the *Lynn Item*, reported, "One of the loudest cheers at the IUE's strike rally was for two men from Austin, Minn., whom nobody knew..."

The two men "nobody knew" were Dave Francis and Terry Arens. The message they brought to striking IUE members was one of solidarity, determination, and optimism. There is something even more important than one's job, they pointed out. Working people are taking terrible blows throughout the country and throughout the world. Someone needs to stand up and say "enough," whatever the risks. And when someone does, they pointed out, wherever it is, we all must give them every bit of support we can. That's what solidarity is all about.

Dozens of GE workers who got to meet and speak to the two P-9 representatives took this message to heart. P-9 buttons appeared all over during the GE strike and they are still being worn.

### Longstanding grievances

During the course of the strike no union membership meetings were held to report and discuss out what was happening in negotiations with the company. But there were a lot of continuing discussions among strikers at union headquarters and on the picket lines. Workers aired their grievances against GE, in some cases going back four or five years.

The sharp criticisms included ones against GE's Absence Review Board. This unilaterally imposed absence-control program led to the death of one worker and near death of another. The company had pressured them to return to work against medical advice.

Union protests have forced the company to back off, but a modified form of the absence program remains in effect.

GE has also been unilaterally cutting and suspending piecework rates in some departments. This had led to drastic cuts in take-home pay for many workers.

There was a lot of resentment expressed at the company's numerous kinds of pres-



Militant/Don Gurewitz

GE aircraft division workers wait at plant gate for turbine workers to walk out of Lynn plant and join IUE Local 201 picket lines on March 5. Aircraft division workers initiated four-week strike on February 21.

sure and harassment designed to make work longer and harder. In the Wilmington plant, for instance, workers were ordered to seek permission before going to the bathroom. They were also told to bring a doctor's note explaining what their "medical problem" was if they had to go to the bathroom more than twice a day.

Another thing we discussed was GE's Factory of the Future in Lynn, which will soon go into full production. This automated factory will have about 100 workers doing the work now done by several times that number. They will work 12-hour days with no premium pay for work on Saturdays and Sundays. Many job categories will be combined, with each worker doing more jobs for a lower base pay.

Workers are angered at this plan and felt they were forced to accept it only because of GE's threats to disinvest in Lynn.

Many workers are also unhappy about working under the 1985 GE contract that they voted down but that was voted up nationally. It includes a two-tier wage lasting up to two years for new hires, and a cash bonus instead of an hourly wage increase the first year. It also increases health costs paid by workers.

### GE provoked strike

Some Local 201 members thought GE provoked the strike in Lynn believing they could weaken the union. Their assessment was that the company assumed many younger workers new to the union and making pretty good money would not support the strike. But they, like all of us, were enthusiastic about fighting back against GE's harassment and victimizations.

After the strike vote was taken, the previous informational five-person picket lines grew to have hundreds of strikers. In addition, although we were required to picket eight hours a week to be eligible for strike benefits, many of us volunteered to do a lot more. One union member used his own money to make hundreds of T-shirts saying, "Go IUE — Beat GE — Get us respect!"

Strike-support telegrams arrived from all over the country. The state AFL-CIO scheduled a rally for March 22. It was canceled when the strike ended March 20, but not before dozens of unions in New England had begun to organize to participate in what promised to be the largest labor rally held in recent years. One example was the International Association of Machinists at Pratt-Whitney in Hartford, Connecticut, which was organizing busloads of their members to come to Local 201's solidarity rally. They told us they were returning the support they got on the picket line from our IUE local when they were out on strike. We also got solidarity from United Auto Workers at GE's Evendale, Ohio, plant. They said they too were thinking of striking because they had a backlog of 7,000 unresolved grievances. There are 7,000 workers in the Evendale plant.

Many IUE members were disappointed when the rally was called off. They wanted to turn it into a "victory over GE" celebration.

### GE comes to terms

After stonewalling in the negotiations for almost four weeks, GE finally came to terms March 18. The settlement was recommended to the membership unanimously by the local leadership negotiating committee, but not until after a long and heated debate in the stewards' council, where the vote to accept was 100 to 14.

Some 5,000 union members met in an

outdoor stadium to vote on the settlement March 20. It was overwhelmingly approved.

In the settlement the company bosses agreed to clear up the grievance backlog by holding daily instead of weekly negotiating sessions. They consented to speeded-up arbitration for three of the most recently victimized shop stewards. The deal provided that GE's union relations office settle grievances with the union and that these will be final — not to be undermined or negated by the actions of other management departments. A complaint the company had filed with the National Labor Relations Board is to be withdrawn.

In cases where the company accuses union stewards of being abusive to foremen, the company will not impose immediate suspension, according to the agreement. Instead, the steward will be put on notice for a possible suspension pending an investigation. The union leadership hopes this will allow the union to mount a defense of our stewards while they are still in the plant.

Another provision sets up a joint steward-foreman training program to try to promote understanding and cooperation between the front-line representatives of the union and the company. This program will be administered by both IUE 201 and GE.

Finally, the company promised to have all workers back on the job within two weeks, with those not called back right away eligible to collect unemployment.

### Members' view of agreement

Many members felt the settlement was the best that could be obtained. Some liked the part about not automatically and immediately suspending stewards.

The part on returning to work, however, drew quite a bit of objection. "GE forced us all out together, we should all go back together," one worker explained. "If they don't have work for everyone right away because of the strike, that's their problem. They shouldn't have provoked a strike."

The other section objected to was the one on the new training course for stewards and foremen. Several workers described this as a step backward. "It's another version of the Worker Involvement Groups we killed seven months ago," one said. "Nothing good can come of it. We have nothing in common with GE and we shouldn't pretend we do. They train their foremen how to screw us and they're not gonna stop. We should let them train their people, and we should train ours."

GE has indicated it is investigating several alleged incidents of picket-line "misconduct" with an eye toward possible disciplinary action. Most of us are expecting prompt and forceful action by the union if GE follows through on these threats.

Whether we thought the settlement was good or not, most of us are clear that it doesn't settle everything. GE's productivity drive will continue, and we expect many more confrontations and battles.

Many of us felt the main gain of the strike was the tremendous solidarity that developed in the ranks of the union. GE had expected us to balk at a major confrontation since some 70 percent had never been through a strike against the company. Just the opposite happened. GE's provocations were answered by a massive show of unity by IUE 201's members.

Don Gurewitz is a member of IUE Local 201 and works in the Lynn plant's aircraft division.

### GE: one of the biggest

General Electric is the 11th largest multinational corporation in the world with total assets of more than \$25 billion. It employs some 300,000 workers worldwide and is the fourth largest contractor with the Pentagon.

Like all corporations, GE has been on an intensive drive to increase productivity and profits by plant closings, layoffs, takebacks, and speedup. In the past five years it has cut its payroll by about 25 percent — more than 100,000 jobs. During this time GE has sold off or closed over 200 plants, most of them profitable — just not profitable enough for GE. — D.G.



