

Nicaraguans mobilize to resist Washington's war

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) has begun to mobilize workers and peasants to confront and defeat a qualitative escalation of the U.S.-organized mercenary war.

On June 25, the day after the U.S. House of Representatives voted \$100 million for the mercenaries and \$300 million in aid to the governments of El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Guatemala, the FSLN National Directorate released a major message to the Nicaraguan people.

"The president of the United States has succeeded in flouting the sentiments of the U.S. people and of the whole international community," the statement said. The approval of the aid to the counterrevolutionary forces "means the commitment of the might of the United States in the aggression against Nicaragua" and implies "the direct and open commitment of all the Central American states in this war policy." The Contadora peace negotiations, it continued, have been dealt "what is intended to be a mortal blow."

The U.S. government's action "begins an aggressive escalation that changes the international and domestic perspectives in which our revolution has been developing," the National Directorate declared. "This requires the revision of some policies so that all the Nicaraguan people are in the best situation to confront the new threats."

As soon as the vote was known, the statement explained, "the National Directorate began meeting with the principal FSLN cadres with governmental, military, political, and mass organization responsibilities in order to update and refine the plans previously discussed and approved in the event this new act of aggression took place."

The message outlined five main steps to meet the new escalation:

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Militant/Cindy Jaquith

"The U.S. government has for all practical purposes declared war on Nicaragua," President Daniel Ortega told June 27 mass rally. "The best defense of peace begins with the readiness of everyone to defend this country." Photograph is of May Day 1986 rally in Managua.

Minnesota march backs Hormel meatpackers

BY MARGARET JAYKO

AUSTIN, Minn. — Trade union militants from across the United States went in and out of the teepee all day, sharing experiences with American Indian Movement leader Vernon Bellecourt. They were here to participate in Solidarity City, a week of

protest and political discussion organized by the fighting meatpackers of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9.

Local P-9 struck George A. Hormel & Co. on Aug. 17, 1985, in response to management's attempt to ram a union-gutting contract down the throats of the 1,500 production workers in Austin. The union called on supporters of its struggle to bring their tents and camp out in Austin June 23-28 as part of Solidarity City.

Bellecourt was one of the featured speakers at the rally on Saturday, June 28, which was the high point of the week's events (see last week's *Militant* for coverage of first few days of Solidarity City). The rally was preceded by a march of more than 1,000 people through the streets of Austin.

A contingent of motorcyclists led off the march, honking their horns and revving their engines.

One of them sported a sign that read: "Hansen says: stop the struggle, stop the fight; go back to Hormel with no rights." This was a reference to Joseph Hansen, the trustee over Local P-9 who was appointed by the UFCW's International headquarters in May in an effort to smash this rebellious local and end the strike.

The bikers were followed by a flatbed trailer full of P-9 retirees — who have been some of the most militant and consistent supporters of this battle — which was hauled by a John Deere tractor. Some farmers from Missouri had brought the tractor to Austin to show their support for the meatpackers. "Labor and farmers, together we can win," and "Farm aid, not contra aid" were some of the signs it carried.

Along the march route there were P-9 supporters, in cars and on the sidewalks, shouting their approval and blasting their horns. Participants in previous solidarity

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High court antigay ruling hits everyone's right to privacy

The Supreme Court decision upholding the right of states to outlaw homosexual relations between consenting adults is a blow at everyone's constitutional right to privacy.

The court's 5-4 ruling June 30 represents

the stage for attempts to turn the clock back a quarter of a century and more.

Until 1961, all 50 states had statutes outlawing sodomy. Decriminalization has been won in 26 states, a majority.

These legal victories added up to significant gains for gay rights, opening the door for advances against other forms of discrimination. The new Supreme Court ruling is part of an effort to drive gays and lesbians back into the closet, to try again to make them moral pariahs, vulnerable to all forms of abuse and victimization.

If people can be jailed for what they do in the privacy of their bedroom, then obviously their claim to other rights is jeopardized.

The ruling was harshly condemned by gay rights and civil liberties groups.

Thomas Stoddard, director of the gay rights Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, likened the ruling to the Dred Scott decision of 1857 upholding slavery.

Gay rights advocates said the decision would reinforce discrimination in employment, housing, child custody cases, and other areas.

One attorney pointed to how the AIDS issue is being exploited to promote an an-

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EDITORIAL

a heavy setback to the fight for gay and lesbian rights and it goes beyond that. The Georgia law that the majority of the justices chose to uphold — a law dating back to 1816 — makes it a felony for anyone, homosexual or heterosexual, to engage in sodomy, defined as oral or anal sex. The court approved the right of the states to prosecute homosexuals for such activity. While it did not specifically refer to women, lesbian sexual activity is patently not excluded from the proscription.

Insofar as the Georgia anti-sodomy law also applies to heterosexuals, the court majority simply shrugged and said, "We express no opinion." This means that the right of state governments to prosecute heterosexuals for sodomy also stands.

In terms of gay rights, the decision sets

250,000 in London protest apartheid

BY HARRY RING

LONDON — Demanding "Sanctions now," a quarter of a million people marched and rallied here in opposition to South African apartheid on June 28. The giant demonstration also demanded freedom for Namibia from South African rule.

Last November 100,000 people marched in London against apartheid. In the months since then, the freedom struggle in South Africa has become an increasingly important issue in British politics. The present action, observers agreed, was the biggest anti-apartheid demonstration ever. One veteran labor and socialist activist told the *Militant* it was the largest London demonstration of any kind he had seen.

As they often do in the United States, the British cops and capitalist media lied shamelessly about the turnout, with the cops tossing out an incredibly low figure of 25,000. But while they can juggle the numbers, they can't lie away the political reality.

Coupled with the rising popular rebellion in South Africa, the depth of anti-apartheid sentiment within Britain has put heavy pressure on Margaret Thatcher's Tory (Conservative Party) government.

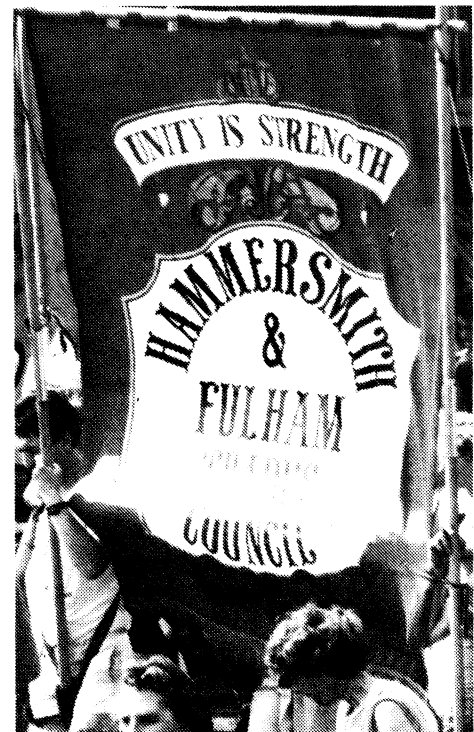
This was dramatically shown when, in a sudden policy reversal, the government initiated a London meeting with Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress. Previously, the Tories had refused to relate to the ANC, offering the fake argument that it was a "terrorist" organization.

The meeting between Tambo and Lynda Chalker, a Minister of State at the British Foreign Office, came four days before the June 28 demonstration.

Despite this concession to public sentiment, the Thatcher government, like the Reagan administration, remains opposed to sanctions against the racist South African regime. This reactionary opposition to sanctions was the central focus of the demonstration.

Sponsored by the Anti-Apartheid Movement and billed as a March and Festival for Freedom in South Africa and Namibia, the action began with a one-hour rally at Hyde Park. Then a procession of demonstrators

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Militant/Ove Aspy

Union banners were prominent in giant London anti-apartheid demonstration.

New York sales teams reach area trade unionists

BY RUTH CHENEY

Recently at Grand Central Station in New York City, a *Militant* sales team was showing the paper to rail workers who were clocking in. An older man asked them why they weren't upstairs where thousands of commuters daily walk through the enormous sta-

week. One man buys it every time.

At Bush Terminal — a large factory complex in Brooklyn — the Spanish-language socialist biweekly *Perspectiva Mundial* outsells the *Militant* 2-to-1. In addition to a number of garment factories at Bush Terminal, there are

in worsening job conditions and union-busting attempts and what the Libyan people are getting from the U.S. government. Since that discussion, at least one from this group buys a paper at each sale.

Another Puerto Rican worker, when he found out the *Militant* salesperson was born in the Middle East, immediately bought a *Perspectiva Mundial* because he was opposed to the Libya raid.

Another large garment shop in the city, organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers' Union, employs hundreds of young Latinas. Some walk by our sales team, take a look at *PM*, cast a glance to see if the boss is hanging around, and sometimes come back and buy the magazine. Two regular buyers are Salvadorans.

Six copies of the issue that commented on the attack on Libya were sold at this shop.

Sales of the *Militant* to auto workers have been taking place in the New York area for five years.

At each sale at the Tarrytown General Motors plant, a few workers withstand the pressure of honking horns behind them to buy the *Militant*. A new team member sold his first *PM* there last week.

We recently added a new location for sales to members of the United Auto Workers Union. A team went to Standard Motor in Long Island City. For several weeks the team was successful only in showing workers the paper, giving a few away, and handing out leaflets. But last week two workers bought the *Militant*.

We have been giving a high priority to sales at workplaces organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. Several copies of the *Militant* have been sold to workers in the wholesale meat distribution district in lower Manhattan. The area is composed of many small workplaces, and the team is still scouting out the scene to find the best time and place to reach workers. Some workers at the Hunts Point

food market complex in the Bronx have bought the paper for its coverage of the Hormel workers' battle.

During the TWA strike, we began to establish regular sales at La Guardia and Kennedy airports.

Recently regular sales have been organized at an Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers—organized plant in Clark, New Jersey, and at an industrial complex in Passaic, New Jersey, where members of the United Steelworkers of America and other unions work. Four copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* and a copy of the *Militant* were bought at one recent sale in Passaic.

A longstanding sale to members of the International Union of Electronic Workers at Executone has won several regular readers. One is a Jamaican man who also buys the socialist biweekly *Intercontinental Press* and books of Fidel Castro's speeches published by Pathfinder Press.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

tion. When he was told that the *Militant* makes a special effort to reach rail workers and other industrial workers, he pulled 75 cents out of his pocket and bought a copy.

Our sales team has found that the Hormel strike in Austin, Minnesota, is the main issue inspiring interest in the revolutionary press among members of the United Transportation Union and other rail unions at the station. The team sold five papers at the station last

shops employing steelworkers, machinists, woodworkers, candy workers, and paper workers, most of whom are from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Several weeks ago a worker selling *Perspectiva Mundial* talked with a group of young Puerto Rican workers who said they supported the U.S. bombing of Libya. The salesperson pointed out the parallel between what workers face daily from the bosses

Dallas cops ransack Black-owned record store

BY STEVE IVERSON

DALLAS — In response to a violent racist assault by Dallas police officers on Black Star Records in this city's Black community, owner Everdene Cobourn and dozens of his supporters lodged a vigorous protest at the city council meeting today, June 25.

Cobourn had charged that three Dallas cops entered the store on June 17 and demanded the right to search it, without offering either a warrant or even an explanation of what they were looking for.

When Cobourn asserted his right to deny unreasonable searches, he said, one cop grabbed him around the neck while another threatened to "blow your ... head off if you don't open the door and get out of the way."

Fearing for his safety and for that of others in the shop, Cobourn agreed not to resist as the cops "began to demolish the contents of the store."

The officers finally told him that they were looking for a car thief.

Cobourn said he was arrested for hindering apprehension and playing loud music, and that the man in the store who the cops decided was their suspect was released, uncharged.

Protest organizer Karioki Na Uhuru, a reggae deejay for KNON radio, told the city council that "this happens all the time in the Black community. It is not an isolated event."

As Karioki began quoting the chorus of threats, curses, and racist insults raised by the cops during their raid, Mayor Starke Taylor threatened to throw him out of the council chambers for using offensive lan-

guage.

Black Council member Al Lipscomb retorted that this is the kind of language Blacks hear from police every day. "The only reason this is happening is because you're Black," Lipscomb told the protesters, "and I hope you take this complaint all the way."

Summing up, Karioki urged the council "to take a stand, make a special statement. The situation in the Black community is beyond the breaking point," he said.

"If something isn't done, it's going to be a long, hot summer. South Dallas and West Dallas are going to explode."

In running this rising financial and com-

mercial center, Dallas rulers have poured many resources into prettifying the city's image to attract national conventions, major sporting events, and ultimately, more big money.

But racism is a structural part of Dallas.

Even the map of bus routes distributed in the Black community leaves out South and West Dallas, where the big majority of Dallas Blacks live.

Dallas' population is majority Black and Hispanic. Racist inequities in employment, education, social services, and treatment at the hands of employers and public officials are realities that no public relations campaign can gloss over.

A series of killings of Blacks and Latinos at the hands of the police three years ago led to the formation of an independent citizens' complaint committee, whose cochair, Roy Williams, was present for the June 25 protest.

Karioki told the *Militant* that two things had dampened previous protests — not knowing what to do and fear of police reprisals.

But, he said, the courage shown by the people of South Africa in their freedom struggle is inspiring Dallas Blacks to renewed interest in their own struggles.

Protest organizers have filed an official complaint with police internal affairs.

Jury finds Sagon Penn innocent of murder

SAN DIEGO — A Superior Court jury found Sagon Penn innocent June 26 of murder and attempted murder in the shooting death of policeman Thomas Riggs and the shooting of policeman Donovan Jacobs. Sagon Penn is a 22-year-old Black man from southeast San Diego.

The jury was deadlocked on lesser charges involving the two policemen and on a charge involving the wounding of a civilian, but leaned heavily in favor of acquittal, with votes of 11 to one and 10 to two.

The trial lasted four months. The jury deliberated 27 days.

Many working people in the San Diego area followed the trial testimony on a day-by-day basis.

Sagon Penn was stopped by the two cops

while driving in downtown San Diego March 31, 1985. He was subjected to racist abuse and a severe physical beating. Penn finally fought back. While Jacobs sat on top of him, Penn grabbed Jacobs' gun and fired at his attackers. He then drove to his grandmother's house and turned himself in to the police.

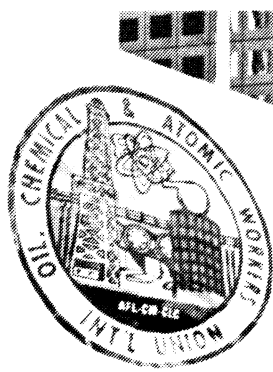
Support for Penn was organized by the Sagon Penn Defense Fund. Several rallies were held in the community, including three candlelight vigils at the county jail.

Support buttons were sold throughout San Diego. A Sagon Penn Defense Fund float was the most popular entry in the Martin Luther King Day Parade. Tens of thousands of fact sheets were distributed to answer lies about the case that appeared in the local media.



Sagon Penn

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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.

The Militant

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Socialists gear up for national gathering

BY CANDACE WAGNER

"I'd like to invite everyone here tonight to the Socialist Educational and Activists Conference, August 9-14 in Oberlin, Ohio," announced Nan Bailey, New York City Socialist Workers Party campaign coordinator.

"This conference, sponsored by the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance, is an opportunity to discuss what's been going on — the battles, the victories, the defeats — to put these lessons together." Many of those present at the June 28 campaign rally for New York SWP candidates Theresa Delgadillo for governor and Mike Shur for U.S. Senate responded positively to this invitation.

After the program, SWP and Young Socialist Alliance members explained more about the educational conference to those hearing about it for the first time. Several young activists asked to join the YSA and hope to be able to attend the conference in August.

Beth Bloedon, 22, also attended the campaign rally. She joined the YSA in New York City this past April. "I saw the union where I work busted. I watched workers lose wage increases and promotions," she said, in explaining how she got interested in socialist ideas.

A friend brought her to a forum at the campaign office where she first learned about the Hormel meatpackers' strike in Minnesota. "Right away I said I'd like to help out," she remembered. Beth joined the support committee for United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 and traveled to Austin, Minnesota, for the April 12 national solidarity rally. She joined the YSA soon after that.

She hopes to attend the educational conference for at least a few days. "I'd like to learn more about the history of the SWP and more about the labor movement and women's rights. I'd like to talk to other people struggling for our rights, for a better world," she said.

In Milwaukee a number of high school and college students have been coming to weekly socialist forums and other events sponsored by the SWP and YSA. The YSA chapter there plans to invite these students and others to an educational weekend July 26 and 27 in Milwaukee. "We want to give them some idea of what to expect at the national conference," explained Jeanne Porter, a leader of the Milwaukee YSA.

Frank Pavelko, 34, recently joined the Socialist Workers Party in Price, Utah.

He's a Vietnam veteran and a coal miner, a member of the UMWA.

Frank is looking forward to the conference "to learn more about the party." He wants to learn more about what he calls the "practical" work of the party, particularly the use of the *Militant* newspaper. Frank, an avid reader, looks forward to the big displays of socialist literature at the conference.

The Chicago SWP and YSA have just completed an effort to collect 35,000 signatures to get SWP candidates on the ballot in Illinois. Through the effort they've met hundreds of people interested in socialist ideas. Several have joined the YSA. A big effort is now planned to bring new YSA members and many of the hundreds of people who asked to receive more information on the socialist campaign to the educational conference.

William Ownery, 21, lives near the Chicago socialist campaign headquarters. He signed the petition because he agreed with the campaign's support for a free South Africa. That same day he came to the campaign office for a program on women's rights and brought a friend.

William is very interested in coming to the educational conference. "Sounds like a great experience," he says. He plans to attend if he can get the time off from his job at a local hospital.

Roni Lerouge, the Dallas YSA organizer, reports a plan under way there to build participation in the conference. The YSA chapter and the SWP branch plan a campaign dinner for Pat Smith, SWP candidate for Congress, a film showing, and a rummage sale. "We want to involve our



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Participants in 100,000-strong protest march down 42nd Street in New York City on June 14. Fighters like these will be attending the Socialist Educational and Activists Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, on August 9-14.

supporters in these activities, get a chance to talk to them about the educational conference, and raise money for the trip at the same time," she said.

Some of the conference participants from Dallas will be traveling the 1,000 miles to the conference in a rented van to cut down on the expense. Several anti-apartheid activists and coworkers of members of the SWP and YSA have already decided to attend.

Lisa Hickler, organizer of the SWP in Portland, Oregon, reports that a special effort is being made there to invite people that they've worked with in defending abortion clinics against right-wing attacks.

The Portland YSA also has two new members who are looking forward to the conference. One is a high school student who decided to join the YSA after doing a class project on the campaign of Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, Amy Husk.