## ARIZONA

### Phoenix

**South Africa's Regional Empire and the Struggle to End It.** Film: *The B Devil's Circle*, a documentary on South Africa's rule in Namibia. Presentation to follow by Betsy McDonald, representative of the Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 12, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

## CALIFORNIA

### San Jose

**How Can We Stop the War Against Nicaragua?** Speakers: Carlos Avitia, International Molders Union; Greg Miller, Nicaragua Work Brigades; Rick Trujillo, Socialist Workers Party; Bill Watkins, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5888. Sat., April 12, 7 p.m. 46 1/2 Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

**Campaign Barbecue.** Meet Greg Nelson, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of San Jose. Sun., April 13, 2-6 p.m. Hellyer Park (take Hellyer exit off Highway 101). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Greg Nelson for Mayor of San Jose Campaign. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

## COLORADO

### Denver

**Big Mountain: the Struggle for Survival.** Slideshow presentation by Rocky Olguin, Colorado coordinator, Big Mountain Support Group; Oneida Mascarenes, member CASA and Big Mountain Support Group. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 25 W 3rd Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

## KENTUCKY

### Louisville

**The Lindsey Scott Family Benefit Dance.** Sat., April 19, 10 p.m. YWCA, 3rd and Chestnut. Donation: \$6, single; \$12, couple. Ausp: Lindsey Scott Defense Fund. For more information call (502) 776-4226.

## LOUISIANA

### New Orleans

**Nicaragua—Another Vietnam?** Speakers: representative of the Ecumenical Task Force, Biloxi, Mississippi; representative of the Baton Rouge Committee Against Military Intervention in Nicaragua; representative of the Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 12, 7:30 p.m. 3207 Dublin. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

## MINNESOTA

### St. Paul

**Our Land Is Not for Sale — the Struggle for Indian Land Rights Continues.** Speakers: Stephanie Autumn Peltier, member Leonard Peltier Support Group; others. Sun., April 13, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**Grand Opening Celebration of Pathfinder Books.** Speakers: Rev. Ted Braun, recently returned from Cuba; Pat Grogan, staff writer for the *Militant*. Sat., April 19, Social, 7 p.m.; program, 8 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Pathfinder Books. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

**Educational Conference on Women's Liberation.**

1. "Origins of Women's Oppression." Sat., April 19, 2:30 p.m. Speaker: Pat Grogan, staff writer for the *Militant*.

2. "The Second Wave of Feminism." Sun., April 20, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: Pat Grogan.

3. "The Nicaraguan Abortion Debate." Sun., April 20, 1 p.m. Speaker: Vivian Sahner, leader of St. Louis Socialist Workers Party.

Donation: \$2 per class, \$5 for series. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

## NEW JERSEY

### Newark

**No to Contra Aid!** Speaker: Ruth Nebbia, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn & Manhattan

**Demonstration Against Inhuman Prison Conditions.** Sat., April 19. Assemble 11 a.m. at Brooklyn House of Detention, Atlantic Ave. at Boerum Pl. March to Metropolitan Correctional Center, Manhattan. Rally, 2 p.m. at City Hall. Ausp: National Committee to Defend New African Freedom Fighters and National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War. For more information call (212) 222-9640.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**Socialist Campaign Headquarters Grand Opening Celebration.** Meet with Rich Stuart,

Socialist Workers candidate U.S. Senate. Sun., April 13. Open house, 4 p.m.; program, 5 p.m. 2219 E Market St. Ausp: North Carolina Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

## OHIO

### Cincinnati

**High School Students: Slaves or Citizens?** Speakers: Bentley Davis, Shelley Stephens, Lenore Parker — high school students and members of the Young Socialist Alliance; Morris Starsky, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 19, 4 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

**Defend Workers' Compensation.** A video presentation and discussion. Speakers: Dan Radford, executive secretary, Cincinnati Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Doug Fields, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 402; Lorraine Starsky, member United Auto Workers Local 645 and Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 26, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

## OREGON

### Portland

**Pathfinder Bookstore Open House.** Celebrate the reopening of the bookstore under its new name. 15 percent off new titles and books by Malcolm X. Sun., April 13. Open house 3:00

p.m. Film, *Malcolm X Speaks*, at 4:00 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Film donation: \$2. Ausp: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

## TEXAS

### Houston

**Labor Fights Back: United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 On Strike Against Hormel.** Eyewitness report from April 12 national solidarity rally in Austin, Minnesota. A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 19, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

## UTAH

### Price

**Socialist Campaign Rally: End U.S. War in Central America. Hands Off Libya!** Speaker: David Hurst, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D. Sat., April 12. Reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., Room 19. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Protest U.S. War Moves: the Truth About Libya.** Speakers: Representative, Libyan Student Conference; Sheryl Hongsermeier, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 12, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mount Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

# Weinberger pushes military aid in Manila

Continued from back page

aid being considered by Congress.

Philippine industry is operating at only 50 percent of capacity and, according to Ongpin, 70 percent of the Filipino people are living under the poverty line — officially defined as a family income of about \$35 a week.

After the Weinberger visit, a Manila spokesperson said economic aid was particularly needed to help provide jobs. The unemployment rate is estimated at up to 20 percent.

There was no mention of any proposal for a moratorium on the Philippine foreign debt of \$26 billion. Payments drain away up to one half of the nation's export earnings.

Both sides said the issue of the two giant U.S. military bases was not raised at the meeting.

During her campaign, President Aquino said she would honor the treaty covering the bases until it expires in 1991 and refused to say what her stand would then be.

After the meeting, Weinberger said, "The bases agreement is not an issue."

He added: "It's already been taken care of."

The U.S. military installations in the Philippines are the biggest anywhere outside the United States. There are 16,500 military personnel at the Subic Bay naval base, Clark air force base, and a half-dozen smaller installations. With their families and civilian workers, the total U.S. presence is 40,000.

Employing 45,000 Filipinos, the bases are operated with typical Ugly American arrogance, as illustrated by the recent strike of 22,000 Filipino base workers. The 12-day walkout was the longest yet at a U.S. base there.

In addition to service work, the Filipinos do skilled shipyard repair and maintenance.

The union had been trying to negotiate a new contract for 10 months before the walkout. The issue that sparked the strike was the stubborn U.S. refusal to grant severance pay to workers who leave their jobs.

Under heavy pressure, the workers returned to their jobs April 1-2 after their union officials agreed to a "compromise" settlement that did not include the sought-

for severance pay. It reportedly provided a bonus of around \$100 and a quarterly subsidy of rice amounting to about eight pounds a week.

A skilled base mechanic is paid about \$1.25 an hour. A food service workers gets about 66 cents.

During the strike, five pickets were stabbed at the Subic Bay base when a group of off-duty marines crashed the picket line. And at the Clark base, strikers were attacked by club-wielding MPs.

# Steelworkers approve LTV contract

Continued from Page 3

leave the stock in the trust fund until they retire.

Even financial analysts doubted whether this contract would solve LTV's financial problems. Charles Bradford, steel stocks analyst for Merrill Lynch, said, "It doesn't solve the problem. It probably will help them enough short-term, but it doesn't get them enough in the black to pay off the short-term debt. And that's what they need. In the next recession, there's going to be more blood on the floor."

The LTV contract was the first basic steel contract to be decided by a direct vote of the membership. Previous contracts were decided by a Basic Industry Conference made up of steel local presidents. In January 1986, the Basic Industry Conference voted to grant the right to ratify contracts to the membership. Voting was done by mail ballots sent to the union's International headquarters in Pittsburgh.

Inland, Bethlehem, Armco, and Na-

tional Steel had all opened early negotiations and set early deadlines with the USWA. But both Bethlehem and Inland recently broke off negotiations because there were too many questions unresolved in the talks.

U.S. Steel, the largest steel producer, is waiting to see what the other companies can take back from the workers before opening negotiations with the union.

# Ortega condemns use of U.S. advisers

Continued from front page

fall into the trap of confrontation, to make an effort to normalize relations." What jeopardizes this, he continued, "is the intent of the United States to use Honduras as a platform for aggression against Nicaragua, as the spearhead or pretext for the involvement of U.S. forces against Nicaragua."

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**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, 2803 B St. Zip: 92102. 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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**ILLINOIS: Chicago:** SWP, YSA, 3455 S. Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

**KENTUCKY: Louisville:** SWP, YSA, 809 E. Broadway. Zip: 40204. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

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



**Better than banking** — "Of all the times a person might have to enter agriculture, and stay, now is



Harry Ring

the best time for the past 30 or 40 years . . . opportunities are going to be bright." — Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng.

**They're flexible** — "While still proclaiming the virtues of the free

market, the administration is sending Vice President Bush to Saudi Arabia . . . to persuade the dominant member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries that it should take action to stabilize — or even increase — the price of oil by cutting production." — News item.

**That's that** — Responding to reports that the White House had pressured NASA to launch the *Challenger* in time for Reagan to mention the flight in his State of the Union message, the White House conducted an investigation and found the charge was unwarranted.

**Down and dirty** — "This is ob-

viously no way to run a war. There are certain areas which require confidentiality." — A State Dept. official on why more of the *contra* aid should be returned to a covert status.

**How hard-line can you get** — The *New York Times* reported that Filipino union officials accepted a U.S. offer of a one-time \$100 bonus and some rice to settle the strike at U.S. bases, but rank-and-filers were opposed. "The hard-liners," the *Times* explained, "are demanding improved wages and conditions."

**It figures** — He's against the "narrow-minded clichés" of the "near socialist" environmental

movement and favors "the right of business to make its own best choices about raw materials and production methods." He's Frank Dunkle, Reagan's nominee to head the Fish and Wildlife Service.

**He got caught?** — Tricky Dick Nixon was elected an associate member of the Academie des Beaux Arts because he had put through a tax bill making contributions to the Versailles Foundation tax-deductible. Gerard Van der Kamp, a spokesperson, said, "Mr. Nixon is a great man who committed a small error . . ."

**He always did love a whopper** — It was wire service news when

Nixon dropped in for lunch at a New Jersey Burger King.

**Like, how about in his basement?** — "Spent nuclear reactor fuel should be considered as a valuable resource, not waste, and guarded like the gold at Fort Knox." — S. Fred Singer, geophysicist and, according to a nuke industry press handout, an eminent scholar.

**Hey, no problem** — We thought it was just us, but it seems that many of the folk ready to part with \$25,000 for a Sensorium remote-control, computerized bathtub may have trouble fitting it in their bathroom. The company suggests simply converting a child's bedroom into a bathroom.

## 'Good Terrorist': no politics, no insights, no reality

**The Good Terrorist.** By Doris Lessing. Alfred Knopf, New York. 368 pages, cloth. \$16.95.

BY LINDA JENNESS

*The Good Terrorist*, Doris Lessing's latest work, is being read and reviewed by some as a serious political novel.

The *Guardian*, a radical weekly, headlines its review: "Even in Despair, Lessing Offers More."

Allison Lurie in the *New York Review of Books* states: "Whether her answers are right or not, Lessing has suc-

### BOOK REVIEW

ceeded in writing one of the best novels in English I have read about the terrorist mentality and the inner life of a revolutionary group since Conrad's *The Secret Agent*."

These reviews embrace Lessing's despairing conclusion that the persons and actions portrayed by her in *The Good Terrorist* bear some resemblance to the left. They simply do not.

*The Good Terrorist* tells the story of Alice Mellings, a 36-year-old "den mother" to a purposeless group of people who have taken residency in a squalid, abandoned house in London.

Alice has no grasp on reality. She hides her internal chaos with an obsession for external order and hard work. Thus, she performs an almost miraculous transformation of the abandoned house into livable quarters.

But her cover dissolves now and again: "She exploded inwardly, teeth grinding, eyes bulging, fists held as if knives were in them. She stormed around the kitchen, like a big fly shut in a room on a hot afternoon, banging herself against walls, corners of table and stove, not knowing what she did, and making grunting, whining, snarling noises. . . ."

Another sign of Alice's mental state is evidenced by her frequent and dramatic lapse of memory. She can't re-

member, for instance, whether or not she has divulged to the British secret service that guns had been moved into the house. She can't remember if she has informed on someone, or not.

Both the *Guardian* and the *New York Review* admit to a "darker side" of Alice. However, they accept Lessing's premise that Alice is "good." The *New York Review* even finds in Alice "the sort of woman whose domestic skills and maternal sympathy have traditionally held the world together."

Now, let's consider the "co-conspirators" that Alice has chosen to mother.

First, there's Jasper. Jasper, because of an insecurity concerning his homosexuality, passes himself as Alice's companion. Alice has played nursemaid to Jasper for many years, allowing his secret to continue and receiving only his hostilities in return.

There's Bert. Bert and Jasper are considered the "theoreticians" of the group. A vague congress is held, and both travel to Ireland in an attempt to link up with the IRA. Spurned by the IRA, they travel to Moscow and are likewise unrewarded for their efforts. Various meanderings and pronouncements later, the reader is still left wondering as to what their politics are.

Even the bombing, the terrorist act, is an apolitical action. At the last moment, Alice runs to a telephone in a futile effort to stop the bombing. In an afterthought, she adds: "It's the IRA. Freedom for Ireland. . . ."

*The Good Terrorist* reflects Lessing's demoralized, reactionary view of the left. It offers no politics, no insights, no reality. But it allows the *Guardian* to write: "Her political angle of vision is badly skewed . . . but, even then, she is instructive." And, "What Lessing saw — and still sees — about the world and human experience is so often more on target than the most politically correct visions of others."

In *The Good Terrorist*, Lessing presents no hope for the future. Blind to the mass upheavals occurring from South Africa to Nicaragua, she reduces the ability of hu-

manity to struggle for change to a mindless bombing. Bitterly blaming the left for her own inability to see any way forward, she has done a disservice to those who continue to fight.

\* \* \*

In 1962 *The Golden Notebook* was published. Written by Doris Lessing — a different Doris Lessing — this autobiographical novel was a bold, painfully honest and insightful work that placed itself in the vanguard of the second wave of feminism that swept England and the rest of the world in the late '60s and early '70s. Reread today, it stands four square with the finest in explaining and understanding feminist consciousness.