Another new member lives near the campaign headquarters and Pathfinder bookstore. He came in one day to check out the literature by Malcolm X, started coming to events, and recently decided to join the YSA.

If you're interested in attending the Socialist Educational and Activists Conference, see the accompanying box for further information.

Civil-rights lawyer beats frame-up

BY JOE DIDOS

SAN FRANCISCO — "If we can go out in the country, where 62 percent of the people oppose Reagan's policy on Central America, and find people like the jurors, we can build a new majority," Steven Bingham told a cheering crowd of 300 supporters at a victory party here June 29.

Bingham was acquitted June 27 of charges of murder and conspiracy stemming from an Aug. 21, 1971, shootout at San Quentin prison, which left Black revolutionary George Jackson, two other pris-

oners, and three guards dead. Then a 29-year-old civil rights attorney, Bingham was accused of smuggling a gun and ammunition to Jackson. Upon hearing that Jackson had been killed, Bingham, fearing for his life, went underground and reappeared just two years ago. At that time he said he now felt he could receive a fair trial.

Bingham said he had spent the day in Watsonville, 100 miles south of here, at a rally to support striking cannery workers. It was a "real homecoming," he said. For the last two years, he explained, he had only been able to think about his own case. "There's a lot to do, and I'm glad to be back to be part of it."

At the rally were three members of the jury that acquitted Bingham. Did any members of the jury really take the prosecution case seriously and stand up for it? a reporter asked Mary Bradford, the jury forewoman. "With what the evidence was, would you?" she answered. The jurors de-

liberated 23 hours over five days and were unanimous for acquittal the first time they voted.

Despite the obvious weakness of the prosecution's case, Friends of Steven Bingham, which organized public support for him, was forced to raise \$500,000 for the defense effort. Friends of Steven Bingham made sure the courtroom was filled each day. Defense activist Peter Haverfelt recounted that "a juror said, 'It was amazing to see so many people in court' and this played a big part in their taking the case seriously."

The prosecution's case was entirely circumstantial, as there was no direct evidence linking Bingham to the gun prison authorities claim they found under Jackson's body. They insisted that Jackson could have gotten the gun only from Bingham. Bingham's defense shredded this claim. The defense also demonstrated the likelihood that Jackson was, in fact, murdered by prison guards after he was wounded.

Chicago racist rally sparks counterprotest, disavowals

CHICAGO — About 30 members of the Ku Klux Klan and the America First Committee, a white supremacist group, held a rally at Marquette Park on the southwest side of Chicago Saturday, June 28.

Two groups attempted to hold counter-demonstrations — the International Committee Against Racism (INCAR) and a predominantly Black group of about 75 people, Crusaders for Justice.

Police Superintendent Fred Rice told leaders of the Crusaders for Justice that an effort to enter the park "would result in casualties and bloodshed."

The INCAR group and Crusaders for Justice were driven from the park by a crowd of between 1,000 and 3,000 jeering white spectators.

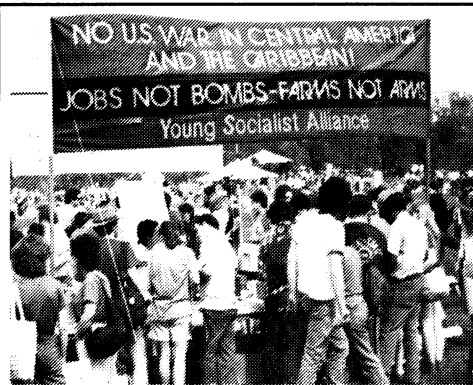
Republican Committeeman Timothy McElvoy of the 15th ward and State Senator Frank Savics of the Democratic Party in Chicago responded to the racist rally by distributing 10,500 flyers urging residents to ignore the Klan rally and counter-protest.

At a Saturday afternoon news conference at St. Adrians Catholic church, area representatives condemned the Klan rally and presented a petition signed by 7,000 area residents disavowing the Klan and white supremacist groups.

Marquette Park has been the site of racist activity in the past. In 1985 the home of two Black families was firebombed there. During the early days of the civil rights movement, Martin Luther King, Jr., was attacked by a neighborhood mob throwing stones when he tried to lead a march to integrate the area.

Illinois Socialist Workers Party candidates Omari Musa for U.S. Senate and Diane Rolings for governor blasted the racist rally and demanded that Blacks have open access to housing, schools, and parks in Marquette Park, free from racist attack.

The socialist candidates blamed the U.S. government for encouraging racist activity due to its continuing attacks on affirmative action, school desegregation, and other rights of Blacks. These policies have served to embolden the racists.



Unionists, students, farmers and other activists will be gathering for a weeklong conference and

YOU ARE INVITED!

**Socialist Educational and Activists Conference
August 9-14 at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio**

The conference is sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. It will be a gathering of activists who want to learn more about the struggles of working people in the U.S. and internationally.

There will be major talks given by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party. The topics will be:

- **Why we need a revolution in the United States:** what it means to be a revolutionary socialist in this country today.
- **Class struggle trade unionism:** how the meatpackers' strike in Austin, Minnesota, is showing the way forward for fighting back against employer and government attacks on working people.
- **The fight for women's rights today**
- **Dynamics of the Nicaraguan revolution**
- **The coming revolution in South Africa;** for a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it.
- **Revolutionary Cuba:** its leadership role in the worldwide struggle against imperialist oppression and exploitation.

Classes will take place throughout the week on Marxism and revolutionary politics, the U.S. class struggle, and world revolution.

Workshops will take up current struggles such as:

- **aiding the Hormel strikers**
- **defending abortion rights**
- **supporting farmers fighting foreclosures**
- **opposing the U.S. government's war against Nicaragua**

Translation to Spanish and French will be provided.

There will also be plenty of time to relax. Evening entertainment will feature films, concerts, dances, and other social events.

Come join us for an exciting week of political discussions and activity!

If you are interested in attending, contact the SWP nearest you. (See directory on page 12.)

World Court condemns U.S.-backed war against Nicaragua

BY NORTON SANDLER

Reflecting the widespread international opposition to Washington's aggression in Central America, the World Court ruled June 27 that the U.S.-backed *contra* war violates Nicaragua's national sovereignty.

The World Court decision comes just as the White House, the Pentagon, and the CIA are organizing a major escalation of the *contra* aggression against Nicaragua.

Nicaragua filed its suit with the World Court in 1984. The court is an agency of the United Nations, with headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands.

The court found the U.S. government guilty of intervening in the affairs of another country through its "training, arming, equipping, financing, and supplying the *contra* forces."

Washington was held in violation of international law for mining Nicaragua's harbors in 1984; for attacks on oil-storage facilities in 1983 and 1984; for running intelligence flights over the country; and for providing the *contras* with a CIA training manual that encouraged terrorist acts "contrary to the general principles of humanitarian law."

The court stated that Washington has absolutely no right to seek the overthrow of a sovereign government because it objects to the political ideology of the country.

Voicing the sentiment of the vast majority of the world's workers and farmers, the court said the United States should "immediately cease and refrain" from acts that violate international law and pay "reparations" to Nicaragua for the damages those breaches of normal international conduct have cost the small Central American nation.

Washington's longstanding claim that Nicaragua supplies El Salvador's rebels with guns to overthrow that government was rejected by the court.

Judges from all over the world

A total of 15 judges sit on the bench at The Hague. Judges from Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, China, France (with two), India, Italy, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, and Senegal voted against the U.S. government on all counts. Only judges from Britain, Japan, and the United States voted to justify Washington's actions.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said the World Court decision was a "moral and political victory for the Nicaraguan people" and that "from this moment on the U.S. government becomes a criminal, acting outside the law."

Washington stalked out of the World Court proceedings in early 1985.

State Department spokesperson Charles Redman responded to the verdict with typical arrogance: "[The] opinion demon-

strates what we have stated all along; the court is simply not equipped to deal with a case of this nature involving complex facts and intelligence information."

Fifteen thousand Nicaraguans have died in the *contra* war. Thousands more have been seriously wounded.

Contra terrorists have destroyed schools, hospitals, clinics, and child-care centers as well as economic targets in their terrorist attacks.

Nicaragua has had to divert millions of dollars, which could be used to build the country, into the war effort.

The House measure will now go back to the Senate where the details will be worked out.

A government spokesperson told *New York Times* correspondent James LeMoyne after the funding bill was approved that "this is for real. This is a real war."

In addition to receiving grenade launchers, new machine guns, and more ammunition, the *contras* will now get new hand-held surface-to-air missiles and cargo planes.

CIA personnel have been involved in training *contra* forces and planning their operations since the war began in 1981.

This will now be openly carried out. The *Times'* LeMoyne reports from Honduras that *contra* commanders "will probably be trained by the Central Intelligence Agency and by Army Special Forces units, according to knowledgeable officials. The training is likely to take place in the United States and in Central American countries other than Honduras."

Bipartisan war drive

Considerable ink has been spilled in the capitalist press in recent days about Reagan convincing a number of Democrats in Congress to come over to his view on Central America.

In fact, the bipartisan desire to see the sovereign government of Nicaragua overthrown has existed for some time. How best to accomplish the task is the heart of the debate within the ruling class and its two parties — the Democrats and the Republicans.

Since 1979, the workers and farmers of Nicaragua have taken control of the country and have been running it free of U.S. domination. Their revolution is an anticapitalist revolution. That's why the billionaire families who rule the United States and the capitalist politicians in the Democratic and Republican parties that serve their interests want the Sandinista government toppled.

A look at the two bills the House was considering before the vote was taken illus-

Continued on Page 12



Militant/Ernest Harsch

April 20, 1985, demonstration against U.S.-backed *contras*. Numerous protests have taken place since House approved \$100 million in aid to mercenaries June 25.

Protests hit House vote

BY RASHAAD ALI

More than 100 protest actions took place in cities around the country in response to the House of Representatives June 25 vote to give \$100 million in aid to the counter-revolutionary terrorists, the *contras*. Most of these were called on a few days' notice.

Some 3,000 people came to San Francisco's Pier 30-32 to protest the docking of the nuclear-powered ship the *USS Missouri*. The action drew people from throughout the northern California area. Some 150 demonstrators were arrested as they blocked the pier gates where the *Missouri* was docked.

On June 26, some 250 people took to the streets in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to protest the House vote and months of inaction by police and city officials after several break-ins at a sanctuary church.

Many of the marchers returned to Old Cambridge Baptist Church for a civil liberties rally later in the evening, which attracted more than 300 people.

Thomas Atkins, a leader of the mid-1970s school desegregation battle in Boston, blasted the *contra* aid vote as an "insult" to the American people, "who overwhelmingly oppose aid to these so-called patriots."

At the Federal Building in Boston 200 people responded to the call of the Pledge of Resistance for actions against *contra* aid.

"We are here on behalf of a majority of the American people, who oppose aid to the *contras*," Steve Slade told a crowd at a sit-in at the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C. Slade is the national coordinator of the Pledge.

Jesse Jackson told protesters gathered in front of a bust of Martin Luther King, Jr., that they were upholding the legacy of the slain civil rights leader by opposing Washington's aggression against Nicaragua.

A picket line of 300 at the White House was sponsored by the Washington Area Coalition to Stop the War in Nicaragua and the Pledge of Resistance. At the brief rally, Perry King, speaking for the coalition, announced a regional meeting in Washington, D.C., July 27 to plan for a big fall mobilization.

The day after the House vote, 400 to 500 antiwar protesters surrounded the Federal Building in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Demonstrators were kicked and maced by the federal cops. Fifty-seven were arrested, including the wife of the Minneapolis police chief.

Protesting the sending of the Illinois National Guard to Honduras, 300 marched from City Hall to the State Office Building and then to the Federal Building.

A July 1 picket line in front of the Newark Federal Building drew 60, who demanded, "Jobs not war, no aid to the *contras*." It was organized by the New Jersey Central America Network, a coalition of 20 antiwar, peace, and antinuclear organizations.

The National Pledge of Resistance office reports that more than 400 protesters were arrested during this new wave of anti-*contra* actions.

Protest actions also took place in New York City, Memphis, Ann Arbor, Nashville, Cleveland, Houston, Albany, Toledo, Raleigh, and many other cities.

Germans describe kidnapping

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Three German volunteers who were kidnapped by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries (*contras*) in May left here for the United States June 22. Sean Steindach, Reingard Zimmer, and Dominick Diehl were to speak on their 24-day ordeal and oppose funding for the *contras*.

Steindach, Zimmer, Diehl, and five other German volunteers were kidnapped May 17 by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the main U.S.-organized mercenary group. Fifteen Nicaraguan peasants were also kidnapped.

The German volunteers were part of a solidarity brigade that was building housing for peasants at the Jacinto Baca cooperative in south-central Nicaragua.

The captives — one of whom was seriously ill with hepatitis and another with dysentery — were kept on constant forced marches for 24 days as the *contras* tried to evade Sandinista troops. The *contras* threatened to kill them if they did not keep up on the marches and at one point fired bullets at their feet to keep them moving.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega reported May 30 that the Nicaraguan army,

aided by information from local peasants, was keeping the *contras* under constant surveillance. The army would not attack, he said, since the priority was to protect the lives of the kidnap victims.

"The captives were released only when we pressured the German government to make strong, direct contact with Ronald Reagan himself," said José Pasos Marciaq, vice-chief of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) International Relations Department.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl then spoke to Reagan by phone and requested the captives' release, Pasos said. Shortly thereafter, on June 8, the FSLN intercepted the following radio message beamed from Tegucigalpa to the *contra* forces in Nicaragua. "Release them now, they must be released now," the broadcast went. "It is an order from above. Do you copy? An order from above, from above..."

Two days later, the eight Germans and 15 Nicaraguan peasants were released. "This is the most concrete proof that we have of the U.S. leadership of the counter-revolution," Pasos commented.

Peruvian president admits army executed more than 100 prisoners

Peruvian President Alan García said June 27 that Peruvian police executed more than 100 prisoners at Lurigancho Prison just outside of Lima.

Initially, the military reported that 124 prisoners, many of them members of the Shining Path guerrilla movement, died in the fighting when Peruvian troops attacked the prison June 18. But García said that most of the prisoners were in fact executed by members of the Republican Guard after the prisoners had surrendered.

Calling it a "horrible crime," García said members of the Republican Guard dragged more than 100 prisoners from a cell block, threw them on the ground, and shot them in the head.

The Republican Guard, a 14,000-strong police force that primarily guards prisons, was under military command when it was used in a brutal attack on Lurigancho Prison and two other prisons where members of the Shining Path were held.

The General Confederation of Peruvian Workers, Peru's main labor union, has charged the ministers of war, navy, interior, and justice with direct involvement in the killings and has demanded their resignations.

The union federation has charged that security forces killed more than 400 inmates associated with the Shining Path in crushing the rebellions at Lurigancho and two other prisons June 18 and 19.

The minister of justice, Luis González Posada, resigned on June 30, saying he was forced to step down because of the "disgraceful excesses" of the security forces at Lurigancho.

His resignation came a few hours after the government was forced to dismiss General Andrés Máximo Lira, chief of the Republican Guard.

President García has responded to increasing pressure and has promised a full investigation and punishment of those responsible.

Nicaragua girds for U.S. escalation of war

In wake of contra aid vote, FSLN prepares defense of revolution

Continued from front page

1) Internationally, it explained that the revolutionary government would go before every possible international forum "and to the peoples of the world" to condemn the U.S. move, "with the objective of holding back the aggressive escalation and searching for concrete solidarity."

2) Within Nicaragua, it called for working people to "strengthen revolutionary vigilance and civil defense" to block sabotage and military attack.

3) The statement called for "strict and severe application of the State of Emergency," the body of measures adopted last October 1985, which curbed democratic rights such as freedom of the press, political association, rights of people jailed on charges of counterrevolutionary activity, and strikes. The statement said that up to now, "in an effort to contribute to regional and internal detente," the State of Emergency "had been applied at times with excessive flexibility."

Referring to Washington's main mouthpieces inside Nicaragua — the capitalist newspaper *La Prensa*, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega — the message said, "We cannot keep allowing sellouts to continue their insolent role as agents of the U.S. government, justifying the aggression, undermining the defense efforts of the people, and giving 'civic' cover to the counterrevolutionary plans aimed at destroying the revolution."

4) Stating that "only an accelerated development" of defense plans "can dissuade the direct invasion of U.S. troops or smash it if it occurs," the message called for meeting the quotas for conscription into the army and reserves "without any excuses."

5) "The demands, self-sacrifices, and challenges of a war economy must be faced with patriotic and revolutionary spirit," the statement said. "Work, productivity, efficiency, conservation, integrity, and responsibility in production, supply, and public services cannot be left to appeals to good will, which are mocked by certain indirect agents of the aggression: the speculators, the lazy, and the incompetent."

"This is a demand of the solid majority, which must be achieved by the State through its laws and by the power of the people through the organized and combative masses."

The statement announced that the National Directorate would meet with the Sandinista Assembly, the highest consultative leadership body of the FSLN, on June 30 to discuss changes in the current organization of production and supply of basic goods.

Nat'l assembly of sugar workers discusses new stage of war

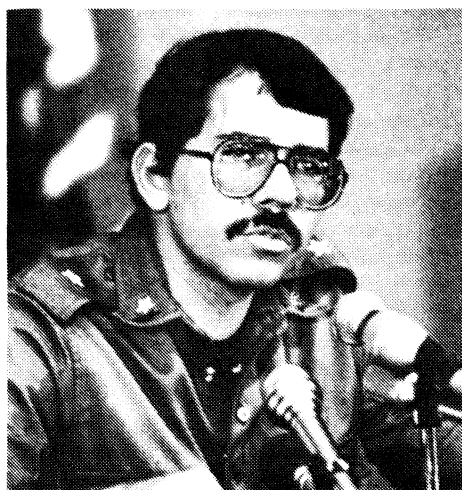
BY HARVEY McARTHUR

TIMAL, Nicaragua — Nicaragua has "the world historic role of being in the front line in the world battle against imperialism," Commander Bayardo Arce told a national assembly of sugar workers meeting at the Victoria de Julio mill here June 28. The Sandinista revolution is setting an example for the peoples of Africa and Latin America, he said. "That's why [the United States] wants to destroy this revolution."

Nicaragua is strong enough to defeat the contras militarily, Arce explained, but with the \$100 million, they will be able to escalate terrorist attacks and hurt the economy more.

"What will the United States do when we defeat the counterrevolution?" he asked. "Will they accept the humiliation of seeing this tiny country defeat their mercenary army? Or will they send in their troops?"

"The only thing that can hold back the danger of a U.S. invasion is if they see that we have the capacity to defeat it," Arce said. Therefore, Nicaragua had to take new measures to strengthen its economy and military and political defenses.



Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega

Simultaneously with the release of the FSLN message, the Ministry of the Interior's Directorate of Communications Media announced the indefinite suspension of *La Prensa*. In a communiqué, the Directorate explained that the paper had "repeatedly violated and refused to respect ordinances" regulating the press. *La Prensa*, it said, "has been raising the level of its provocations and disinformation, trying to justify the U.S. aggression and denying the validity of the Contadora Group as the only possible way to achieve peace in Central America."

La Prensa held a news conference the next day. One banner on the wall demanded: "Down with the totalitarian government!" Violeta Chamorro, speaking for the paper, refused to denounce the new U.S. aid for the mercenaries. She said the reason a war existed in Nicaragua was "because the Marxist-Leninist government has betrayed the people of Nicaragua, because there are still Cuban and Russian advisers here."

No reaction to the FSLN's measures has been reported here from Cardinal Obando or Bishop Vega. But as the vote in the House of Representatives neared, both made virtual endorsements of the terrorist aggression.

Obando published a half-page article in the May 12 *Washington Post*. In it, he rejected the idea that there is a U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua, arguing that instead it is a "civil war" in which "an enormous number of Nicaraguans oppose with all their might the turn taken by a revolution that has betrayed the hopes of the Nicaraguan people." He said the mercenaries, whom he called "insurgent dissidents," have "the same right that the Sandinistas had [under Somoza] to seek aid

from other nations."

Vega appeared in New York June 5 at a forum organized by Prodemca, a CIA-run outfit that funds reactionary opponents of the Nicaraguan revolution. He claimed reports of mercenaries murdering and kidnapping civilians were Sandinista "disinformation" and said, "Armed struggle is a human right. What other means is left to a people who are repressed not only politically but militarily?"

The first demonstration of the reaction of Nicaraguan working people to Washington's escalation and the Sandinistas' new measures was on June 27. More than 65,000 people turned out here for the traditional yearly march to the city of Masaya, commemorating the 1979 tactical retreat of FSLN guerrilla forces shortly before they took power.

Demonstrations also took place in other regions, including in Northern Zelaya province on the Atlantic Coast, where protesters condemned the aid vote as an assault on the autonomy process under way there.

In his speech to the rally in Managua, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega stressed the change registered by the vote in the House of Representatives. "The revolution has taken a blow," he said. "The U.S. government has for all practical purposes declared war against Nicaragua."

"Terrorist actions are going to increase," he warned, "and the danger of the intervention of U.S. troops is greater today than it was before they approved the \$100 million."

Given this new situation, Ortega asked the crowd, "Is it possible that political pluralism, mixed economy, and freedom of the press — which we have defended and continue to defend — can function normally?"

"No!" the crowd roared back.

"Will it be possible under these conditions to permit the U.S. government to maintain a newspaper here in this country to —"

"No!" the crowd interrupted. "Close *La Prensa*!"

"Obando out!" added a worker.

"Are we going to permit those who are

nothing but direct instruments of the U.S. terrorist policy to continue taking advantage of political pluralism?" asked Ortega. "Are we going to continue being tolerant with them because they have a certain ecclesiastical or civil rank?"

"No!" the crowd shouted. "Out with them!"

"The Nicaraguan who loves the country, who loves the people, should stay here," said Ortega. "But those who love Reagan, let them go to Miami. Those who love the contras, let them go to Reagan, and if they have the guts, let them go fight in the mountains with the contras. Our people are waiting to combat them."

"We respect and will continue to respect the religious beliefs and practices of our people," he continued. "But we are not going to be confused or accept the political attitudes of those who are helping the criminals assassinate our people."

"We are defenders of freedom of the press, but we are not going to accept the impunity of those who are nothing but spokesmen for the terrorist policies of the U.S. government."

"We are defenders of the right of any political or ideological tendency to organize in this country. But we are not prepared to accept this right being abused to turn some associations into instruments of destabilization."

Turning to the possibility of a direct U.S. invasion, Ortega said, "We don't want to kill U.S. youth, but if they send them to kill us, if they come as advisers or as Yankee invasion troops, they are going to die here."

He stressed that Nicaragua does not consider the U.S. people to be the enemy. The \$100 million, he said, "runs counter to the opinion of the U.S. people. They do not want a war with the Nicaraguan people."

"The best defense of peace begins right here in Nicaragua," the president said in closing. "It begins with the permanent readiness of everyone to defend this country, to fight the aggression, to strengthen the unity of the working people and the whole nation. To keep fighting on every front."

Continued on Page 13

65,000 march to Masaya, vow to defeat U.S. war

BY RUTH NEBBIA

MASAYA, Nicaragua — More than 65,000 people marched 22 miles from Managua, Nicaragua's capital, to Masaya on June 27 to condemn the U.S. House of Representatives' approval of \$100 million for the mercenary forces attacking Nicaragua.

The march commemorated what is known as the "Retreat to Masaya." On June 27, 1979, in the final weeks of the war to overthrow the Somoza dictatorship, Sandinista guerrilla forces had to temporarily retreat from Managua. Under the cover of night, 6,000 Sandinistas and their supporters marched to Masaya on back roads. They were detected by Somoza's National Guard, who attacked them by air. But most reached Masaya safely.

At this year's commemoration, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega spoke at the kick-off rally in Managua. He was frequently interrupted by chants of "Here, there, the yankee will die!" and "If they enter, they're finished!" referring to the fate awaiting a U.S. invasion army.

Sentiment ran high against Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega, who have made thinly veiled statements in support of the mercenaries. "Why doesn't Reagan make them chaplains of the White House?" someone yelled out.

Marchers strongly supported the recent government decision to suspend publication of the capitalist newspaper *La Prensa*. "For *La Prensa* — confiscation!" they chanted.

At 7:30 at night — after a full day's work — factory workers, teachers, stu-

dents, market vendors, army personnel, and many others began the night-long march. Many marchers, including women, wore their militia uniforms. Many young people, some running at times, led the march off at a quick pace.

As the demonstration went through working-class neighborhoods in eastern Managua, many families lined the streets to offer water and candles for the dark roads ahead. Miranda Aguilar de Borge, an older woman handing out candles, told the *Militant* that the revolution is for the welfare of the people, but because of Ronald Reagan, "we are going through so much torment, so much bloodletting."

The *Militant* talked with marchers en route. "We come to give support to our revolution," Iván, a government worker, explained. A woman from the Atlantic Coast said that for Blacks and Indians on the Coast the revolution meant gaining "a voice" and added that now women are "recapturing their dignity." Grecia Centeno, a student, said, "Not even with the \$100 million will they defeat us."

As the marchers passed through some rural towns, peasants and farm workers greeted them with food and water as they did in 1979. Banners condemned the \$100 million contra aid and pledged to increase farm production and participation in military defense.

In the town of Nindirí, three miles from Masaya, the marchers were welcomed with a party. Some danced, but most rested on park benches or on the grass on the roadside, setting off again at about 4:00 a.m. to reach Masaya by dawn.

Int'l Indian Treaty Council meets in Big Mountain, Ariz.

BY ANDY ENGLISH

BIG MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — International solidarity of Indian nations and indigenous peoples from all over the world was the theme of the 11th Annual International Indian Treaty Conference held here June 2-8.

Delegates representing Indian peoples from all over the United States and other countries of the Western hemisphere attended the conference. Counting Indian delegates, family members, and non-Indian supporters, some 800 to 900 people participated in the week-long gathering.

The conference was organized by the International Indian Treaty Council, an organization representing 99 Indian nations from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego. The Treaty Council is an organization recognized by the United Nations. It participates in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

The site of the conference, Big Mountain, is the center of a major struggle by Navajo and Hopi Indians who are being forced to leave their traditional lands. The conference took strong action in defense of this struggle. (See accompanying story.)

Another important part of the conference was a discussion and debate on the U.S.-backed *contra* war against Nicaragua. This followed a presentation by Miskito Indians Minerva Wilson and Dennis Jackson, who were both delegates to the conference.

They explained that the vast majority of Miskito people want peace. Some of the Miskito armed groups have signed a peace accord with the Sandinista government. They are now helping to defend their communities from *contra* attacks.

They are also participating in the autonomy discussions.

In 1984 the Nicaraguan government began a dialogue with the peoples of the Atlantic Coast with the aim of establishing regional governmental autonomy. The regional autonomy process will give the peoples of the Atlantic Coast — Miskito, Sumo, and Rama Indians; Creoles and Garífonas, both descendants of African slaves; and Spanish-speaking mestizos — the right to preserve their culture, language, and traditions and to control the development of the area.

The only danger to the Miskito people being able to resume their traditional way of life on the Río Coco is the continuation of the *contra* attacks, the delegates explained. These attacks are made possible by U.S. government funding.

Minerva Wilson pointed to some of the specific gains of the autonomy process for the Miskitos. These include having the governor of the northern Atlantic Coast be a Miskito; the establishment of bilingual education, with all children receiving instruction in their mother tongue; the return of the Miskito communities to the Río Coco; and the reuniting with their families in Nicaragua of some 3,000 Miskitos who had been kidnapped to Honduras.

Dennis Jackson ended his speech with an appeal for solidarity with Miskito people against the *contra* attacks.

"Before we came here we met with our elders. They told us to ask you to support us, to stop Ronald Reagan from sending money to the *contras*. Help us return to the Río Coco. Because in March of this year when we returned to the Río Coco, we were attacked by the *contras*."

"We as Indian people have to be united because we have come to understand that the power that opposes us is interested in dividing us."

"No government can give us rights to our land — the land is ours now. The Somoza government gave us our rights — but only on paper. What is different with the Sandinista government is that it is participating with us in the autonomy process and that it recognizes our historical rights, rights we have always had."

"This is not new for the Sandinista Front. In its historic program before it came to power it recognized the historic rights of the Indians. These promises are now being put into practice."

"As we look around, we don't see these rights being put into practice anywhere else in the Americas."

"We invite you to come and see for yourself what is happening in Nicaragua."

Jackson also stated that "the Indian people of Nicaragua are in complete solidarity with the elders of Big Mountain."

Following the presentation by the Miskito delegates, Bill Means, a leader of the American Indian Movement, spoke about the discussion among Indians about the Nicaraguan revolution.

While the American Indian Movement (AIM) supports the Nicaraguan revolution, other Indian activists have supported Miskito factions allied with the *contras*. In March, Russell Means, a former leader of AIM (and the brother of Bill Means), entered Nicaragua clandestinely with the Miskito *contra* commander Brooklyn Rivera. Russell Means has been urging North American Indians to fight with Rivera against the Sandinistas.

In response to a question from the floor, Bill Means responded that Russell Means, Brooklyn Rivera, and other supporters of their position had been invited to the conference to express their views, but they had not come. He said that the American Indian Movement and the International Indian Treaty Council wanted to continue to work with these forces in defense of Indian rights in this country, while at the same time trying to persuade them to support the Nicaraguan revolution.

Regarding Russell Means' clandestine trip into Nicaragua, Bill Means stated, "We also believe that the other side has to enter Nicaragua from Managua and meet Indians like Minerva." He expressed the opinion that North American Indians needed to visit the Miskito communities and talk to all of the people.

Bill Means spoke about the role of Indian people in making the revolution on the Pacific Coast. He pointed out that the first urban insurrection against the Somoza dictatorship occurred in the Indian community



Militant/Pat Grogan

Bill Means, executive director of International Indian Treaty Council, told conference Sandinista government's autonomy project for peoples of Atlantic Coast region of Nicaragua is "model for whole world." Means is shown above addressing meeting last October to welcome Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to New York City.

of Monimbó.

"The color of the Spanish-speaking Nicaraguans is brown. That color didn't come from Spain. The racial history of the region is Indian. By U.S. standards, one-quarter Indian blood is Indian. By that standard 80 percent of the country is Indian."

"Nicaragua is on the threshold of history in establishing a new relationship between national governments and Indian peoples." He pointed to the autonomy process as "a model for the world."

But the Nicaraguan revolution "has never been given a chance by Washington. They've been under constant pressure. The biggest thing we can work for is to stop the U.S. war," Means added.

He also said that the question being raised is how "Indian peoples are going to fit into the revolutions of today." This question must be addressed in order to "build the unity of the 100 million Indian people of the Western hemisphere."

Maori delegates tell grievances against New Zealand gov't

BIG MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — Six delegates from the Maori people, the indigenous people of New Zealand (which they refer to as Aotearoa), reported to the conference.

They talked about their grievances against the government of New Zealand regarding the violation of treaties, loss of land, disregard of language rights, suppression of culture, and the destruction of the environment.

The Maoris urged other delegates to oppose U.S. government pressure on New Zealand to reverse its ban on the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear-powered ships in its ports. They also called for a ban on nuclear testing in the Pacific.

— A.E.

Bill Means will head delegation to Nicaragua

A delegation of Native Americans have accepted an invitation from the Nicaraguan National Commission for Autonomy to attend the July 13-17 International Symposium on State, Autonomy, and Indian Rights to be held in Nicaragua.

Heading the delegation will be William Means, the executive director of the International Treaty Council, and Vernon Bellecourt, leader of the American Indian Movement. Bellecourt has sent out an appeal for financial aid to help make the delegation's trip possible.

Contributions should be made payable to Vernon Bellecourt, 3029 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55407.



Miskito Indians. Hundreds of delegates representing Indian peoples throughout Western hemisphere heard Miskito Indian delegates appeal for solidarity against U.S.-organized *contra* attacks.

'IP': Vietnam tackles ecological crisis

During Washington's war against Vietnam, U.S. warplanes bombarded the country with napalm and Agent Orange defoliant, damaging nearly half its national territory. A new word was coined for this — "ecocide."

According to former Vietnamese Defense Minister Vo Nguyen Giap, "The people of Vietnam have emerged victorious from the battlefield only to find awaiting them a hard heritage — the equally challenging problems of restoring their damaged and degraded environment and rebuilding their economy and impoverished production systems."

The July 14 *Intercontinental Press* features excerpts from a report outlining Vietnam's ecological conservation strategy, with a preface by Giap.

The report declares that "what Vietnam faces today is a grave ecological crisis." It outlines steps to combat that crisis, including close collaboration between conservation efforts and economic de-

velopment plans. In this campaign, it stresses, "Vietnam is entitled to considerable international aid and development assistance."

The same issue reprints an article from the Nicaraguan weekly *Barricada Internacional* on the environmental damage caused by the U.S.-backed *contra* war and on the Sandinista government's steps to deal with ecological problems.

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Mining corporations push theft of Indian lands

Gov't seeks to divide Hopis, Navajos

BY ANDY ENGLISH

BIG MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — Big Mountain is a rural area of more than 1 million acres in northeast Arizona. It is the center of a major struggle to defend the rights of Native Americans against land-grabbing corporations backed by the U.S. government.

Big Mountain is a Joint Use Area that lies between the Navajo and Hopi Indian reservations. For hundreds of years Navajo — who also refer to themselves as the Dineh — and Hopi people have peacefully shared the use of this land, raising sheep and growing corn.

Under international law and treaties signed by the U.S. government, the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Nation are sovereign peoples entitled to the right of self-determination. Native American fighters therefore believe the U.S. government has no right to pass laws regarding the use of these sovereign lands.

Underneath the soil of the Joint Use Area lie billions of dollars worth of coal and uranium. Powerful mining companies and electrical power utilities want control of those resources. But for the corporations to gain control, the Joint Use Area must be partitioned between the Navajo and Hopi reservations. Then the mining companies can put pressure on the tribal councils to allow them to begin strip-mining.

In 1974 the U.S. Congress came to the corporations' aid. It passed a relocation bill titled Public Law 93-531.

The new law ordered a 50-50 division of the Joint Use Land between the Hopis and the numerically larger Navajo peoples. It ordered the construction of a barbed wire fence along the new boundary, with all Hopis on one side of the fence and Navajos on the other. In addition, it ordered a 90 percent forced reduction of livestock on the lands and a halt to all building and property improvements. The relocation law means that 10,000 Navajo and several hundred Hopi will be forced to leave their land for the sake of big-business profits.

The majority of traditional people of both Indian nations regard the Big Mountain area as sacred land that should not be sacrificed to the big mining companies.

Among Navajos, traditional society is organized along matrilineal lines, with land and livestock being passed on from

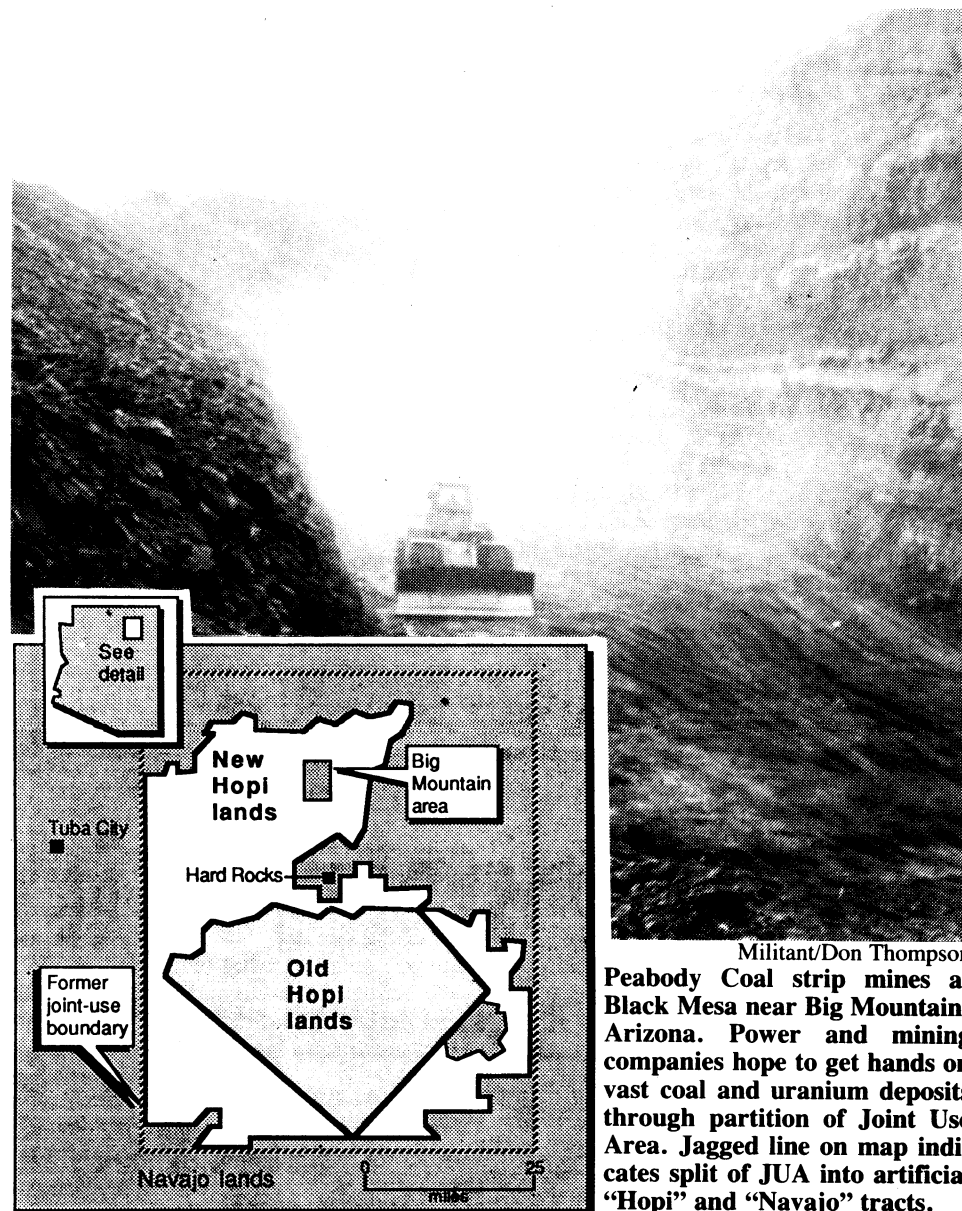
mother to daughter. Women elders are greatly respected as the decision makers and leaders. Many of them have been arrested for defending their homes and livestock from destruction under the relocation laws. The Navajo tribal council has also protested against relocation.

The Hopi tribal council, however, which is dominated by a few Hopi families linked to the Mormon church and to coal companies, supports relocation. But less than 20 percent of the eligible Hopi vote in tribal council elections. The majority follow traditional leaders and elders, who reject participation in the U.S. government tribal councils. These Hopi traditional people oppose the Joint Use Area land division and strip-mining in the Big Mountain area.

Most of the news media has reported the Big Mountain land dispute as a fight between the Hopi and Navajo tribal councils. The real struggle, however, involves the Navajo and Hopi traditional people living in the Joint Use Area against the mining companies backed by the U.S. government.

A large number of Navajo elders attended the June 2-8 International Indian Treaty Conference, where they won important support for their struggle. (See story on facing page.)

The conference condemned the U.S. government's forced relocation of Navajo people from the Joint Use Area. It said the relocation was a form of genocide leading to the destruction of a people's culture and way of life. Thousands of Navajo who were self-sufficient ranchers and farmers



Militant/Don Thompson
Peabody Coal strip mines at Black Mesa near Big Mountain, Arizona. Power and mining companies hope to get hands on vast coal and uranium deposits through partition of Joint Use Area. Jagged line on map indicates split of JUA into artificial "Hopi" and "Navajo" tracts.

have already been forced into shoddy government-built houses and made dependent on welfare benefits. The conference urged all Indian nations to step up support for the Big Mountain struggle. The original government deadline for relocation is July 7.

In addition, nearly 200 Big Mountain Support Groups have been formed. They

are planning demonstrations around the country to protest the government's July 7 relocation deadline.

For more information on this continuing battle contact the Big Mountain Legal Offense/Defense Committee, 2501 N. 4th St., Suite 18, Flagstaff, Arizona 85001. Telephone: (602) 774-5233.

Socialist rail workers discuss recent strikes

BY LAURA HILL

PHILADELPHIA — A number of recent strikes by rail workers have been shaking the industry. These include the six-day walkout by 20,000 Santa Fe rail workers and the shutdown of Guilford Transportation Industries' three railroads — the Maine Central, Boston and Maine, and the Delaware and Hudson.

These strikes were the topic of some discussion at a recent meeting here of socialist rail workers who are members of the United Transportation Union (UTU).

A report by Mike Carper, a UTU member working for Philadelphia's Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), outlined the continuing attacks against rail workers and the increased resistance to these assaults.

The report and discussion placed the rail bosses' offensive in the framework of the overall assault against working people today by the employers and government. The recent strikes focused on concessions that would make the already dangerous working conditions rail workers face even worse.

Carper pointed out that the rail strikes are an important response to the carriers' attacks. They show rail union members' willingness to fight. Many rail workers, for example, identified with United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 members in Austin, Minnesota, and see themselves as fighting the same battle.

A top priority for socialist rail workers is continuing to take the struggle of P-9 to co-workers and getting UTU locals to support this fight as their own.

An important part of Carper's report was a discussion of the decision by UTU President Fred Hardin to take the UTU out of the AFL-CIO, which Carper called a step backward.

Hardin's action followed a sanction imposed against the UTU officialdom by the AFL-CIO national executive council. The UTU was charged with conducting a raiding action against all Amtrak rail workers organized in other AFL-CIO-affiliated unions, including the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC), Transport

Workers Union (TWU), and Hotel and Restaurant Employees.

Last summer UTU officials set up the United Burlington Organizing Committee in an effort to consolidate all Amtrak on-board workers into one union — the UTU. The attempt to have a representative election failed as a result of opposition from the Amtrak Service Workers Council, an organization made up of on-board rail workers in BRAC, TWU, and the Hotel and Restaurant workers, which already represented the on-board workers.

The council succeeded in getting the National Mediation Service to block the UTU's application to represent on-board workers. Following this legal defeat, an AFL-CIO executive council subcommittee ruled the UTU was wrong to undertake the raiding operation. Federation President Lane Kirkland then sanctioned the UTU officials.

The socialist rail workers observed that Hardin's decision to take the UTU out of

Sailor court-martialed for refusing AIDS test

A sailor who refused to take a blood test for the antibodies of AIDS was found guilty of disobeying an order June 23 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Philip Nolan, a 25-year-old petty officer second class, was court-martialed after reportedly becoming the first member of the armed services to challenge the testing requirement.

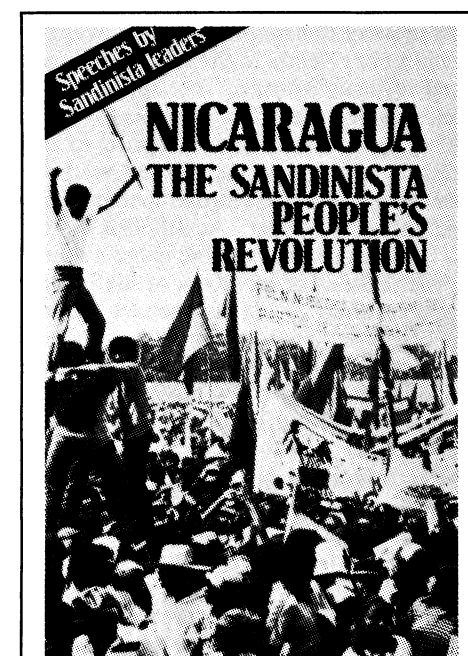
The day before Nolan was convicted the Justice Department ruled that those found to have AIDS antibodies can legally be discriminated against by employers and health officials, even though AIDS is communicated only by direct sexual contact or the injection of blood bearing the AIDS virus.

By implication the ruling would also support discrimination by hospitals, landlords, school boards, and others against AIDS victims or the more than 1 million people thought to carry the virus.

the AFL-CIO was carried out without a democratic discussion and vote of UTU members. Discussions with coworkers in the UTU revealed that some of them were outraged at leaving the AFL-CIO. Some were especially angered because they first learned about the decision from daily newspapers.

A report on tasks was given by Wendy Bannon, a Conrail worker from New York.

With recent hiring going on at SEPTA and New Jersey Transit, there's been a notable increase in the number of young rail workers. Bannon and other meeting participants noted the importance of trying to convince those young rail workers interested in politics to join the Young Socialist Alliance.



Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution. A new collection contains more than 40 speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. \$7.95 (include 75 cents for postage and handling). Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

D.C. action will protest relocation

BY TOM HEADLEY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Support for the July 6 demonstration here in defense of the Navajo and Hopi struggle against forced relocation is growing among American Indian, Black, labor, women's, civil rights, peace, and environmental organizations nationwide. Participants will assemble at 12 noon at the Washington Monument for a march to the U.S. Capitol Building. Later that evening, a benefit concert will be held.

This demonstration promises to be the largest protest to date against the attempts of the U.S. government and energy companies to force thousands of Navajo and Hopi people from their homeland around Big Mountain, Arizona.

With the July 7 relocation deadline approaching, a large turnout for the July 6 action is urgent. Demands for the demonstration are: "No more U.S. government and corporate genocide," "Self-determination for traditional Indian peoples," "U.S. government honor Indian treaty rights," and "Repeal Public Law 93-531," which mandated the eviction of the Navajos and Hopis from their land.

For more information contact the Big Mountain Support Group, 1512 U St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Telephone: (202) 234-4938.

Minn. march backs Hormel meatpackers

Continued from front page

marches said that there were more supportive bystanders this time than they had seen before.

Several hundred people from out of town — mainly trade unionists — marched, along with P-9 members and their families.

'Today P-9, tomorrow the Teamsters'

Six members of Teamsters Local 600 from St. Louis, including the secretary-treasurer, came up for the protest. Hormel workers had spoken to their local, they told me. Like a number of other out-of-town guests, they had also been to Austin in April for solidarity activities. That was the time — April 11 — the cops rioted, throwing tear gas and carrying out a brutal attack on strikers and their supporters, who were picketing the Hormel plant gate.

"Today it's P-9 and Hormel, tomorrow it could be the Teamsters in St. Louis," one Local 600 member told me. If one company can get away with it, it's that much easier for the others, he pointed out. "With the companies and government busting the unions, we've got to stick together; otherwise we'll go down one at a time like dominoes."

A member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was carrying a sign that read: "Springfield, Missouri, supports P-9." He came to Austin by himself, authorized by his local's executive board. This was his first time here, and he intended to take what he learned back home.

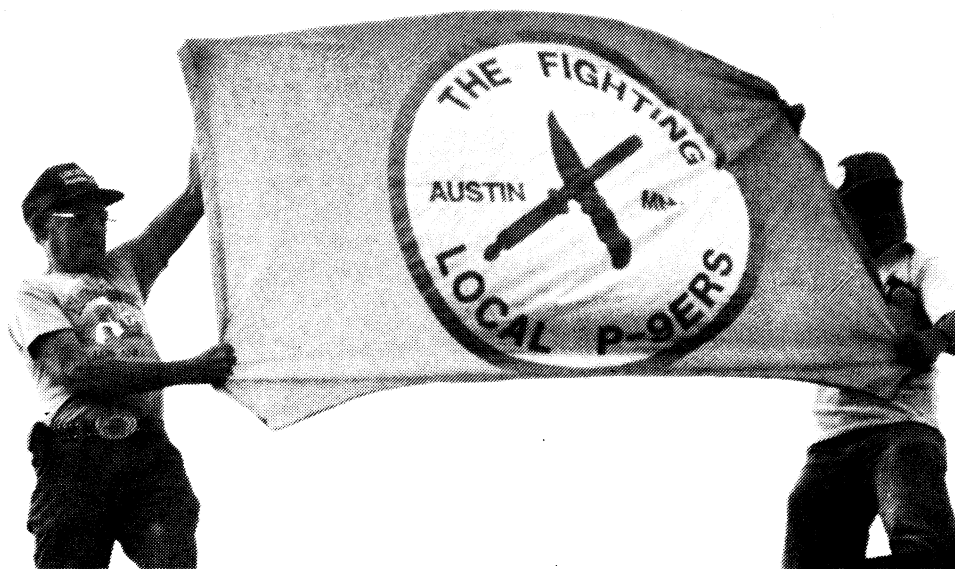
After a visiting P-9er joined his picket line in Miami, a member of Communications Workers of America Local 3121, who was on strike against AT&T, decided to come to Solidarity City. Like everyone else here, he saw P-9's fight as his own.

Machinists' regional conference support

Jack Key, vice-president of International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 2225, was a bit of a celebrity at Solidarity City. I talked to him while we were taking pictures and waiting for the march to start.

Key led the effort to get a resolution supporting "the Rank and File Austin Workers in any way possible until such time as a fair and decent contract can be won from George A. Hormel Company" passed unanimously at the IAM Western States Conference.

There were about 250 delegates from 13 states at that meeting. I asked Key why he thought the resolution passed. Because "the rank and file in this country are upset with how Congress and the corporations" are running things, he said. They don't care about working people. In fact they're



Militant/Margaret Jayko

United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 displaying new union flag at the opening of Solidarity City.

demanding "that we give up stuff we fought for decades ago."

P-9 began something "that can spread across the country," he said. "It can educate people about what labor's all about." Key echoed a common sentiment here: labor needs a new direction. In P-9 he sees a new leadership starting to step forward.

'P-9 shows the way'

On June 16 Oscar Mayer in Chicago laid off 620 of its approximately 700 workers, in an attempt to force them to accept a contract with big cuts in wages and benefits. Six of these laid-off workers, all Black women, came to Austin. They are members of Local 100-A of the UFCW.

A leaflet they're distributing at Oscar Mayer plants explains that the Chicago workers hope to unite with other Oscar Mayer employees, whose contracts expire August 31, against the company's demand for concessions.

A Local 100-A member addressed the rally. She explained why they refused to accept the contract, despite the layoffs: "It has to come to an end somewhere." P-9, she said, "showed us the way forward."

The official slogan of Solidarity City, emblazoned on blue, gold, and white T-shirts and buttons, was: "If not here, where? If not now, when? If not us, who?"

Eleven people came up for the march from North Carolina, including textile workers, tobacco workers, steelworkers, and Teamsters.

The children of P-9 members play a prominent role in this struggle — at pro-

tests, on picket lines, and at the union hall.

"We're proud to be P-9 kids"; "I honor picket lines, too"; "This fight will make my fight easier"; "We want the good life too"; and "We're helping Mom and Dad" were some of the signs they carried in the march.

One of the themes of Solidarity City was the fight to defend the democratic rights of working people in Austin. When a federal judge ruled on June 2 in favor of the UFCW officialdom's trusteeship over Local P-9, trustee Hansen took that as a green light to systematically isolate P-9 from its supporters in Austin and around the country, to dismantle its physical functioning, and to harass and try to intimidate its membership.

In addition to calling off the strike, suspending the local officers, and beginning negotiations with Hormel to work out a contract behind the backs of the workers, Hansen:

- got the bank to freeze all of P-9's funds;
- got the post office to impound P-9's mail and that of the suspended local officers;
- got the phone company to cut off telephone service and had garbage collection stopped;
- fired two of P-9's secretaries, union consultant Ray Rogers, and the local's lawyers;
- refused to call any local meetings; and
- worked with city officials to prevent P-9 members from being able to use public facilities. Solidarity City, for example, was held on the grounds of a P-9 member's house outside of town because the United Support Group was unable to rent a place in Austin.

In response to these and other violations of democratic rights, two retirees at the front of the march carried a coffin bearing the sign: "Civil liberties are not dead. Citizen-rights will rise again."

The real leadership

At the rally, Ray Rogers introduced the "real leadership of P-9" — the suspended executive board members.

Lynn Huston, who was P-9's vice-president, explained that the officers had been kicked out of office for two reasons — because they "upheld the democratic process" — and because they followed the dictates of the rank and file.

Suspended P-9 President Jim Guyette reminded people that "the last time we got together, it was declared a riot," referring to the cop attack on April 11.

"I suppose we're all rioting here, because there's been union songs sung and that's the definition of a riot here in Hormel town," he added.

Guyette condemned the attacks on constitutional freedoms by the courts and top UFCW officialdom. Nonetheless, he vowed, "We are going to continue to tell the truth. We're going to continue to do the right thing. We're going to continue to struggle until right overcomes might."

Jan Butts, a founder of the United Support Group, explained that the group's first meeting took place in October 1984 after Hormel imposed a 23 percent wage cut on Local P-9 members. Three hundred people showed up.

Today, she said, the courts are trying to

shut the United Support Group down, but "we'll be there till every single man and woman is back to work."

A high point of the rally was the comments by more than two dozen of the P-9 members and supporters who have been traveling around the country for the last several months, speaking to unionists, at women's rights events, anti-apartheid and antiwar protests, farmers' demonstrations, and other gatherings to win backing for the struggle against Hormel.

Every person I talked to who had been out on the road swore that it was an unforgettable experience. The depth of support for P-9 among the ranks of labor, as well as others fighting for their rights, was something that had to be seen to be really understood, they stressed. They viewed going out on the road as a surefire cure for anyone who started feeling isolated or discouraged by the formidable array of enemies the Hormel workers are up against.

Robert Blowers said that he had worked at Hormel for 35 years and never made a speech till he went to Birmingham to talk about the strike.

Jim Getchell explained that his family had worked in the plant for 76 years. He got choked up as he described his dad's participation in fighting for the union back in the 30s. Getchell had been to Houston and Miami.

Rod Huinker described how women workers on the CWA picket lines in Miami came over and hugged him with tears in their eyes when he showed up to express support for the telephone workers' strike.

Dan Pedersen spoke to about 60 locals in Alabama in the seven weeks he was there. He also talked to farmers' organizations. "I have yet to address one local that didn't do something" for P-9, he said. The only opposition he ran into was from some officials in various places.

Carol Evans was able to speak at a New York anti-apartheid rally, the convention of the National Organization for Women, and a rally for the TWA flight attendants in California. She traveled with her husband, Merrill Evans. "I met the best group of people in the world" on the road, he said, "that's the workers."

In addition to P-9 members and their spouses, members of UFCW locals 431 in Ottumwa, Iowa, and 22 in Fremont, Nebraska, have also been on the road. At Ottumwa's Hormel plant, 511 workers were fired for honoring P-9's picket lines. At Fremont, 27 workers were "permanently replaced" for the same reason.

Frank Vit from Fremont talked about the strike of cannery workers in Watsonville, California. He ended his remarks with the slogan he learned from those predominantly Mexican and Chicano workers: "¡Viva la huelga!" ("Long live the strike!")

One casualty of this bitter struggle has been a lot of the racial prejudice that many members of P-9 and their families used to have.

The featured speaker at the Saturday rally was Crystal Lee Sutton, the "real Norma Rae." The film *Norma Rae* was based on Sutton's successful efforts to help organize a union at textile giant J.P. Stevens & Co. Sutton described how the company actively used racism to try to divide the work force and keep the union out.

Sutton said that the top officials of the unions are more "company-oriented than worker-oriented." The wealthy, said Sutton, make special efforts to corrupt union leaders.

Anti-apartheid activist Enoch Duma addressed the rally. He said that Black workers in South Africa are proud to count Local P-9 as their ally in the struggle for freedom and justice. There is a lot to be learned from P-9 workers who have stood firm against intimidation, scabs, and threats against their lives, he explained.