For this reason, Lessing continues to hold a special place in the hearts and minds of many today.

Lessing's childhood was spent in Southern Rhodesia. In England, as an adult, her political activism, especially against apartheid, earned her a place on the list of "prohibited aliens," barring her return to South Africa and Rhodesia.

*The Golden Notebook* combines her political experiences, her disillusionment with the sectarian, backward policies of the Communist Party, and her profound insights into the emotional and psychological effects of the oppression of women.

The book's main character, Anna, often borders on the brink of insanity. Unlike Alice, however, she is brought back time and again by her love and sense of responsibility for her daughter, by friends, and by an undercurrent of hope and optimism for the future. Her strength lies in understanding her situation: She is an independent woman who has gone too far to retreat, but has yet not found a way to move forward. Perched there, she is everywoman — out on everywoman's limb.

Those who have not yet read *The Golden Notebook* should find the time to do so. Those who read it so many years ago might want to reread it. This contribution by Lessing still stands and cannot be taken away from her or us.

## The victims of the crime of capital punishment

BY ERLING SANNE

The facts presented at a San Diego meeting of the American Society of Criminology established that the victims of capital punishment in the United States included dozens of people who were proven innocent of the charges against them after they were executed. Hundreds of others were exonerated only after being sentenced to death, but in time to prevent the executions from being carried out.

Professors Hugo Bedau of Tufts University and Michael Badelet of the University of Florida, who pre-

### AS I SEE IT

pared the study, conclude that the cases they studied represent only a fraction of the total who were executed on false charges.

The 240-page study documents 343 cases in the United States since 1900 in which people convicted and sentenced to death were later found to be innocent. Bedau and Badelet found 49 such cases in the 1970s and 15 in the first half of the 1980s. In 25 of these cases, the finding of innocence took place after the death sentence was carried out.

The authors define innocence very narrowly — excluding all cases in which capital defendants had their convictions reversed because of trial errors or other due-process-of-law reasons. All but a few of the cases they present involve situations in which the wrong person was convicted or cases in which no crime was committed because the alleged victim later turned up alive.

The 25 cases they cite in which an innocent person was executed include such well-known cases as Sacco and Vanzetti. But most are obscure, long-ago-forgotten

cases. Neil Shumway was hanged for murder in Nebraska in 1909, but three years later the victim's husband confessed to the crime. Maurice Mays was executed in Tennessee in 1919. Five years later the true killer confessed. Frank Smith was executed in Connecticut in 1949 only to be proven innocent minutes after the execution took place.

While the government occasionally admits an error in convicting someone by granting a pardon, no state has ever admitted to an error after the victim was executed, according to Bedau and Badelet.

Fordham University Professor Ernest Van den Haag, a death penalty supporter, said, "All human activities — building houses, driving a car, playing golf or football — cause innocent people to suffer wrongful death, but we don't give them up because on the whole we feel there is a net gain. Here a net gain is justice is being done."

The real net gain that the rulers of this country seek through the death penalty is to inspire fear in the oppressed and exploited.

Every person who has ever been executed was a victim of their savage brutality, whether or not he or she was subsequently proven innocent of the specific charges he or she was convicted of.

The death penalty has always been used by the ruling class as a weapon of class and race oppression.

More than 7,000 people have been executed in the United States since 1900, according to the authors. In the 1930s, executions averaged 167 a year, peaking at 199 in 1937.

Of all the people executed in the United States since 1930, more than 54 percent have been Black, even though Blacks have accounted for only about 12 percent of the population.

Former United States Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas once said, "One searches in vain for the ex-

ecution of any member of the affluent strata of our society."

Since the Supreme Court revised death penalty laws in 1976, a total of 51 executions have been carried out, and the number of death row inmates has quadrupled to more than 1,600 today. More than 37 percent of those executed in the last 10 years have been either Black or Hispanic.

On January 10, 1986, after spending eight years in South Carolina's death warehouse, Terry Roach became the first person to be executed in the United States in 1986. Roach, mentally retarded and suffering from an incurable brain disease (Huntington's Chorea), was 17 when the crime for which he was electrocuted was committed.

Roach's role in the crime has never been made clear. In a moment of courtroom confusion he abruptly pleaded guilty. A jury trial was never held, and he was quickly sentenced to death by the judge. A codefendant, Joseph Shaw, was murdered by the state of South Carolina on Jan. 11, 1985. A third person, a 16-year-old boy, turned states evidence and is now serving a life term.

Appeals were made in vain on Roach's behalf by people around the world, including United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Amnesty International, on the grounds that the killing would be a violation of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*. The covenant was signed by the United States in 1977 and prohibits imposing the death sentence for crimes committed by persons under the age of 18.

South Carolina holds the record for killing the youngest person in modern United States history — 14-year-old George Stinney. In this century, more than 100 juveniles have been executed before their 18th birthdays.

Erling Sannes is North Dakota coordinator for the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty.



## U.S. war move against Angola

The Reagan administration is helping the South African apartheid regime escalate its 10-year war against the independent West African nation of Angola.

That is the meaning of the U.S. government's March 27 announcement that Stinger antiaircraft missiles are being sent to a terrorist group led by Jonas Savimbi. Savimbi's group, which calls itself the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, operates as part of the South African regime's war — a war that has taken more than 10,000 Angolan lives.

The U.S. decision to arm Savimbi is a crime against the Angolan people and other southern African nations that are defending their independence against South African aggression. It is a crime against the Namibian people who are fighting for the end of South African occupation and colonial rule. It is a crime against the millions in South Africa who are fighting to put an end to the racist apartheid regime. And it is a crime against U.S. workers and farmers, who have a stake in opposing U.S. military intervention anywhere.

Savimbi's UNITA receives arms, money, and military personnel from the apartheid regime. Thousands of South African troops occupy parts of southern Angola where Savimbi's killers operate.

According to a March 31 column by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, CIA director William Casey spent several days in South Africa in March to work out how the U.S. aid would be delivered.

Stingers are shoulder-fired missiles that can shoot

down low-flying planes. The Reagan administration says it is providing hundreds of them to the U.S.-organized *contras* fighting Nicaragua, Savimbi's UNITA, and rightist bands in Afghanistan, so that they can shoot down helicopters.

Washington's escalation of its aggression against these countries does not end with the delivery of the military hardware. Administration officials say that U.S. "military trainers" will have to be assigned to the Nicaraguan *contras* to teach them to use the Stinger missiles.

Will U.S. "trainers" also be assigned to Savimbi's terrorists in Angola and the Afghan rightists?

The U.S. government says it wants to step up the fighting in Angola in order to force the Angolan government to send home thousands of Cuban troops who are currently stationed there. Cuban internationalist volunteers have been in Angola since 1975, at the request of the Angolan government. They helped Angola fend off the attacks of the biggest military power in Africa, the apartheid regime.

There is widespread opposition to U.S. intervention in Angola, as there is to U.S. intervention in Central America. This opposition will grow as more people learn the facts. Upcoming protests against U.S. support to the apartheid regime should take up the issue of what Washington and Pretoria are doing to Angola.