Duma referred to the mural dedicated to Nelson Mandela that a P-9 member and two supporters painted on the wall of the Austin Labor Center. The mural "sent a powerful message to the racist regime in South Africa," he said. The true leader is not President Pieter Botha, but Mandela. Mandela "is the man who would support P-9's efforts." Mandela is the one who would rather remain in jail than renounce his principles as the South African government has

Continued on Page 9

New ruling against Local P-9

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

AUSTIN, Minn. — In the latest in a series of attacks on United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9, Federal District Court Judge Edward Devitt issued an order this morning turning over the Austin Labor Center to the UFCW International officials' trustee. The Austin Labor Center housed the offices of Local P-9.

The move came as no surprise to the members of P-9 who are still not working since they struck the Hormel meatpacking company last August. At 10:30 a.m. on July 2, when the news of the judge's ruling got out, dozens of members of the United Support Group — an independent group that organizes support for P-9 — moved the group's offices out of the labor center to another building a few blocks away.

Although the judge ruled that the Austin Labor Center is a "P-9 asset" and therefore subject to control by the trustee, Joseph Hansen, he refused to rule that the United Support Group and its funds are also assets of P-9. Such a ruling had been sought by the UFCW tops in order to cripple the effective backing that the organization of spouses and other supporters has given P-9 members.

The United Support Group was allowed to maintain the store it has in the labor center, where it sells caps and T-shirts, as well as to maintain its bank account.

Devitt's order concerning the Austin Labor Center came just two days after the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) rejected petitions submitted by P-9 members for a recertification election to allow

Hormel employees — both those working and those still out as a result of the strike — to vote for a new union: "Original P-9."

David Twedell, an attorney for Original P-9, and Larry Gullickson, an Original P-9 charter member, held a press conference on July 2.

Twedell and Gullickson said the NLRB had ruled that there was confusion over whether Original P-9 is a separate organization from Local P-9 and therefore refused to schedule an election.

Twedell and Gullickson announced the decision to change the name from Original P-9 to North American Meatpackers Union. A new petition to recertify the North American Meatpackers Union was filed on July 2 with the regional NLRB office.

The North American Meatpackers Union, said Twedell, "demands that Hormel recognize it as the bargaining agent for its employees and hold negotiations."

North American Meatpackers Union organizers handbilled the Hormel plant the day before and got a "very warm response from the bulk of the workers there." Workers at the Hormel plant said, "We don't want to be injured, we don't want our wages cut. We want a union."

Information on the North American Meatpackers Union can be gotten at: 103 Fourth Ave. NE, Austin, Minn. 55912; (507) 437-8589.

Messages of support and money for the Hormel workers can be sent to United Support Group, P.O. Box 396, Austin, Minn. 55912.

Striking woodworkers oppose new cutbacks

BY JOHN CHARBONNET

PORTLAND, Ore. — The biggest timber strike in the Pacific Northwest since the early 1960s began June 16 when thousands of woodworkers shut down Weyerhaeuser, the industry giant. Weyerhaeuser Co. forced the strike on 7,500 workers in Oregon and Washington by insisting on massive wage and benefits cuts and union-busting work rules changes.

In mid-April the company proposed a \$4.30 an hour cut in wages and benefits, mandatory overtime, elimination of the eight-hour workday, gutting seniority rights in bumping and promotions, and elimination of the right to strike over grievances. In return for wage cuts the company offered a productivity bonus plan.

Three years ago the unions made substantial concessions to the company. This time they initially proposed 4.5 percent annual wage increases, improvements in benefits, and the elimination of subcontracting out work.

After several bargaining sessions the unions agreed to some wage concessions linked to a jointly-administered profit-sharing plan and the dropping of other concession demands. But when Weyerhaeuser refused to budge from its original demand for \$4.30 in cuts, the unions struck.

Another 25,000 woodworkers are continuing to work under contracts that expired June 1. Boise Cascade, Georgia-Pacific, Champion International, and others are letting Weyerhaeuser take the lead, but they are aiming for similar concessions.

22 mills struck

A total of 22 Weyerhaeuser mills and logging operations have been struck. The two main unions involved are the International Woodworkers of America (IWA), with some 6,500 members on strike, and the Lumber Production and Industrial

Workers (LPIW), an affiliate of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, with 1,000 members on strike.

This past spring the IWA and the LPIW, the two largest unions in the wood products industry, formed a joint bargaining board to coordinate nationwide negotiations. Most southern contracts do not expire for another two years.

The outcome of the strike will affect the entire lumber industry in the United States and Canada. IWA contracts in British Columbia expire in July, and employers there have asked for numerous concessions. The IWA has 38,000 members in British Columbia.

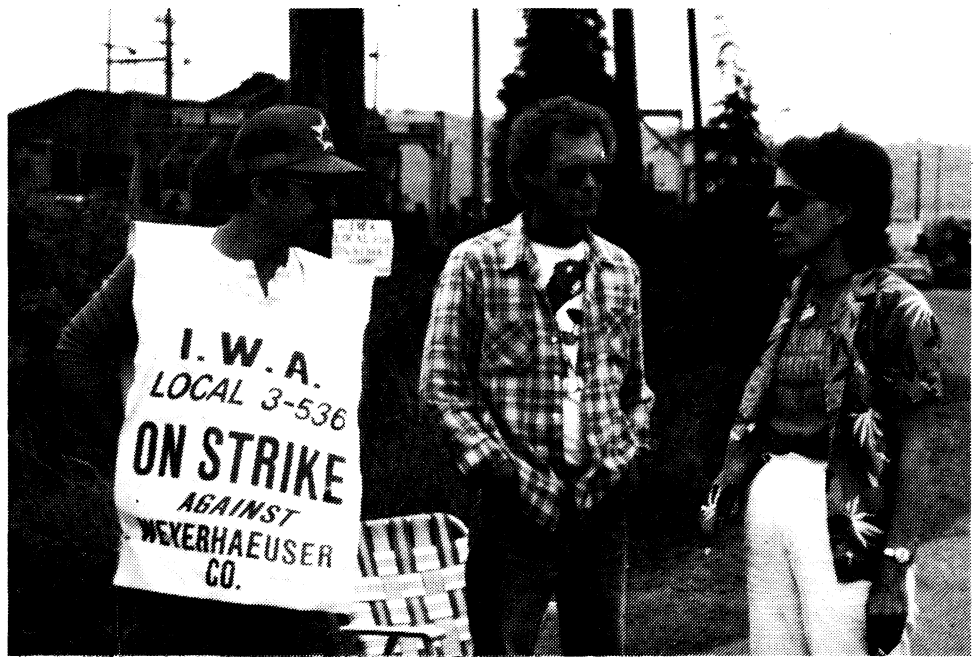
Chip Elliott, a logger in Pe Ell in southwest Washington, told the media that workers wouldn't accept the pay cuts. "Ninety percent of all loggers live payday to payday, and it really hurts to take a 20 percent cut like that." Most families in mill and logging towns live on a single wage, he added, and prospects for other employment are slim.

Both the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and the boatmen's union have said they will aid the Weyerhaeuser strikers. The company is the largest Northwest exporter of unfinished logs to the Far East.

Weyerhaeuser is attempting to follow up on the blow dealt the unions by Louisiana Pacific. That company forced a strike on 1,800 members of the Carpenters' and Woodworkers' unions in June 1983. Since then, many Louisiana Pacific mills have reopened with scab labor, and the unions have been decertified at eight plants.

Operations in South

James Bledsoe, president of the LPIW's western regional council, announced that the union would distribute leaflets explaining the issues in areas of the South where Weyerhaeuser has operations. In addition,



Militant/Janet Post

Suspended Local P-9 financial secretary Kathy Buck (right) discusses issues in Weyerhaeuser and Hormel strikes with International Woodworkers of America pickets in Longview, Washington.

the Carpenters' union has begun a nationwide boycott of Weyerhaeuser.

Steve Fluke, president of IWA Local 3-130 in Raymond, Washington, said, "Our intention is at some time to expand our union pickets to the South."

Such roving pickets were effective in a recent battle by the two unions against the Roseburg Lumber Co.

On May 19, IWA Local 3-433 struck the company's Anderson, California, sawmill over the unjust firing of a union member. The worker had previously been injured, placed on light duty, and then fired for supposedly cutting wood wrong while on an unfamiliar job.

With the company stonewalling, the local sent 60 pickets to Roseburg's southern Oregon plants. Nearly 3,500 workers walked off the job. About 3,000 were LPIW members who honored the IWA picket lines.

"If we don't stick together now, they're going to break the union," said Al Sossman, a shop steward at the Roseburg, Oregon, mill.

The IWA removed its pickets when the company refused to talk while the picket line was up. But the company later agreed to pay for vocational rehabilitation for the worker although it did not rehire him.

IWA Region 3 organizer Chuck McCrae told the media: "It's funny, but the people of Roseburg didn't want us to leave, they wanted to finish the fight with us." The IWA has a tradition of using roving pickets going back to its organizing drives of the 1930s.

Weyerhaeuser justifies its concession demands by pleading that its workers must sacrifice because of competition from low-wage southern mills and imports from British Columbia.

The unions' response is that Weyerhaeuser is the competition from those areas. They point out that the company has six mills in British Columbia and mills in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Oklahoma.

While Weyerhaeuser mills in the Northwest have worked with curtailed shifts, company mills in the South and Canada worked overtime.

A union flyer asks, "Does anyone truly believe cutting local wages and working conditions will solve this problem?"

"Won't the Canadians then have to cut their wages to compete with us? And after them the South? Then what? Will it be our turn again?"

This May, President Reagan slapped a 35 percent tariff on Canadian cedar imports. The wood products industry has also filed a petition for a general 27 percent duty on Canadian imports.

Although IWA officials hold protectionist views on a number of issues, they say these tariffs will result in higher lumber prices and layoffs in Canada. Some 500 IWA members in Canada will lose their jobs as a result of the cedar tariffs.

Local P-9ers meet with IWA members

BY JANET POST

LONGVIEW, Wash. — As part of a June 24-26 tour, two members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 from Austin, Minnesota, met with members of International Woodworkers of America (IWA) Local 3-536. The IWA and Lumber Production and Industrial Workers (LPIW) are currently on strike against the Weyerhaeuser Co. (See story on this page.)

Here from Austin were Kathy Buck, suspended financial secretary of Local P-9, and Dave Taylor, a rank-and-file member who has worked at the Hormel meatpacking plant for 21 years.

While in Longview, the P-9 members were able to meet with IWA officials and visit with strikers on the picket line.

IWA Local 3-536 organizes close to 2,000 workers, including those at the Longview mill and loggers on nearby mountains.

Buck and Taylor were interested in the similarities between the Weyerhaeuser strike and the Hormel strike. At both plants, workers have given concessions over the years that have undermined working conditions in the plants. Workers at both plants have very high rates of serious on-the-job injuries. Longview and Austin are both considered company towns. And both Hormel and Weyerhaeuser are out to totally gut the workers' contracts.

Kathy Buck told union members, "Both of our struggles are a fight for human dignity."

IWA 3-536 President Duane Wend and Vice-president Clarence Stamey told Local P-9 members that rank-and-file IWA members know about the Hormel strike and have been inspired by the example set by Local P-9. The IWA officials reconfirmed their continued support for the struggle in Austin.

The Local P-9 members were also able to talk with delegates at the Oregon AFL-CIO state convention in Portland where the area P-9 support committee set up a hospitality suite. Some delegates explained to the P-9 members that they were confused

about the situation in Austin. Others came by to show their support. Unionists who stopped by included delegates from the Boilermakers, Carpenters, Shipwrights, and other unions.

At the convention, Buck and Taylor also spoke with the president of UFCW Local 555, Mike Hereford. Local 555 is the largest union in Oregon.

Taylor told Hereford that the struggle will continue and that he hoped the Oregon UFCW would decide to support the fight for a decent contract at the Hormel plant.

Kathy Buck attended a convention

luncheon sponsored by the Portland Coalition of Labor Union Women. Afterward she attended a rally supporting Communications Workers of America Local 1002, then on strike against AT&T.

Buck also attended a reception in her honor hosted by the Portland National Organization for Women.

A local cable TV station taped an interview with the P-9 members and with Bob Rodgers, executive vice-president of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers and chairman of the Portland P-9 support committee.

Minnesota march backs Hormel meatpackers

Continued from Page 8

proposed. "Local P-9 is equally principled," said Duma. He ended with shouts of "Let South Africa be free! Let Local P-9 be free!"

Vernon Bellecourt described the history of the U.S. government's racist persecution of the Indians and linked it to Washington's support for apartheid. He also vigorously defended the governments of Nicaragua and Libya against the torrent of lies and slanders spewing from the White House and Congress. Reagan says the Nicaraguan government is undemocratic, said Bellecourt. But in the United States we have a government "of, by, and for the corporations," he said.

Referring to P-9, Bellecourt declared: "I hope this is a new day for all poor and oppressed people."

Carla Whittington is a member of the national board of the National Organization for Women, which recently passed a resolution supporting P-9's struggle against Hormel.

Whittington linked the government's attacks on women's rights with its attacks on the Austin meatpackers. The National Guard was called out against P-9, she said, but not to defend abortion clinics that have been subject to violent attacks by oppo-

nents of women's constitutional right to abortion.

Since March 17, several hundred farmers have been involved in a round-the-clock blockade of the Farmers Home Administration office in Chillicothe, Missouri. They are demanding the dismissal of the FmHA supervisor, emergency credit, fair prices, and a moratorium on farm foreclosures.

Jerry Parks is one of those farmers. He told the rally how the government, banks, and big corporations are putting millions of working farmers out of business. These are the same people, he pointed out, who steal land from the people in the Philippines and who are trying to regain control of the land in Nicaragua. While the Nicaraguan government is fighting for freedom and giving land to the peasants, Washington is trying to get rid of that government, he said.

In the face of the UFCW top officialdom's campaign — going back to 1984 — to prevent Local P-9 members from waging a militant struggle, together with other Hormel meatpacking locals, against company attacks, hundreds of P-9 members have filed petitions with the National Labor Relations Board to recertify themselves as a new union (for an update on recertification fight, see article on page 8).

David Twedell, the lawyer for the new union, addressed the rally. He explained that the new union had one simple proposition — membership control over the union. The workers need one thing even more than a contract — they need to be able to retain their right to elect their leaders, he said. Contracts can be renegotiated, but the union is more important than any single contract.

P-9 members who back recertification have been accused of being antiunion by those who side with the UFCW officialdom. But it's the actions of the trustee, said Twedell, that are antilabor. Referring to the UFCW, Twedell pointed out that everyone has tried to "stay under the tent" as long as possible, but it's become "unbearable."

Other rally speakers included: Bobbi Polzine, leader of the Minnesota farmers' organization Groundswell; Larry Bastain, recording secretary of Local 325 of the United Auto Workers; David Foster, chairman of the National Rank and File Against Concessions; Marsha Mickens, an official of Bakery and Confectionery Local 326; and a representative of the St. Louis Committee for a Free Ireland. Greetings were read from the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants.

U.S. trade unionists visit steel mill in Cuba

BY TONY PRINCE

I was in Cuba last May, along with several other unionists. We were part of a broader delegation from Wisconsin. While we were there, the unionists visited the Antillana de Acero (Antilles Steel Works), the only steel mill in Cuba.

The mill is located in an industrial suburb of Havana called Cotorro. About 5,000 workers are employed at the mill, 900 of them women.

Our delegation met with five *compañeros* from the mill who represented different areas of responsibility. Diego Berroa is one of seven subdirectors of the plant. We learned at the end of our meeting that he had been a worker in the mill for 20 years before his current job. Adalberto Rodríguez, a worker in the mill, is a member of the executive of the Communist Party there. There are 600 members of the party at the mill. Julio Rosell is one of the leaders of the union at the mill. Jorge Alberto Morales and Oscar Rodríguez represented the Union of Communist Youth, known by its Spanish initials, UJC.

Diego told us something of the history of Antillana de Acero. It dates back to before the 1959 revolution. In 1959 it produced 40,000 tons of steel. Last year it produced 400,000 tons. It uses open-hearth furnaces. Diego explained that from an economic point of view the plant was not well located, because the concentrations of iron ore are in the northern part of the eastern provinces of the country. When the mill was built, though, this was a duty free zone where imports could be purchased without customs charges. This changed after the revolution.

The mill's major products are reinforcing bar for construction of roads, buildings, and bridges; wire rod; and steel mesh. Some 1,500 skilled workers and 500 technicians work at the plant. Antillana de Acero is a vanguard factory on the national level because of its importance to the national economy and because it consistently goes over the production level set in the economic plan.

Internationalist brigades

Three hundred of Antillana's workers have participated in internationalist missions. Some have been soldiers in Angola, but most were on civilian missions aiding other underdeveloped countries. About

100 are on internationalist missions right now. There are three national heroes of labor — that is, nationally recognized outstanding workers — in the plant, and 12 national sugar harvest heroes.

Although union membership is voluntary, almost all of the workers belong to the union. The workers elect the leadership every two and a half years. There are 191 stewards at the mill, 126 men and 65 women.

Dues in Cuba are about 1 percent of wages. There is no checkoff. Instead dues are paid directly to a union representative who works there.

Wages are negotiated on the national level, between the union and the government ministry responsible for this branch of industry. Difficult or unpleasant working conditions and shift differentials are factors that affect the wages of the workers.

We had an interesting discussion with Diego about the question of wages. A couple of members of the delegation wanted to know what the differences in wages were between the highest paid administrators and the lowest paid workers.

Diego told us that the director of the company earns a fixed salary of 400 pesos [1 peso = US\$1] a month. The minimum wage nationally is about 96 pesos a month, which is the least that a new, unskilled worker could earn when he or she starts at the mill. This, however, does not include increases for working night shift, working under abnormal conditions, overtime pay, or bonuses for meeting or surpassing production quotas. Most workers make far more than 96 pesos a month. In fact, some of the more skilled workers make 500 or 600 pesos a month, more than the director of the enterprise.

Environmental checks

Environmental checks are periodically carried out in the plant to make sure that working conditions are safe for the workers. There is a constant educational campaign to convince the workers to use helmets and other safety equipment, which many workers are reluctant to do because it is so hot in the mill.

There is a representative of the health-and-safety office in every department on each shift. When a situation arises which is potentially unsafe for the worker, the union

discusses this with the administration. The union has the power to pull the worker off an unsafe job. The union safety representative is elected by the workers. In addition, an administrator can be taken to court for violating safety regulations. While this is not common, it has happened.

The mill has its own clinic, which is staffed by 6 doctors and 12 nurses.

The workweek at the mill, and generally around the country, is 40 hours one week and 48 the next. People work every other Saturday. Workers get one month paid vacation a year. Antillana has its own beach camp with housing for its workers. What is known as "health tourism" — camping, hiking, and the like — is encouraged and facilitated. Workers have a mandatory physical, free of charge, every six months.

Workers who want to advance to more skilled, better-paid jobs can seek admission to the training center, which is maintained by the government. Workers at the center are paid their regular wage while they are studying. Workers who go to the center are chosen jointly by the administration and the union, on the basis of skill, seniority, conduct, and the needs of the plant.

When they have gone through the center, the workers take a test to qualify for a particular job. A jury of representatives of the administration and the union judges the examination. If two workers get the same score, the one with more seniority gets the job. Members of the Communist Party or the Union of Communist Youth have no advantage in getting a better job.

When we asked Adalberto what privileges in general a member of the party or the youth organization has, he told us, "A member of the party has only one privilege — to work harder than the aver-

age worker."

The *compañeros* told us that they were not satisfied with the amount of progress made in advancing women at the mill. There are few women in the administration. There is a special department of the union at the mill dedicated to women's issues and problems.

On the national level, 37 percent of the work force is female. Fifty-three percent of the technical workers in the country are women.

Diego told us something about the new labor code that was passed last year in Cuba. This new code was instituted to deal with problems of lack of discipline.

There has been a problem especially with absenteeism. Before very little was done to deal with this problem. Now pressures are applied — one of the most common being peer pressure. When a worker doesn't show up, his or her coworkers have to do that worker's job as well as their own. The workers are encouraged to let their *compañero* know how they feel about this.

If this is not sufficient, the worker goes before the Work Council. This is a body elected by the workers. For cases of chronic absenteeism, the Work Council can put a worker in a lower paying job or take away his or her bonuses.

In an extreme case, the Work Council can send the worker to the state employment agency to be placed in another job, but this happens very rarely in Cuba. You really have to work at it to be fired in Cuba, and even if you are fired, the state employment agency has to find you another job.

Adalberto and Diego told us that the major social problems are the shortages of housing, transportation, and child care. It is not that these facilities do not exist, but it is hard to keep up with the demand.

Socialist workers campaign for Congress in W. Va.

BY PATTIE SÁNCHEZ

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — "Tonight we are going to talk about *real* politics," said Kathy Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in this state's 2nd. C.D. She was the featured speaker at a June 7 campaign rally.

Mickells is a coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers of America.

She called attention to growing unemployment, concession contracts, speed-ups, union-busting, and cuts in health and safety programs. These social disasters for working people, she said, "are the solutions the ruling class pose to put a stop to their eroding profit rates. But *their* solution is *our* crisis."

"They try to convince us we can't fight and we can't win." But this is not true, she said, pointing to the examples set by the Hormel meatpackers in Austin, Minnesota, and by anti-apartheid militants in South Africa.

"We workers need our own political party," she continued, "one based on a transformed union movement."

"This party would challenge the rich's

right to rule. It would fight for the interests of the majority against the interests of the minority."

Dave Salner, Socialist Workers candidate in West Virginia's 3rd C.D., praised those who organize around the country the local picket lines against U.S. support to the racist apartheid system in South Africa.

"Solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution is a centerpiece of Socialist Workers campaigns," said Clare Fraenzl, another coal miner and candidate for governor of Pennsylvania. She reported to the campaign supporters on her recent trip to Nicaragua.

The rally was chaired by Terri Smith, a student at West Virginia University who is a new member of the Young Socialist Alliance.

She supports the campaign because, she said, "The Democrats and Republicans work with the business owners to break unions. The only solution they ever offer us is the lesser of two evils. Socialist candidates truly understand the problems of working people because they *are* working people."



Socialist Workers Party candidates for Congress, Kathy Mickells and Dave Salner.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

'PM' on 'The Color Purple'

The film, *The Color Purple*, based on the book of the same name by Alice Walker, has stirred a big controversy among political activists, academics, and liberal circles in the United States.

The debate has also been taken up in the Spanish-language press. *Claridad*, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party's weekly paper, for example, published a review praising the film.

The current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* joins the debate.

A major article goes over the views of a number of the critics of *The Color Purple*. Some of these claim the movie is racist and reactionary. The article answers these charges and explains that what is at the heart of the debate is a discussion over the oppression of women, and especially the triple oppression of Black women: as women, as Blacks, and as workers.

The book and the movie are an expression of Black women standing up and speaking out for their rights. The current debate reflects changes taking place in the U.S. with Black women playing more and more of a leadership role in the struggles of women, Blacks, and working people as a whole.

Perspectiva Mundial is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every two weeks brings



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S. Africa gov't wages war on union rights

BY FRED FELDMAN

"A direct and concerted assault on trade union freedom in South Africa." That is what the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) has called the arrest of at least 900 unionists by the apartheid regime. Among those imprisoned is COSATU President Elijah Barayi. Barayi is also a vice-president of the National Union of Mineworkers.

On July 1 a clandestine meeting of the COSATU Executive Committee called for a one-day general strike in two weeks to demand the release of jailed leaders and an end to the state of emergency. The mineworkers' union also called for slow-downs and sit-ins in gold and coal mines to protest the detention of its leaders.

Ten officers of the mineworkers' union are among the jailed unionists. Moses Mayekiso, general secretary of the Metal and Allied Workers Union, was also jailed.

Mayekiso is also a central leader of the Alexandra Action Committee, which coordinates the anti-apartheid street committees in Alexandra township near Johannesburg.

The mineworkers' and metal workers' unions are affiliated to the 600,000-member Congress of South African Trade Unions. At least 85 percent of the union leaders now being held are COSATU members.

The imprisoned unionists are among the more than 4,500 people jailed without charges since the apartheid regime imposed a state of emergency on the country June 12. The regime has made public the names of only a few of those arrested and has barred the publication of the names of other detainees. As a result, the fate of many who have disappeared since the crackdown is unknown.

Bloodshed by the regime's cops, troops, and vigilante units has also escalated. Since the anti-apartheid upsurge began in August 1984, more than 2,000 people have been killed.

Hundreds of unionists have been arrested for attempting to stage sit-ins and other protests. According to the *Washington Post*, union organizers have been "threatened with detention unless they stop recruiting. Those wearing union T-shirts or displaying union calendars have also been harassed. Shop stewards have disappeared." Picket lines are forbidden.

It is illegal to advocate strikes under the emergency regulations.

A COSATU statement explained: "The government, brushing aside the many warnings from trade unions and business leaders, seems prepared to countenance a situation of industrial chaos in its bid to stamp out all semblance of opposition and dissent."

The 2-million-member United Democratic Front is also refusing to bow. The June 30 *Washington Post* reported: "The street networks of the United Democratic Front, the largest anti-apartheid coalition, remain largely intact. Meetings are held regularly. Many leaders remain active, although underground, biding their time until the new crackdown eases."

While cracking down brutally on fighters against apartheid, the government of President Pieter Botha is trying to build up those Blacks who collaborate with the regime.

Chief Gatsha Buthelezi was given permission to hold a June 29 rally attended by thousands of Zulu-speaking people in a stadium in Soweto, the huge Black township near Johannesburg. Buthelezi is chief administrator of the KwaZulu Bantustan, one of 10 reservations set up by the regime in which millions of Africans are forced to live. He also heads the Inkatha organization, which is designed to control Zulu-speaking Africans.

The meeting was ringed by cops, soldiers, and Buthelezi's armed goon squads. Buthelezi himself arrived at the stadium in a helicopter, emerging behind a shield of white security guards.

He denounced the U.S. House of Representatives for voting economic sanctions against the South African regime. At a time when virtually all anti-apartheid organizations in South Africa and the big majority of South African Blacks call for divestment, he demanded more foreign investment.

He also denounced "Black-on-Black violence" — the government's propaganda



Militant/Ove Aspoy

Left, Elijah Barayi, president of Congress of South African Trade Unions, at union rally. He has been jailed without charges. On June 28 London marchers demanded that British government impose strong economic sanctions on South African regime.

term for attacks on cops, government officials, informers, and other agents of the regime who are Black.

To retain credibility, Buthelezi had to echo the popular demand for freeing African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela from prison.

Following the rally Inkatha goons, many of whom had been brought in buses from the KwaZulu Bantustan, opened fire on Soweto youths supporting the United Democratic Front. Several people were killed in the clashes that resulted.

Death squads linked to the Inkatha organization are responsible for the deaths of scores of anti-apartheid activists. But this

did not prevent *New York Times* correspondent Alan Cowell from falsely claiming that Buthelezi "opposes political violence."

On June 28, Reagan administration sources claimed that Washington's policy toward South Africa was being reassessed. But Secretary of State George Shultz stressed June 30 that there would be no change in the policy of support for the South African government that Reagan terms "constructive engagement."

A top administration official told the *New York Times* that the reassessment focuses instead on "factionalization" and "divisiveness" among Blacks — that's admin-

istration code for the propaganda theme of "Black-on-Black violence." The official said Washington wants more contact with Black leaders.

He said it was "particularly dangerous" that "there are a lot of young Blacks who have completely given up on the possibility of negotiations and dialogue" with the Botha government.

"Imposing sanctions or pulling out" of South Africa, he said, "is kind of a cop-out."

He said the United States government is playing no direct role in efforts to win the release of Nelson Mandela.

London: 250,000 protest apartheid

Continued from front page

that stretched over several miles made its way through the streets of London, ending in a huge meadow in Clapham Common, five miles away.

Additional thousands poured into the Underground, London's subway, to get to the common.

The line of march was thick with placards assailing apartheid and demanding sanctions. Big banners identified a multitude of participating organizations — numerous branches of the union movement and British Labour Party, chapters of the Committee for Nuclear Disarmament, student organizations, local anti-apartheid groups, West Indian groups, and many more.

The great majority of the participants were young. Many seemed in their 20s. A relatively small but significant number were nonwhite.

One table at the common did a brisk business in a T-shirt featuring pictures of Maurice Bishop, Malcolm X, and Nelson Mandela. A busy nearby booth offering West Indian food called attention to its menu with a poster advertising Nelson Mandela's book, *The Struggle Is My Life*.

Another politically significant component of the demonstration was a good number of activists in the Central America solidarity movement. There were partisans of the Salvadoran liberation struggle and a prominent booth staffed by pro-Sandinistas under a big banner: "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua."

The festival aspect of the program was for real, including such outstanding British artists as Boy George, Sting, and Elvis Costello. From the United States, Gil Scott-Heron was featured. Many made strong statements in support of sanctions.

The president of the Anti-Apartheid Movement spoke, as did representatives of the ANC and SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization), leader of the fight for Namibian freedom.

The speakers were listened to attentively by the huge crowd and were well received. There was also a big round of applause for a message of solidarity from Neil Kinnock,

leader of the Labour Party.

Kinnock assailed Thatcher as an accomplice in the perpetuation of apartheid. In resisting sanctions, he charged, she is "leaving the people of South Africa to a blood-soaked future."

The storm of political controversy created by Thatcher's stubborn defense of the Pretoria regime registers the deep dilemma of British imperialism.

While South Africa is no longer a British colony, London bankers and industrialists still have major investments there, and trade between Britain and South Africa remains substantial.

Some British capitalists see the handwriting on the wall for apartheid. Like some of their South African counterparts, they are casting about for some means of staving off overthrow of the regime there.

Others, like Thatcher, would like to hang tough. But even she now feels the need to make some adjustment in public posture, as evidenced by the invitation to Tambo.

That invitation brought cries of rage from some in the Tory machine, but was welcomed by others.

Indicative of the pressures, a group of Tory Members of Parliament who want to modify the British position have formed a group, Conservatives for Fundamental Change in South Africa. After his meeting at the Foreign Office, Tambo addressed a group of 60 of these MPs.

Thatcher's problem was further illustrated by a recent TV appearance by the editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, a staunch voice of the Tory right wing.

He predicted that if Thatcher did not retreat on the apartheid issue, it could cost her the next election.

In addition to the popularity of the South African freedom cause among British workers, he said, there are sufficient middle-class voters strongly enough opposed to apartheid to shift the electoral balance to Labour.

The turnout for the anti-apartheid demonstration gave weight to his point.

For the past several decades in Britain, there has been significant activity in sol-

idarity with the South African liberation movement. Freedom for Nelson Mandela and other South African political prisoners has long been an important demand here.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement has added to its prestige with the resounding success of the demonstration. It already has the endorsement of the Labour Party, and many party branches are affiliated to it, as are many of the major unions.

Another affiliate is the National Union of Students, and there are local campus anti-apartheid groups as well.

One Anti-Apartheid Movement activist said that in the past six months, 17 new AAM chapters had been organized in London alone.

Talking with some of the participants in the demonstration indicated why.

An economist who had lived in South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe told the *Militant* he had seen firsthand what apartheid meant, and he was marching because "I want our government to act. Actions like this will hasten the struggle of the ANC to build a multiracial, peaceful society."

A member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineers said he was there because he's against apartheid and against the Thatcher government. "She sympathizes with Botha," he charged. "By marching, we're making it crystal clear to white South Africa that we're against what they're doing."

A man of East Indian descent said, "I think the injustice in South Africa is totally intolerable. You might say I'm here because of my ancestry. But I think any right-minded person would be here."

A young engineering worker said, "The British government is doing nothing but supporting the South African regime. And the Americans for that matter too. It's time for a change."

And a young Black woman answered with anger in her voice, "I'm marching because I could have been born in South Africa. That means I wouldn't have a job. I wouldn't have the right to vote, the right to go to school."

"When you think about what's happening," she added, "you want to do something."

Sounds reasonable — "South African business today faces a serious dilemma. . . . The vast majority of Black South Africans regard business, the government, apartheid, the status quo, and, if you like, the devil, as one." Clive



Harry Ring

Menell, a South African mining executive.

Sobriety's reward — Because

they can't buy drinks, high school students have difficulty renting a place for a prom. In Lawrence, Massachusetts, one graduating class got clipped for an extra \$250 rental, plus an extra \$2.50 per person at the soda bar. Explained the proprietor, "We wouldn't want them to drink, but we're here to do business. It's sort of like going to McDonald's and not buying hamburgers."

A steal — The Pentagon is buying two Boeing 747 jumbo jets to replace the 707s currently used as the presidential Air Force One. An official said the cost would be under the \$280 million appropriated by Congress.

Nothing sacred? — Dennis

Levine, the \$2-million-a-year Wall Street operator charged with illegal insider trading, cut a deal on the civil charges. He agreed to give up his \$10.6 million Bahamas bank account and, perish the thought, his red Ferrari. He will keep the '83 BMW and the Park Ave. condo.

A Free-World contingent — One-pound bars of hashish are reportedly being smuggled in from Afghanistan. A fed told reporters that in Afghanistan it's hard to tell the difference between anti-Soviet rebels and drug dealers; they often may be the same.

For the family that pries together — U.S. Air's gift catalog includes a device that replaces the

mouthpiece of your phone. A red light indicates when someone's listening on an extension.

Probably looked like rags — A Dallas cleaning woman reportedly confessed liberating 343 gowns, priced at more than \$2,000 each, from Nieman-Marcus. She allegedly stuffed them in her vacuum cleaner during nightly rounds.

Just what we've needed — From Nieman-Marcus, a slender Chinese boar-bristle brush with a sterling silver handle to get at that hard-to-clean area of your champagne glasses. Only \$20 apiece and, it occurred to us, that slender silver handle could double as a

toothpick.

Just a look-alike? — Superman and his alter ego, Clark Kent, have been sent back to the drawing boards for a more up-to-date look. Among other things, Superman-Kent will be "more vulnerable," "more open about his feelings," and "a little more upwardly mobile." But, it's asserted, "He's not going to be a yuppie."

Only causes a little cancer — Consumer groups have taken court action to force the Food and Drug Administration to ban a cancer-causing chemical used in making decaffeinated coffee. The FDA says the amount of the chemical used is "infinitesimal" and therefore not a health hazard.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Ochoa and José de Molina in Concert. Benefit for the Mutual Support Group for the Families of the Disappeared. Sat., July 12, 7 p.m. Fritchman Auditorium. 2936 W 8th St. Donation: \$7. Ausp: Guatemala Information Center. For more information call (213) 413-0901.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Defending Women's Rights. A panel discussion. Speakers: Ginny Montes, member national board of National Organization for Women; Deenie Dudley, Catholics for Free

Choice; Lea Bochman, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 12, 7 p.m. 132 Cone St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Victims of FBI Frame-up: Why Puerto Rican Independence Fighters Are In Jail. A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Fri., July 11, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Farming in Revolutionary Nicaragua. Report from participants in recent National Union of Farmers and Ranchers conference in Nicaragua. Speakers: Ben Layman, Virginia dairy farmer; Kathie Fitzgerald, member United Auto Workers and Socialist Workers Party, active in Missouri farm protests. Translation to Spanish. Fri., July 18, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Nicaragua Today: An Answer to Washington's Lies. Hear Ben Layman, Virginia dairy farmer, part of U.S. delegation to a conference of the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers in Nicaragua in April. Sun., July 13, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

The Danger of North Carolina's New Obscenity Law — The Fight Against Censorship. Speakers include representatives of Citizens Against Censorship. Sun., July 20, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

TEXAS

Houston

UFCW Local P-9 Fights On. A discussion and slideshow on the national solidarity rally June 28 in Austin, Minnesota. Speaker: Jose Al-

varado, member Socialist Workers Party and member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-227. Fri., July 11, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

VIRGINIA

Newport News

The Fight for Indian and Black Rights in Nicaragua — An Answer to Reagan's Lies. Slideshow. Speakers: Jay Ressler, recently traveled to Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. Sat., July 12, 7:30 p.m. 5412 Jefferson Ave. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March and Rally for Indian Rights. Support Native American treaty rights and protest the Big Mountain relocation of Navajos. Repeal PL 93-531 that divides Navajo-Hopi Joint Use Area. Assemble noon, Sun., July 6 at Washington Monument. March to Capitol Building. Ausp: Big Mountain Support Group-D.C. For more information call (202) 234-4938.

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World Court condemns U.S. aggression

Continued from Page 4

trates how little difference there is between the two capitalist parties.

Under the bill Reagan proposed, which was approved by the House, the contras will get \$40 million after September 1, and a total of \$60 million more by February 1987.

The bill pushed by Oklahoma Rep. David McCurdy, which was backed as a compromise by House Democratic leader Thomas O'Neil, would have given the contra terrorists \$30 million in nonmilitary aid right away and another \$70 million in military hardware in the fall.

The major difference between the bills is that McCurdy's would have required another House vote in October, something Reagan was opposed to.