They should raise the slogans:

"No arms for Savimbi. U.S., South Africa, hands off Angola!"

## Rally behind TWA attendants

In their militant strike against TWA, the 6,000 members of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants are inspiring all workers looking for ways to fight back against the employers' antilabor offensive.

They are carrying the banner of all women who are fighting for dignity and equality as workers. In so doing, they fight to strengthen the entire labor movement and for the rights of all working people.

The flight attendants' union is 85 percent female. They had agreed to the same concessions as the predominantly male International Association of Machinists ground workers and the Air Line Pilots Association. This included a 15 percent wage cut.

But TWA President Carl Icahn wanted more from the flight attendants. He demanded that they take a 22 percent wage cut as well as other concessions.

Why? Because they are women.

"These girls aren't breadwinners," Icahn explained.

At a recent speech in Louisville, Kentucky, National Organization for Women President Eleanor Smeal said NOW will wage a campaign in support of the flight attendants. Calling TWA's actions "a case of sexism gone rampant, and union-busting," she called on NOW chapters to escalate their support to the strikers and get solidly behind them in their fight.

We applaud this decision by NOW.

Smeal recalled that at one time all flight attendants were women. They were forced to retire at the age of 35 or when they married, providing the airlines with a pool of workers with no seniority, no rights, and low pay.

Through their unions, and with the backing of the women's liberation movement, the flight attendants fought for the same rights as other workers. They fought to be treated as real workers, and not as "girls" who were just having a fling at a job before settling down to their true role in life as a homemaker.

The flight attendants' story mirrors the position of all women workers. The employers want to keep women permanently in a second-class status in the work force.

Discrimination against women workers hurts all working people. Low wages paid to women drag down all wages. And discrimination against women workers weakens and divides working people and saps the fighting capacity of the union movement.

That's why the labor movement has a big stake in the fight for women's equality and in championing affirmative action, pay equity, child care, and abortion rights.

The labor movement and all supporters of the cause of women's equality should rally behind the flight attendants and defeat TWA's attempt at blatant sex discrimination and union-busting.

## Undocumented face evictions

The federal government is moving to evict all undocumented immigrants from public housing projects.

On March 31 the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) directed local housing authorities to evict from their projects all tenants who cannot produce documents proving they are citizens or "legal aliens."

Private landlords who receive federal rent subsidies for low-income tenants are instructed to evict them too — unless they are ready and able to pay full rent. Asked if some of those being evicted would not be forced to join the homeless in the streets, a HUD lawyer shrugged, "That's possible, but it's speculation. I don't know." And, he could have added, "I don't care."

This cold-blooded act is part of a systematic drive to deny the most elementary rights and needs of the undocumented.

Similar proof of legal status is being demanded of food stamp applicants. And the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has developed an elaborate computer system to facilitate denial of rights to the undocumented by state and local governments.

At least 10 states are already involved in this program, under which they have computer access to a "central index" bulging with 21 million alien case files. Before approving applicants for medical care, welfare, unemployment compensation, etc., the participating states can check the index to determine if the applicant is among those listed as "legal."

Through this system, boasts INS Commissioner Alan Nelson, 36,305 "illegal aliens" were spotted as applicants for, or recipients of, unemployment compensation or welfare last year.

That's not only an inhuman denial of elementary

needs, it's a denial of things people have earned and paid for.

Workers, documented or not, cannot collect unemployment compensation unless they have worked long enough and paid in enough to qualify.

And, like the documented, undocumented workers help finance public housing, medical programs, and welfare. They pay sales and excise taxes every time they go to the store. And, like other workers, they have income tax withheld and Social Security taxes deducted from wages.

The hypocrites in the government argue that by denying housing and other needs to the undocumented, they are forcing them out of the U.S. job market and making jobs available to "Americans."

That's a fake. The real aim is to keep undocumented workers in the status of pariahs, to make them ever more vulnerable to superexploitation. That, for instance, is the real purpose behind the anti-immigrant legislation now pending in Congress.

Precisely because they are branded "illegal," precisely because they are denied the modest rights and benefits of other workers, the undocumented are driven to accept the very worst jobs at the lowest pay. And, on the job, compelled to keep carefully in mind that the "wrong attitude" toward the boss can mean an INS cop a phone call away.

For the employers, this is a double bonus. In addition to the extra profits they pocket on the undocumented, the low wages and substandard conditions imposed on them also serve as an instrument for holding back the wages and conditions of other workers. All working people should stand united in defense of the rights of the undocumented.

## The working-class strategy against imperialist war

The following is excerpted from "The Working-Class Road to Peace" by Brian Grogan, a British leader of the world Marxist organization, the Fourth International. The article appears in the Winter 1983-84 issue of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory.

This issue of the magazine also contains an article by *New International* Managing Editor Steve Clark, "The Development of the Marxist Position on the Aristocracy of Labor," as well as major excerpts from "The Social Roots of Opportunism," a translation of a 1916 article by Russian Bolshevik leader Gregory Zinoviev. The 143-page journal is available from

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. Send \$4.00 plus 75 cents for postage and handling.

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It will be the increasing political organization of the working class in the mines, mills, and factories, in the communities of the oppressed nationalities, and on every front of the battle against exploitation and oppression that will also push back the rulers' capacity to wage war.

Who will be the leaders of these battles? The working class. The workers in the bastions of industry and the industrial unions. The most oppressed layers of the working class. The young workers. The workers from the oppressed nationalities. The immigrant workers. The women workers.

The fight for a class-struggle leadership of our class and its unions, and the fight for working-class leadership of the struggles of all the oppressed and exploited — this is also the fight for a revolutionary leadership of the fight against imperialist war. It will come from nowhere else.

The fight to transform the unions into revolutionary instruments, the fight for independent labor political action, the fight against imperialist war and nuclear weapons — these are all aspects of the same fight. This can be hard to see at the current juncture of the class struggle, when the political radicalization of the working class is still just beginning and the class-collaborationist misleaders maintain their grip on the labor movement. But it is along this common course that these struggles will advance and ultimately triumph. The only road to ending imperialist war is a class-struggle course toward taking state power from the imperialists and establishing a workers' and farmers' government.

That is why our turn to industry and our conscious efforts to proletarianize our parties are inseparably connected to our course in combating wars and the nuclear buildup by the bourgeoisie. It flows from our working-class program and strategic orientation. Once we're clear on that, then all sorts of tactical questions relating to meetings, demonstrations, coalitions, or whatever become much more straightforward. As a nucleus of revolutionary workers, we seek to take advantage of any opportunity — whether or not it originates inside the labor movement at this point — to advance our class and its allies along this line of march.

It is this perspective that we seek to advance through our industrial fractions and branches in helping to get Salvadoran union leaders before as many union audiences as possible. In our unions, in Black and Latino organizations, and in women's rights groups, we put forward the need to become actively involved in opposing U.S. policy in Central America and the massive government arms budget, including weapons for mass annihilation.

In action coalitions or organizations formed around opposition to U.S. intervention or nuclear weapons, we stress the need to involve labor and the organizations of oppressed nationalities and women. We set priorities and make tactical judgments about particular conferences, demonstrations, and initiatives for action based on our judgment of how best to take another step in this overall direction under the given circumstances.

Lenin said that "the experience of war . . . stuns and breaks some people, but enlightens and tempers others."

In the last analysis, there are two "roads to peace." Those who are stunned and broken by war, who surrender to the exploiters under its pressure, end up with what Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega has called the "peace of the tomb." Given imperialism's massive nuclear arsenal, the tomb today could be that of all humanity.

But we are confident from the record of the working class over this century that the oppressed and exploited are marching along the other road — that of revolutionary class struggle against imperialism. It is the road along which the workers and peasants of Central America and the Caribbean are marching. The road that has led to victories over imperialism from Russia to Vietnam, from countries as gigantic as China to islands as small as Grenada. And it is the road into which feed the struggles by workers, farmers, and the oppressed in the United States, Britain, and other imperialist countries.



# Only the rich can afford to maintain their health

BY DAVID SALNER

Medical costs are escalating, and workers' health-care benefits are under attack. The result: only the rich can afford to maintain their health.

As part of this general picture, the employing class has put into motion a high-powered campaign against workers' compensation and other benefits sick or hurt workers rely on.

In West Virginia, which has one of the highest on-the-job death and disability rates, the state legislators just re-

## UNION TALK

duced workers comp coverage after parading a gross campaign of lies in the media.

The lawmakers complained that workers comp costs were bankrupting employers at the expense of jobs. But state AFL-CIO head Joseph Powell pointed out that employers' contributions went down 30 percent in 1985.

Opponents of workers comp screamed about so-called abuses, such as the benefits drawn by prisoners while behind bars. These workers behind bars should be able to draw comp, but as Powell points out, only three prisoners in five years have ever managed to collect as much as a penny.

I attended a hearing on an amendment to reduce hearing loss compensation. Many mine workers and others

spoke against the amendment. Speaking for it was a representative of Monsanto Company. At one point a lawmaker asked why hearing loss should be compensated if a hearing aid restored the injured worker's hearing.

The United Mine Workers of America representative shot back: "Next you'll be asking why a worker who loses a limb needs compensation if he has a wooden replacement." But the amendment to reduce compensation passed.

Meanwhile, comp is getting harder to collect because of delays and harassment on the part of employers. Arbitrators have ruled that workers can be fired for absenteeism while out on workers comp for on-the-job injuries. Another example: in Nitro, West Virginia, FMC Specialty chemicals has demanded a contract provision that workers out on comp can be fired. United Steelworkers of America Local 12575 is striking FMC over this and other takeback demands.

Meanwhile, a worker's right to sue over injuries inadequately covered by workers comp has been all but eliminated. Retired steelworkers who spent years producing dioxin — the most deadly chemical on earth — lost a suit against Monsanto's nitro division. This happened despite the fact there was no disputing that the workers' dioxin exposure caused suffering and terminal illnesses, including liver cancer.

In a clear threat to future suits by injured workers, the judge ruled that the chemical giant could put a lien on the homes of six workers to recompense Monsanto for "legal

costs." As the workers put it, "They've taken our health, they may as well take our money."

The bottom line is that the ruling capitalist class doesn't mind ruining a worker's health but it doesn't want to make even a small payment on the damages. Profits come first, and only an independent struggle for political power can begin to change this. Labor must also fight for the many workers, the unemployed, and farmers, who have no medical or compensation coverage at all.

Adequate health care should be the right of all regardless of financial status or insurance coverage. But it will take a transformed union movement to fight effectively for this. A labor party is needed to back this struggle in the political arena. It could mobilize a popular protest movement against the life-threatening practices of companies such as Monsanto. Such a party could build support for the idea that the price tag should be taken off medicine.

Cuba, a country with far fewer resources, has already put this philosophy into practice. But in the capitalist-ruled United States, funds that could pay for decent medical care are squandered on war and military hardware.

An effective struggle for decent health care as a social demand is part of the struggle for a new society free of war, exploitation, and discrimination.

David Salner is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 8621 in Nitro, West Virginia.

## LETTERS

### Marcos: Cargill's man

Norm Larson, cochairperson of the Minnesota Groundswell farmers' organization, recently reported on a meeting he and other farm activists had with a Filipino peasant leader currently touring the United States. Larson spoke before a meeting of Groundswell held in Worthington, Minnesota.

Larson explained that Marcos had carried out a fake land reform, which ended up placing 40,000 acres of land in the hands of the grain-marketing giant Cargill and the Massey-Ferguson Corporation. Peasants receiving land under the "reform" were forced to pay from 50 to 200 percent interest for loans, which was unpayable and resulted in foreclosure. The peasants had grown their own food, but today Cargill uses the land to grow yellow corn for export. Filipinos do not even eat yellow corn.

Larson stressed the importance of international solidarity among farmers. Groundswell, he said, would participate in an international conference this summer in the Philippines, which is being held "to expose the corporations' ruin of agriculture in every country."

Jim Altenberg  
St. Paul, Minnesota

### Cosmetics

In reading the excerpts and review of *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* that have appeared in the *Militant*, it seems to me that the potential positive role of cosmetics in an advanced socialist society may have been written off in advance.

Actually, cosmetics can and should be a means of personal expression — indeed, an expression of artistry, if not art, and of the inner personality. Cosmetics, like apparel, need not in principle be tied in to a Madison Avenue-type money-making machine. That this is now the case is undeniable. And it's true for those of us who wear neckties, just as for those who wear eye shadow — though the syndrome is clearly not as oppressive for men.

An essential point that seems to have been left out of the discussion on cosmetics is that its use and application are an aspect of labor. As Andrea González paraphrased Evelyn Reed: "Beauty has nothing to do with fashion. It has everything to do with labor." By this logic, it should also be true that the unadorned human being has no greater innate claim to

being beautiful than the adorned. In other words, cosmetics in the future society will be, as the materialist anthropologist V. Gordon Childe phrased it, an example of how "man makes himself."

Artifice, or the use of not naturally occurring materials to produce an effect of enhanced beauty, is within the potential of women and men. It is, in fact, part of what makes us human. Through artistic labor, we work with the materials of raw nature to give ourselves greater choices.

In the future, when we will be able to splice genes and change our own appearance and perhaps that of our children, we will be enhancing beauty only if our choices are truly free — as they can be in a socialist society. If this occurs under capitalism, the deformities of cosmetic dictatorship will seem benign by comparison to that of the new body-altering techniques.

Lastly, I believe it is a form of false consciousness to argue (and I'm not certain anyone is) that you can't be a revolutionary socialist and wear cosmetics occasionally, or wear clothes sometimes that might be construed as "fashionable." It must be up to the individual to develop internal standards of beauty that reflect his or her own nature — and just as the artist wouldn't limit her palette to the colors of rocks, trees and stars, so no makeup color or shirt design should be judged immoral or less than exemplary. Each of us can, until society is completely remade, work to find genuine forms of expression by picking, choosing and synthesizing as best we can under image-bombardment.

It's not true that "you are what you wear." But it is true that "you are what you struggle to be."