After the vote was taken, McCurdy said, "The bottom line is they [the administration] made their plan very attractive for moderates. They came a long way."

Mario Biaggi, a Democratic con-

gressman from New York, said of the House vote, "The contras are scoundrels, and the Sandinistas are scoundrels . . . but when it comes to the national interest, a tie has to favor the President."

Both Democrats and Republicans sit on the House and Senate intelligence committees, which have been approving funding and plans for CIA attacks on Nicaragua for years.

But a *Washington Post* editorial noted that with this vote the U.S. government is "newly committed to a war against a government with which it is not formally at war and with which it observes diplomatic relations. It is doing so, moreover, not only with congressional consent but in the noonday sun."

Over the past years the Nicaraguan armed forces have dealt the contras heavy military blows. The difficulties the contras have had in the field are testimony to the increased ability and strength of the Nica-

raguan army. Those defeats make it harder for Washington to intervene directly against Nicaragua. The vote to massively aid the contras is nonetheless a step in that direction.

By escalating the war, Washington hopes to increase the hardships the Nicaraguan people are suffering and deepen divisions in the country to provide an opening to overthrow the revolutionary government.

What's needed today is a mass mobilization by unionists, Black and women's rights fighters, farmers, and students against Washington's war.

In April, 25,000 people marched in San Francisco against the war. A year earlier more than 100,000 people took part in actions demanding "jobs, peace, and justice." Both demonstrations reflected the potential that exists for involving trade unionists and many others in antiwar activity.

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NEW YORK: Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 114 E Quail St. Zip: 12706. Tel: (518) 434-3247. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668. Socialist Books, 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: SWP, YSA, 2219 E Market. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 1701 W Bancroft St. Zip: 43606. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 402 N. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923.

Dallas: SWP, YSA, 336 W. Jefferson. Zip: 75208. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** SWP, YSA, 767 S. State, 3rd floor. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 5412 Jefferson Ave. Zip: 23605. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699, 797-7021.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 611A Tennessee. Zip: 25302. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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

N.Y. socialists set petitioning goals

Continued from back page

ial, listening to and talking with working people. An open house will be held each Saturday afternoon at the campaign offices at 79 Leonard Street in New York City. Classes and film showings will also be part of the effort.

The socialist candidates noted that the Democratic and Republican candidates face no such onerous signature requirements. The big-business parties that run the government restrict access to the ballot by working-class fighters as part of their effort to preserve their monopoly on politics.

For instance, in the late 1960s, the state adopted an undemocratic law barring anyone under 30 years of age from even petitioning to be a candidate for governor. As a result, Theresa Delgadillo is barred from the ballot. Yet she is fully qualified as a young worker and fighter to represent the interests of working people as governor. The SWP will mount a vigorous write-in campaign for her.

A special guest at the rally was Jim Little, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor of Illinois. He described the good response Illinois socialist campaigners received as they petitioned to collect more than 30,000 signatures on nominating petitions in that state.

The fight to get on the ballot, said Little, is a fight for the democratic rights of the entire working class. And it is a real fight, he stressed. "The Democrats and Republicans don't just challenge our right to be on the ballot. They organize to throw our butts off the ballot."

The Illinois effort has been a national one for the Socialist Workers Party. A team from around the country, spearheaded by the Young Socialist Alliance, went to Chicago to help organize and lead the drive. Little said that when the Illinois petitioning concluded, he would help organize a team for the drive in New York.

David Rosenfeld, chairperson of the

New York YSA, said, "We're proud that Mike and Theresa are leaders of the YSA. We plan to set a fast pace for other socialist campaign supporters to keep up with."

Delgadillo, in closing the rally, described the response to the announcement of her campaign in the garment shop where she is a sewing-machine operator and member of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25. "This is the kind of campaign the union should support," said one coworker. "We need one of us in office," said another.

Delgadillo's employer had a different reaction. He called her into his office to tell her she had no legal right to bring campaign literature into *his* factory. Moreover, Delgadillo told the rally, "he told me, 'I don't want you to do it.'"

But this campaign, said Delgadillo at the rally, isn't for the bosses. It is for working people like a coworker who faces a deportation attempt by the Immigration and Naturalization Service after living in this country for 16 years. It is for workers who face overtime and worsening working conditions. It is for working farmers struggling to stay on the land and make a decent living.

Her employer, said Delgadillo, thinks that workers who resist attacks on their rights have "a bad attitude." The Young Socialist Alliance, she said, "is full of young people with a 'bad attitude,'" and she urged those at the rally to join the YSA.

After the rally two young people expressed an interest in doing just that. One young person who had been on a work brigade harvesting crops in Nicaragua with Delgadillo offered to help petition. Another plans to interview her for a campus radio program at Yale University.

In response to an appeal by Nan Bailey, a leader of the SWP who chaired the rally, more than \$2,600 was raised in pledges and contributions for the socialist campaign.

Those who would like to join the campaign effort can call (212) 925-1668.



Socialist Workers Party candidates Mike Shur for U.S. Senate and Theresa Delgadillo for governor of New York.

Militant

Sandinistas mobilize

Continued from Page 5

The same weekend as the march to Masaya, the Nicaraguan government contacted all airlines that fly here to inform them that Father Bismark Carballo, a top aide to Cardinal Obando, would not be allowed to re-enter Nicaragua.

Carballo has been outside the country on a speaking tour of Europe and the United States timed to coincide with the House vote on aid to the mercenaries.

The July 1 FSLN daily *Barricada* said that he was being denied re-entry because on his tour he had "carried out an open and intense campaign" in favor of the \$100 million and had "defamed and slandered" the Sandinista revolution both inside and outside Nicaragua. The paper also pointed out that Carballo had repeatedly violated the law by agitating for draft evasion.

Also on July 1 Bayardo Arce, vice-coordinator of the FSLN National Directorate's executive commission, met with five reporters to answer questions about further measures being considered by the Sandinistas.

Asked if new restrictions would be placed on the various political parties that function in the country, Arce said that all legal parties would retain their rights to hold meetings, criticize the government, and have access to the media.

What would not be allowed, he explained, was for any party or individual

to advocate support for the counterrevolutionary war being waged against Nicaragua or to advocate aid for the mercenaries. "This would be unacceptable in any country" under military attack, he pointed out.

Arce was also questioned about the discussions taking place in the Sandinista Assembly on the organization of Nicaragua's economy. Several reporters asked whether private enterprises might be nationalized.

"No, the measures we are studying are to protect the economy and strengthen the capacity of our people to resist" the U.S.-backed aggression, he explained. "The resolutions we are discussing, of course, include a role for private companies, and we hope they will take advantage of this with a patriotic spirit and contribute to resolving the problems we have."

West Coast conference on S. Africa calls for anti-apartheid protest

Continued from back page

"forcing sanctions by the U.S. government against South Africa the anti-apartheid movement will be assisting in the liberation of the continent."

Pallo Jordan, deputy secretary of information and director of research for the ANC, said that "international solidarity in action can greatly compliment our actions in South Africa."

He emphasized that the ANC demands a strict ban on all economic, commercial, political, nuclear, sporting, and cultural relations with the South African state.

The conference voted to recognize the ANC and SWAPO as the true and legitimate representatives of the South African and Namibian peoples.

Among the many conference decisions were resolutions supporting the campaign for material and financial aid to the ANC and SWAPO and the Dellums sanctions bill passed by the House of Representatives.

The meeting concluded with a vote to organize meetings in all the local areas represented to report back the conference's decisions. The conference preparatory committee was charged with the task of calling a planning meeting in 45 days to organize the fall protest actions.

In conjunction with the conference, a rally of more than 400 people was held on June 28 in the San Francisco Black community.

Rally speakers included Ningere Asheke, deputy secretary of SWAPO's UN mission; Danny Glover, star of *The Color Purple*, who chaired the rally; Mamazane Xulu, chair of the New York ANC women's section; Geraldine Johnson, chair of CBTU in San Francisco; and Tony Ryan, Nicaraguan Information Center.

Federal gov't doesn't monitor chemical dump shutdowns

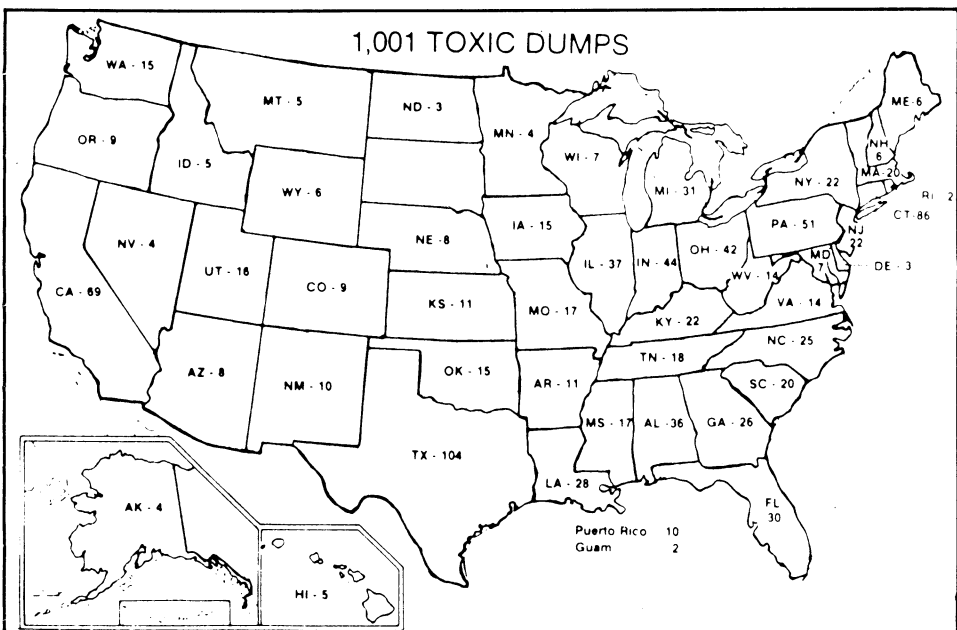
The federal government's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered 1,001 hazardous chemical waste dumps to shut down by Nov. 8, 1985. But a study done by Congress five months later revealed that the EPA had no idea how many dumps have shut down.

Dubbed "Black Friday" by the toxic waste industry, November 8 was the deadline for operators to meet minimum safety requirements or stop operating. Two-thirds of the nation's 1,522 dumps chose to close down rather than comply with health and environment regulations.

The study reported on the EPA's track record for monitoring chemical dump shutdowns in 1984. Of 176 sites that closed,

the government had not inspected 67 of them for violations. Of 109 facilities checked, 37 were in violation of the agency's rules. But 122 of the corrective actions ordered by the EPA "were not as strong as EPA policy and guidelines called for," according to the study.

These findings are "distressing," the study concluded, because many dump owners may simply abandon these dumps to avoid the costs of following EPA guidelines on shutting down. These include cleaning up contamination so poisonous chemicals can't leak into groundwater. And it is the EPA's public funds for toxic waste disposal (taxpayers' money), the study notes, that will end up being used to clean up these sites in the future.



Number of hazardous chemical waste dumps that should have stopped accepting wastes after November 8, 1985.

Judge jails woman who feared testifying in rape trial

A judge in Pasco, Washington, twice jailed a woman because she was too frightened to testify against the man accused of raping her.

On June 24, Judge Albert Yencopal ordered the woman jailed after she indicated that she would rather leave town with her two children than testify, because she was afraid of seeing the defendant in court.

The next day, the woman entered the courtroom, distraught and crying, and again refused to testify. The judge found her in contempt of court and sentenced her to 30 days in the county jail.

The judge said he would free her as soon as she agreed to testify.

L.S. Moore, the chief prosecutor, said he saw no alternative to jailing the woman, although "I hate to see the victim treated worse than the defendant."

The woman's lawyer called the judge's action, "the most unusual case I've ever seen."

Outrage at the woman's treatment forced the judge to release her after she had spent three days in jail. He admitted that jailing her constituted further victimization.

The U.S.-New Zealand rift

The U.S. government has turned up the pressure on New Zealand. In early 1985 Prime Minister David Lange, leader of the New Zealand Labour Party, barred U.S. nuclear-armed ships from the country's waters. He acted after popular protests against the entry of such ships.

The Reagan administration responded last year by forcing cancellation of scheduled naval exercises by the ANZUS powers (Australia, the United States, and New Zealand). The 1951 ANZUS treaty is part of the network of military pacts Washington forged with other imperialist powers and with semicolonial regimes after World War II to isolate and threaten the Soviet Union and China and prevent the further spread of successful revolutions.

Now Washington has upped the ante in the conflict with Lange, declaring that the U.S. government no longer regards New Zealand as an ally. And members of Congress are threatening action against imports from New Zealand.

Lange's government helped expose the French government's responsibility for the July 1985 bombing in a New Zealand harbor of the *Rainbow Warrior*, a ship used by the Greenpeace organization to protest French nuclear testing in the Pacific. This also irritated other imperialist powers.

Despite yielding to public opinion on these nuclear weapons issues, Lange strongly favors a military alliance with Washington to protect the imperialist interests of the New Zealand ruling class in the South Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Washington's stance toward New Zealand is intended

to intimidate other governments that might be tempted to adopt similar antinuclear stands to appease popular sentiment, which is fueled by fear of a nuclear disaster. "I'd hate to see the New Zealand example spread," Shultz said.

The secretary of state arrogantly defended the U.S. right to send nuclear-armed warships where it wants, when it wants, and without notice. "We don't have ships with nuclear weapons because we like it. We have them because the United States has a responsibility to deter aggression, and that comes from the Soviet Union."

Washington has nuclear weapons in order to preserve and, if possible, expand its world empire. That is also why it has an estimated 517 military bases and other military installations in the Pacific Ocean region. That is why it is the only country in the world that has used nuclear weapons.

Nicaragua, Libya, Vietnam, the Soviet Union, China, and others are targets of this vast military machine because they have challenged or broken free from imperialist domination. This full array of military firepower is also designed to intimidate any country that might follow their example.

The price of this worldwide aggression is paid by workers and farmers everywhere. And even imperialist governments such as Lange's land on Washington's enemies list if they yield to popular demands to be free of such weapons of mass death.

Working people here should oppose all moves to pressure New Zealand.

Washington's nuclear arsenal should be dismantled now.

Top border cop smears Mexico

"The border is a monster, growing, feeding on itself," Roger Brandemeuhl, head of the U.S. Border Patrol, recently said of the U.S. border with Mexico.

Brandemeuhl was quoted in a June 26 *New York Times* article that reports plans by Washington to use massive military and civilian personnel and new hardware to "patrol" the Mexican border.

This is the latest contribution to the Mexico-bashing campaign of the Reagan administration. The racist campaign slanders the Mexican people as corrupt, drug pushers, and "illegal aliens."

The day before Brandemeuhl spoke about uncontrolled border violence, the House Judiciary Committee approved yet another version of an anti-immigrant bill. Like previous versions, it would make undocumented workers even more vulnerable to superexploitation and victimization by making it an offense for employers to "knowingly" hire them.

Last month, the Treasury Department announced that a massive step-up of border patrol activities was "imminent." The announcement said that there would be large increases in federal personnel at the border, as well as the purchase of new aircraft, vehicles, communications equipment, and weapons.

The U.S. government is trying to make Mexico toe the line, including supporting U.S. policy in Central America. And Washington is putting pressure on the Mexican government to squeeze the already hard-pressed workers and peasants in order to ante up payments to the imperialist banks on Mexico's massive foreign debt.

The U.S. government's campaign to make undocumented workers from Mexico the scapegoats for unemployment in the United States weakens the labor movement. This campaign aims to deepen the division between "legal" and "illegal workers" and opens both up to greater exploitation and erosion of rights.

This anti-Mexican, anti-immigrant campaign also exposes the government's and employers' hypocritical hoopla around July 4th and the Statue of Liberty celebrations.

Washington's vicious campaign to bully Mexico and victimize undocumented workers should be vigorously opposed by all working people. The labor movement should campaign against spending a single penny to beef up the racist, brutal, and corrupt Border Patrol and Immigration and Naturalization Service. The unions should wage a united fight against all deportations and for an open border, so that any working person can come here to work — without fear and with equal rights.

Anti-gay ruling hits rights

Continued from front page

igay witch-hunt and predicted this would now be stepped up.

Fear, ignorance, and prejudice will surely be promoted by the Supreme Court decision. The ruling came in the case of Michael Hardwick, who had been arrested in his Atlanta bedroom while assertedly having sexual relations with another man.

Prosecution of Hardwick was dropped, but he challenged his arrest on grounds of invasion of privacy. He was sustained by a federal appeals court, and Georgia officials then took the case to the Supreme Court, which has now upheld it.

The court's decision is ridden with naked bigotry.

Speaking for the majority, Justice Byron White offered arguments why homosexuals are not entitled to the constitutionally protected right of the privacy of the bedroom.

In a concurring opinion, Chief Justice Warren Burger added:

"As the Court notes, the proscriptions against sodomy have 'very ancient roots'.... Condemnation of those practices is firmly rooted in Judeo-Christian moral and ethical standards. Homosexual sodomy was a capital crime under Roman law...."

"To hold that the act of homosexual sodomy is somehow protected as a fundamental right would be to cast aside millennia of moral teaching."

In a sharply worded dissent, Justice Harry Blackmun declared the issue was not sodomy, but the most basic of rights, "The right to be let alone."

The majority, he pointed out, "claims that its decision today merely refuses to recognize a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy; what the Court really has refused to recognize is the fundamental interest all individuals have in controlling the nature of their intimate association with others."

In insisting there is no constitutional right to engage in homosexual sex, the high court majority carefully avoided affirming the rights of homosexuals in other areas. This is an unmistakable invitation to challenge laws banning discrimination against homosexuals in jobs, housing, and other areas.

Indeed, Noach Dear, a New York City Council member who led an unsuccessful fight against a gay rights ordinance earlier this year, jubilantly declared, "This is the best decision ever made."

The full meaning of the reactionary decision becomes clear in the context of the ongoing drive against the rights of women, oppressed nationalities, and working people in general. It is an urgent reminder of the need to redouble our efforts to defend and advance all these rights.

Since the 1960s, homosexual rights have gained significant ground. Despite the savage Supreme Court attack, those hard-won rights will not be easily eradicated.

In New York, there was an immediate, vigorous response. On less than 24 hours' notice, well over a thousand protesters rallied at Sheridan Square, a traditional scene of gay rights demonstrations. They marched to the busy intersection of Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street and sat down, shutting off traffic for several hours.

One woman voiced the prevailing mood: "We're not going back into the closet!"