Albert Cassorla

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### House contra debate

On March 19 and 20 I was able to witness the 10-hour House debate and vote on contra aid.

Hundreds of people waited in line for hours to attend the debate. Many hundreds were unable to get in as every available seat in the visitor's gallery was taken.

I waited in line next to two church women in their 70s who traveled from Washington state to combine a vacation with lobbying against contra aid.

Any truth about the Nicaraguan government and its policies was virtually absent on the House floor.

Republicans engaged in red-baiting of the Democrats.



Rep. Thomas Hartnett (R.-S.C.) bluntly stated, "If you are not with the anticommunist forces, then I and all of America have to assume that you are with the communists."

In response, Democrats competed with Republicans as to who could slander the Sandinistas the most. "Leninist tyrants," "dope dealers," "worse than Somoza," "persecutors of religion," "totalitarians," "enemies of freedom," they said.

Rep. Henry Hyde (R.-Ill.) led the Republican charge. He defended contra atrocities by saying "the North did the same things in our Civil War."

Hyde launched an attack on what he called the "religious left" who, he said, are "besieging the people and the Congress with Sandinista disinformation." "Networking nuns," he complained, "won't leave me alone."

One Democrat warned that "more contra aid without even a fig leaf of diplomacy may bring anti-Yankee explosions" in Latin America.

The capitalist lawmakers debated what was worse: "a second Vietnam" or "a second Cuba."

Ike Nahem  
Washington, D.C.

### Urine testing

One aspect of urinalysis drug testing is often overlooked. The New York City Transit Authority and New York City Sanitation Department have made it mandatory for employees to inform their medical departments of any medications that are prescribed for them. I believe that numerous other organizations which have urinalysis drug-testing programs may also require employees to reveal use of prescription medicines.

Having to tell the boss of any medication that a doctor might prescribe is tantamount to having to tell the boss what physical or mental ailment one develops.

The potential of urine testing to enable discrimination against the sick and handicapped is frightening, awesome, and immense. Urine testing for legal (as well as illegal) drugs is a powerful tool and weapon for the unethical, sleazy employer who tries to cut corners on pension, medical insurance, unemployment benefits, or disability pay.

If it were common knowledge that urine tests have been used to look for prescription drugs in people who are not suspected "drug abusers," many people who now support urine testing for drugs would change their minds about this invasion of privacy.

J. Frederick Newton  
New York, New York

### Gulf of Sidra

Reagan's military engagement with the Libyan armed forces is wrong. The Gulf of Sidra is enclosed on three sides by Libyan and only Libyan territory. Libya could make a strong case that these were indeed her waters historically.

The supposed reason the navy is there is terrorism. Can you think of a single terrorist act sponsored by Qaddafi? The best we can come up with is that terrorists sought asylum in Libya. No, the evidence against Qaddafi is classified and, like Nixon's secret plan to end the war in Vietnam, can't be debated.

The reason the navy is in the Gulf of Sidra is to force Libya to change her foreign policy. Libya wants to unify the Arab and Islamic world. Reagan wants it divided so American oil companies

can gain the control they need to buy cheap abroad and sell dear at home.

Reagan's condemnation of terrorism is hypocrisy. The U.S. military carried out mass terrorism in Vietnam and sponsors it today in El Salvador. The *contras* are terrorists and the United States sponsors and aids South Africa's terrorism against its neighbors.

Bob Mears  
Lawrence, Kansas

### Corrections

In our story in the April 11 *Militant* on the March 22 New York meeting in support of the Hopi and Navajo people fighting relocation from their lands in Arizona, we incorrectly reported that Steve Thwete, a representative of the African National Congress, addressed the meeting. A message of support from him was read to the meeting.

In the article, "Socialists enter 1986 elections," also in the April 11 *Militant*, Andrew Pulley was incorrectly described as a candidate for senator. Pulley is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for House of Representatives from Michigan's 1st Congressional District. Omari Musa, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois was incorrectly described as candidate for governor.

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.



## Thousands of Berkeley students join anti-apartheid protests

### Students shut down campus building in wake of cop attack

BY GEORGES SAYAD,  
PETER THIERJUNG,  
AND MARC VIGLIELMO

BERKELEY, Calif., April 9 — Despite a full-scale police attack, arrests, injuries, and court injunctions, students at the University of California here are continuing massive anti-apartheid protests.

There have been 10 days of nonstop actions and meetings involving thousands of students and their supporters.

The protests began on March 31. On that day more than 2,000 students gathered on the steps of Biko Hall on the UC Berkeley campus to relaunch the campaign to put an

end to the university's complicity with the apartheid regime.

The University of California system has \$2.4 billion invested in companies that do business with South Africa.

Chants of "UC, USA out of South Africa!" rang through the plaza in front of the building as students joined in with leaders of campus anti-apartheid groups. They pledged to keep up the campaign until the UC system divests completely from South Africa.

Following the rally, hundreds of students marched to the grounds outside the university chancellor's office where they

constructed shanties that symbolize the plight of Blacks under the apartheid system.

At 2:00 a.m. the next morning, under cover of darkness, dozens of police moved in and tore down the shanties. They arrested 61 of the protesters who were sleeping in the huts. Many managed to get away. Many were brutalized.

The university administration used the sham excuse that the shanties were a fire hazard. It got a court injunction forbidding the students from reconstructing them.

On April 1 and 2 hundreds of students rallied in protest. And on April 2, despite the court order, the shanties went back up.

Throughout the night, 500 protesters kept a vigil around the shanties to guard those who were sleeping in.

Then early Thursday morning — April 3 — the university administration made its move. Determined to prevent a replay of the extended anti-apartheid protests of last spring, UC Chancellor Ira Heyman gave the go-ahead for a full-scale police riot against the peaceful protesters.

Campus cops, joined by police from several adjoining cities, waded into the symbolic shantytown. The cops arrested 91 protesters and injured 29 people.

The campus was under virtual occupation as more than 200 cops patrolled the campus in full riot gear.

Outraged by the police attack, and determined to press their cause, students held meetings over the weekend to organize a response.

On Monday morning, April 7, more than 1,000 students rallied again at Biko Hall.

One incident illustrates the fighting spirit at that rally.

With the help of videotapes made by campus police at the earlier demonstrations, the administration had identified some protesters who were not students at the campus. These protesters were issued orders from the university banning them from the campus.

To loud cheers from the crowd, about a dozen people marched to the front of the rally where they burned their "banning orders."

The students gave a warm welcome to a representative of United Food and Commercial Workers union Local P-9, applauding their courageous strike against the Hormel meatpacking company in Austin, Minnesota. Members of the American Indian Movement also addressed the rally.

The three main anti-apartheid groups — the United People of Color, the Campaign Against Apartheid, and the UC Divestment Committee — issued a call for united action to take place the next day.

The call asked students to come out on Tuesday, April 8, to shut down California Hall, the main administration building that houses Chancellor Heyman's office. California Hall has been renamed Winnie Mandela Hall by the students.

Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m., groups of 40 to 50 students sat in at each of the building's four entrances, while others organized a huge picket line that surrounded the building.

The mood was defiant. Students chanted, demanding full divestment and an end to the U.S. war against Nicaragua. They sang protest songs and organized their forces.

In response to the UC administration's charges that the previous week's actions had been instigated by "outside agitators" many wore stickers saying, "I am an outside agitator."

Berkeley's Mayor Gus Newport, members of Berkeley City Council, and other community and religious leaders joined the protest. Students welcomed this act of solidarity as an important deterrent to possible cop violence. The protest was also joined by solidarity activists, high school students, and people who stopped by on their way to work.

Brad Metzger, a Berkeley freshman high school student, summed up the feelings of many, saying, "I'm aware of the conditions in South Africa, and wouldn't be able to sleep tonight if I didn't participate."

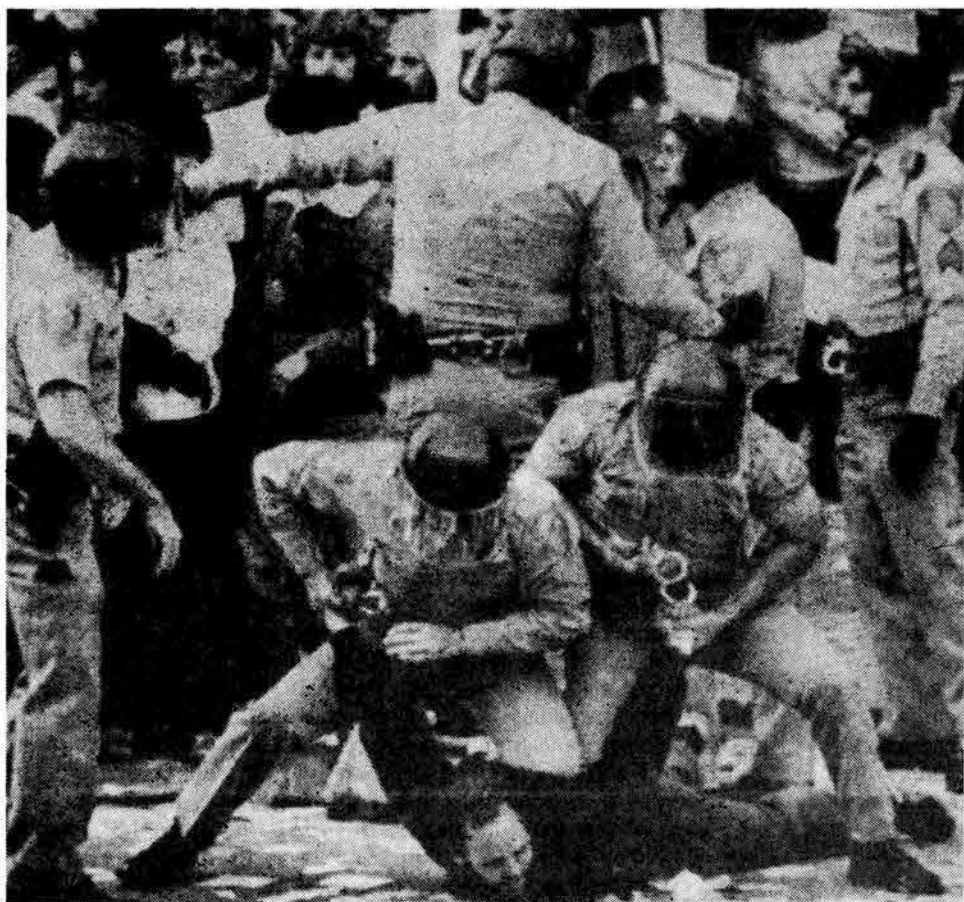
A large contingent of reporters from national and international press gathered to cover the event. A local radio station broadcast the day's events live.

At 9:00 a.m., university officials decided they would not try to open the building for the time being and employees at Winnie Mandela Hall were given the morning off with pay.

But at the same time, 175 cops were assembling.

Student leaders presented a list of demands to Chancellor Heyman. These included a call on university officials to drop all charges against the protesters, for full divestment, for a campus ban on recruiters for corporations that do business in South Africa, for affirmative action goals in academic programs, and for a meeting with University of California President David Gardner.

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April 3 police attack on anti-apartheid protesters at University of California at Berkeley. Cops arrested 91 protesters and injured 29 that day.

## Weinberger, in Manila visit, stresses military assistance

BY HARRY RING

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger was in Manila April 7 as part of a five-nation tour. In addition to the Philippines, his itinerary included Japan, South Korea, Thailand, and Australia. His purpose was to tighten a U.S.-crafted Southeast Asian anticommunist alliance, aimed immediately at Vietnam and Kampuchea.

After he met with President Corason Aquino, the press was told that they had discussed the question of U.S. aid to the Philippines. A spokesperson for Aquino stressed that she had emphasized that the country needs economic aid more than military assistance.

Weinberger said some economic aid had been promised, but he emphasized, "I think that it's necessary to have some military assistance to continue with the reorganization, strengthening, and modernization of the Philippine armed forces."

To underline the point, his one-day visit included a meeting with Defense Minister Juan Enrile and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos. Members of a military "reform" movement aimed at streamlining

the armed forces participated in the meeting.

As it had with Marcos, Washington is insisting that the military be whipped into shape to more effectively deal with the insurgent New People's Army, which reportedly controls up to 20 percent of the country. The Aquino government says it wants to negotiate with the guerrillas if they lay down their arms.

A reported hundred demonstrators marched in front of the U.S. embassy during the Weinberger visit, and others gathered at the presidential palace, shouting "Go home!" as the war secretary entered and as he left. Filipinos have long opposed U.S. imperialist domination of their country.

The day Weinberger was in Manila, Philippine Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin was in Washington to plead for a speedup in economic aid. "We are in an emergency situation," he declared.

Ongpin urged immediate release of \$214 million already earmarked for aid, as well as an added \$100 million in supplementary

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## Young Socialists hit police attack on Berkeley protesters

The following statement was released by Miesa Patterson, representing the Oakland, California, chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance. Patterson is also the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from the eighth congressional district, which includes Oakland and Berkeley.

The Young Socialist Alliance strongly condemns the April 3 police riot against anti-apartheid protesters at the University of California at Berkeley.

The violence and police repression used against these anti-apartheid fighters shows once and for all the complicity between the University of California system, the U.S. government, and imperialist corporations with the brutal, racist apartheid regime.

These protesters are heroes fighting for justice. They do not deserve to be arrested and brutalized, but should be honored for their commitment. It is University of California Chancellor Heyman, Ronald Reagan, and the 200 cops who attacked the peaceful protest who should be brought to trial for aiding and abetting the murderers in South Africa.

The repression on the Berkeley campus this week is a direct attack on the democratic rights working people have fought for and secured. In particular, it is an attack on the rights won by students at Berkeley through the 1964 Free Speech movement, when students successfully challenged the university's attempt to ban political activity on the campus. Students have the right to be involved in politics, to be heard, to organize, and to protest.

The Young Socialist Alliance joins in demanding, "U.C. - U.S.A. Out of South Africa," "Drop all the charges," and "Get the cops off campus."