Augusto César Sandino: hero of Nicaraguan people

BY FRED FELDMAN

In his drive to win congressional backing for massive open arms aid to the *contra* war against Nicaragua, Reagan charged June 24 that the Sandinistas had "even betrayed the memory of the Nicaraguan rebel leader Sandino, whose legacy they falsely claim. For the real Sandino — because he was a genuine nationalist — was opposed to communism." This is a brazen lie.

Augusto César Sandino was born in 1893. His father was a farmer. His mother was a domestic servant.

At various times Sandino worked as a warehouseman,

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

banana plantation worker, and (in Mexico) an oilfield worker.

In 1909 U.S. troops helped the ultra-reactionary Conservative Party oust a government headed by the Liberal Party. The Conservative Party was led by a landowning aristocracy that had taken root under Spanish rule. The liberals represented more modern agricultural capitalists. In 1912 U.S. troops crushed a popular revolt led by Liberal Party supporters.

Like many other nationalists, Sandino backed the Liberal Party.

In 1925 a Conservative Party ruler tried to suppress Liberal influence. This sparked an uprising, led by Liberals, including Anastasio Somoza. The U.S. invaded with nearly 5,000 troops to prop up the Conservative government.

Sandino formed a guerrilla unit that won strong support from banana plantation workers on the Atlantic Coast.

In 1927 Washington engineered a settlement calling for U.S.-supervised elections and the turning over of arms to the U.S. Marines until Washington completed the organization of an "independent" National Guard.

The only Liberal commander to reject the agreement as betraying independence was Sandino. He said that ending imperialist domination, not replacing one proimperialist party in office with another, was the issue in the war. The revolutionary fighters who supported him formed the Army in Defense of the National Sovereignty of Nicaragua.

Sandino favored a thoroughgoing agrarian reform. In the areas under rebel control, land that had been plundered from peasants to form coffee plantations was returned to them. Sandino fostered the organization of unions and peasant cooperatives and called for nationalization of the land.

He was a revolutionary democrat who relied on the fighting power of the workers and peasants. At this time, the Nicaraguan working class was new, small, and dispersed. The first Nicaraguan workers' party was formed in 1929, in part under the inspiration of the revolt led by Sandino, which it supported.

Despite air strikes and other attacks on peasant villages, the U.S. troops and the U.S.-created National Guard could not defeat the peasant-based rebel army, which eventually had 6,000 fighters. In 1933 Washington was forced to withdraw its troops and allow the Liberal Juan Sacasa to become president. Sandino agreed to a cease-fire.

Washington now placed the National Guard under the command of Anastasio Somoza, the first Nicaraguan to head these trained killers.

Sandino's position was weakened by popular illusions that the withdrawal of U.S. troops and defeat of the Conservative Party aristocrats meant that Nicaragua had won its freedom. Sandino pointed out, however, that there were still three powers contending in Nicaragua: "One controlled by the president of the republic, one by the National Guard, and mine."

Somoza issued an ultimatum that Sandino's troops give up all arms. Sandino said no.

On Feb. 21, 1934, Somoza held a series of meetings with U.S. Ambassador Arthur Lane. That night Sandino and a group of his generals were shot dead by a National Guard unit as they were leaving the presidential palace in Managua.

A brutal offensive against Sandino's supporters followed. In 1936 a coup placed Somoza in the presidency and established the murderous proimperialist dynasty that was toppled in 1979.

The Sandinista workers' and peasants' government in Nicaragua today is completing the work that Sandino began — freeing the country from the economic, military, and political domination of imperialism. The Nicaraguan revolution demonstrated the truth of Sandino's words:

"Only the workers and peasants will go all the way to the end. Only their organized force will achieve victory."

Roy Innis: reactionary mouthpiece of U.S. rulers

At the first celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day in January, there was a lot of anger from some leaders of the Black community at remarks made by Ronald Reagan on that day. I couldn't understand why all the hoopla. The remarks I read didn't seem any more racist or stupid



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Rashaad Ali

than others Reagan has made concerning Black people. I thought it was significant that the Gipper had to suck it in and sign the King holiday law that he opposed in the first place.

It wasn't until Roy Innis, chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), entered the September 9 Democratic Party primary against Brooklyn Congressman Major Owens that the whole uproar around the King celebration made any sense.

Innis' campaign literature quotes Reagan saying at the time: "In saluting Martin Luther King, I also salute those who, like Roy Innis, have picked up the banner that fell 18 years ago from the hands of the slain Dr. King. Roy Innis is a worthy successor to the Nobel Peace Prize winner."

Now I saw why so many Blacks were pissed off. The idea that this joker would try to put an equal sign between King and Roy Innis is almost laughable, if it wasn't another example of Reagan's racist arrogance.

To Blacks and other working people, King symbolizes the victorious battles that led to the defeat of the apartheid-like Jim Crow segregation system in the South.

But who is Roy Innis? What does he represent?

First, Innis is a strong supporter of Reagan's foreign policy. Innis, for example, is opposed to the anti-apartheid movement's demand that the U.S. government im-

pose economic sanctions against South Africa. "I do not favor some calls by leftist radicals in this country," he explained, "that we provide the African National Congress with material support in their war to topple the Botha government. The ANC has communists in their leadership ranks and I am not going to help deliver [South Africa] to the Soviets."

The African National Congress is leading the struggle for a democratic, nonracial South Africa.

Before reaffirming his support for the Reagan administration's aid to Nicaraguan *contras* "and other freedom fighters fighting communist expansion throughout the world," Innis said, "I know there are true Black freedom fighters within South Africa right now. I am willing to go to that country to look for and support these true freedom fighters."

I assume that by "true freedom fighters" he means those like Gatsha Buthelezi and the government-backed vigilantes fighting against the anti-apartheid fighters in South Africa.

This reactionary stand on South Africa is no different from his earlier stance taken during the Angolan civil war in the mid-1970s. He supported the South African-backed National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA), and as the Dec. 12, 1975, *Washington Post* reported, Innis acknowledged he was recruiting Black mercenaries to fight with the UNITA terrorists in Angola.

This counterrevolutionary action by Innis caused a number of CORE activists to leave the organization, including its former chair, James Farmer.

Sam Pinn, chairman of Brooklyn CORE, explained that it was over these events that the chapter disaffiliated from the national organization.

Innis' support for UNITA in the '70s has been extended to his support for the U.S. government's aid to the terrorist gang today.

Second, Innis is an opponent of affirmative action, school desegregation, and welfare for the poor, as well as being an active campaigner against crime — by that he means favoring more cops in the Black community.

He supported the gun-toting vigilante Bernhard Goetz,

who tried to kill four Black youths on a New York subway Dec. 22, 1984. Goetz came to the news conference where Innis announced his campaign.

Innis said of Goetz, "You cannot make a criminal out of a decent man for defending his life." This was after all evidence showed that his life was not in danger and that these four Black youths had no weapons.

Goetz had pledged to generate "publicity" for Innis' candidacy. "Roy stands for the basic needs of people," Goetz said, and "if I thought I was hurting Roy, I wouldn't be here."

His association with a rightist is not new. Just a few weeks before Innis announced his campaign, CORE moved its national headquarters to Brooklyn. At a press conference announcing the opening of the office, a representative of the National Rifle Association came and donated funds to CORE's National Crime Fighter's Crusade Victim-Witness Advocacy Center.

Brooklyn CORE Chairman Sam Pinn says, "He [Innis] has a long history of flirting with the right," including the fascist outfit led by Lyndon LaRouche.

Innis has been emboldened by the ideological offensive of the rulers against the rights of Blacks and other working people. His rantings that Blacks in the United States are "overwhelming at the political center," as opposed to Black leaders, who are "politically to the left," is not aimed at these leaders but at Black workers who think we have a right to affirmative action and jobs and should oppose the U.S. government's war policies.

Roy Innis is proof positive that a person like Clarence Pendleton, chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, is not some Black person gone nuts. The Black nationality is class-divided and polarized like society as a whole.

Since the victory of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, which was led by Martin Luther King and others, the Black middle class has grown substantially. The politics of many have become reactionary as their concerns and those of the masses of Blacks, who are working people, diverge.

It is this middle-class layer that Innis and Reagan are attempting to appeal to.

Show of solidarity gains victory in Cleveland

BY SCOTT WARE

CLEVELAND — Working people here, both Black and white, scored a major victory June 25 when a grand jury refused to indict Michael Spraggins on charges of felonious assault. Spraggins, a 23-year-old Black man, was arrested June 10 after he was forced to defend himself and his friends, the Armstrong family, from a mob of beer-drinking, bottle-throwing white racists.

After repeated calls to police, which produced no results, Spraggins fired at the crowd with a shotgun, wounding eight of

the thugs, none seriously.

Cleveland has experienced an upsurge in racist attacks and harassment in the last year. Spraggins' willingness to stand up and defend himself inspired the Black community here, which mobilized in his defense.

This outcry in the Black community produced an unprecedented response by residents in the West 88th Street neighborhood, where the incident occurred.

Appalled by the racism they had seen in their community, a number of local resi-

dents organized a petition drive and public meeting to repudiate racism. On June 17 more than 300 people packed the Simpson Methodist Church on West 86th Street. Leaders of the petition drive announced that 75 percent of the residents on West 88th Street had signed a statement that apologized to the Armstrong family for the months of racist abuse they had suffered.

Confronted by an upsurge in the Black community and a clear repudiation of their behavior, the racists backed down. Seven of the eight apologized to Mrs. Armstrong and announced that they would not press

charges against Spraggins.

Their testimony to this effect at the grand jury session on June 25 was a decisive factor in the jury's decision not to issue an indictment.

Although Spraggins' action was in self-defense, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and several TV stations have expressed disappointment that he was not indicted. The city administration has not said a word in support of Spraggins.

On July 1 all charges of assault against Spraggins were dropped in municipal court.

LETTERS

Questions on Philippines

Concerning your Will Reissner article "3 months since the overthrow of Philippines dictatorship," I have some questions:

First, you state, "The murder of Aquino brought large numbers of middle-class people into the streets for the first time, alongside workers and other impoverished layers."

I have the impression that if I was there in the Philippines looking at the people in the streets on whatever day it was that it was not a mostly middle-class crowd. What is the basis for this statement? It seems to me to be an idealist one: Aquino was a bourgeois figure, ergo his murder got the middle-class people (reformists) particularly upset, not proletarians (revolutionaries) as proletarians have a different program. So, as we Marxists oppose proletarian subservience to the liberal bourgeoisie, it therefore must be that the protests against the murder were largely middle-class-based. Whether the people who were actually protesting were middle-class or not — the material reality of the situation — has nothing to do with it. Is this not how you determined that the protests were middle-class?

In addition, what is your definition of middle-class, i.e., above

and beyond people who protest political murders of bourgeois figures? Did those people on the street that day have higher incomes, wear nicer clothes, were they Filipino yuppies, pour out of Manila office buildings, or what? As middle class — a term used by bourgeois sociologists — is taken to mean an income level, I would remind you that many union members make more than college professors. And, have you now decided that the middle class is not part of the working class?

If there is a middle class in the Philippines, what is your evidence that on that day they got involved in the struggle — above and beyond, of course, some supposed Marxist First Principle?

You also state: "Aquino and Ramos had to grit their teeth through a rendition of the Internationale, the working-class national anthem."

Is there a picture of this? Or does it follow from some "Marxist" First Principle: Aquino is bourgeois, ergo she hates working-class songs, and like all bourgeois, she, by definition, grits her teeth when such music is played.

It seems to me you are making things up and passing them off as news, things which do not take place but which fit nicely into your schema as to how events should

be.

You will say that these are little things. That is not the point. The point is: are you conscious of making things up to fit your interpretations or not? How often do you do this, and to what extent do you substitute your desired "in theory" version of events for the real events?

Other than that I like your paper a lot, and I thought the article on the strike at the state enterprise in Nicaragua was one of the most interesting I've read in a long time. *Stansfield Smith*
Chicago, Illinois

Sincere reader

I have been a sincere reader of your very motivating newspaper, the *Militant*, ever since I picked up an issue from a companion comrade of mine. I was moved by an article concerning Winnie Mandela and her life of struggle.

I am presently in a statewide box due to my refusal to cooperate with the racist system. I refuse to accept "the man's" abuse and submit to his threats. Literally I'm one of the very few individuals who have continued to rebel until we obtain our "promised land, where we all will be free" and not let the racist administration from Reagan on down to the lackeys break me.

I would like to request an extended subscription to your motivating paper because your paper is the only thing that adds life and light to my dark world.

May all of the oppressed one day come together in solidarity. We shall conquer without doubt!

A prisoner
Comstock, New York

Rain prayers

Regarding your "Great Society" report on the Salt Lake Day for Prayer to stop the heavy rains, which are causing the lake to rise, I was surprised to read you hadn't heard the outcome. It was reported on NBC and CBS.

The day of prayer was also one of the heaviest rains of the year. It rained cats and dogs, . . . or . . . pitchforks, maybe?

Jack Bresée
Fordland, Missouri

Shocked with anger

After reading the article "Apartheid killers attack Black town" in the June 6, 1986, issue of the *Militant* and reading in the same issue, "Shantytown vandalized at University of Washington," I was shocked with anger.

Not at the articles, which were expertly done. But at the thought of knowing that in this so-called

liberal society, in some of the highest and most advanced institutes of knowledge, there are people who advocate apartheid and use such terrorist acts as bombing and vandalizing. They can be no more than genocidal killers themselves.

A prisoner
San Quentin, California

Correction

A picture caption on page 7 of the July 4, 1986, *Militant* incorrectly identified Andimba Toivo ja Toivo, a central leader of the Namibian independence struggle.

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Women miners back Hormel fight

BY KIPP DAWSON

PAINTSVILLE, Ky. — From the time Hormel striker Carl Benson and his wife Susan arrived at the Eighth National Women Miners Conference, they found themselves surrounded by P-9 supporters.

Many of the miners from Alabama, Illinois, West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Utah had heard Carl Benson and other P-9ers speak about the strike during highly successful tours of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) locals and districts this spring.

More than 300 women miners and their supporters attended the conference, which was sponsored by the Coal Employment Project (CEP).

Participants included women miners from Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

A highlight of this year's gathering was the participation of Ann Scargill, Betty Heathfield, Betty Cook, and Gwen White from Women Against Pit Closures in Britain.

Scargill's husband, Arthur, is president of the National Union of Miners (NUM) in Britain. Heathfield's husband is the NUM's general secretary.

Some of the Utah miners had stopped off at Solidarity City in Austin, Minnesota, on their way to Paintsville.

Members of the newly formed P-9 Support Committee at UMWA Local 1197 in Eighty-four, Pennsylvania, joined miners from several states in escorting the Bensons around the conference and helping to staff the P-9 table.

As Carl Benson told the 60 people crammed into a special conference session to see the video on the meatpackers' strike, *We're Not Gonna Take It*, the Hormel strikers quickly established a bond with the many UMWA members they met during

their travels and found themselves deepening that bond at the conference.

Benson's coalfield tour included a stop-off in the southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky region where UMWA members fought a long strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co. That strike ended late last year.

He also visited picket lines at the Canterbury mines in Pennsylvania, where UMWA members have been on a long strike.

Benson reported that many miners had told him that Hormel products had not been allowed in their homes since the strike began last fall.

Benson told the miners that he is under a court order not to promote the Hormel boycott, which he is obeying. He described what he called "the unbelievable attacks P-9 is confronting, not only from Hormel, but from the courts, and also from the International officers of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union [UFCW]."

Benson described the escalating UFCW attacks on both P-9 and the United Support Group, a committee made up largely of the spouses of P-9 members, which raises money for strikers' families.

He said that when the UFCW officials moved in to prevent the strikers from having access to food they had collected for their families, he was "forced to change my mind" and support the campaign now under way to decertify the UFCW as the bargaining agent for workers at the Austin plant.

"They gave us no choice, if there was to be a real union at that plant," he explained.

At the final plenary session of the conference, Susan Benson was enthusiastically applauded when she told the miners how much she had learned during the strike and at the conference.

"Little did I know," she said, "that when apartheid was introduced in South Africa in



Militant/Kathy Mickells

Local P-9 member Carl Benson and Hormel strike supporter Susan Benson at eighth annual conference of Coal Employment Project. Women coal miners attending conference passed resolution supporting Minnesota meatpackers' battle against Hormel.

1948, it affected my life. I have learned that an injustice to one is an injustice to all.

"When the National Guard came to our town — Austin, Minnesota — with armored tanks and Jeeps ready to attack my friends and my family, I learned that this sort of injustice is not that far from home. If injustice exists anywhere, it exists everywhere, and if you are not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

In describing the efforts of the P-9 wives in Austin, she called on conference participants to recognize the power of "woman force" to take on that injustice around the world.

She described it as a "force powerful enough to conquer when joined with the

power of the sleeping giant — labor — which is beginning to awaken."

Pam Schube, a CEP leader from Chandler, Indiana, who had just been elected to represent the Midwest on the CEP advisers board, presented a motion "to support the Hormel strikers and boycott" and "to join as union brothers and sisters to put an end to the persecution of the labor unions worldwide."

Schube called on miners to see the connection between the Hormel strike and the ongoing battles to defend the UMWA and its members "against the A.T. Massey Coal Co. and would-be union-busters."

The motion was unanimously adopted by the assembled miners, many of whom had purchased P-9 T-shirts, buttons, stickers, and bumper stickers during the weekend.

The Bensons continued to build ties and plan mutual support activities with the former Massey strikers and their families who were at the conference from Kentucky and West Virginia. They also found much common ground to build on with the four representatives of Women Against Pit Closures from Britain who attended the conference.

Next week's *Militant* will contain a full report on the CEP conference.

Kipp Dawson is a member of UMWA Local 1197 in Eighty-four, Pennsylvania.

West Coast conference on S. Africa calls for anti-apartheid protest

BY GEORGES SAYAD

SAN FRANCISCO — On June 27 through 29, 350 delegates attended the West Coast Regional Conference in Solidarity With the Struggling Peoples of Southern Africa, held at San Francisco State University.

The conference was organized by anti-apartheid groups in the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, Portland, Seattle, and Tucson, Arizona, in cooperation with the African National Congress (ANC) and South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

More than 100 trade unions along with union officials, churches, politicians, political parties, students, Central American solidarity groups, and others also sponsored the gathering.

Delegations of auto workers, steelworkers, oil workers, longshoremen, and other unionists were present, as well as members of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

The conference included delegations from West Coast colleges and from religious and community organizations in the region.

Three days of workshops, panels, and discussions culminated in a resolution, adopted unanimously at the final plenary session, mapping out a campaign to mobilize thousands of people on the West Coast to demand full and immediate sanctions by the U.S. government against South Africa.

The resolution calls for regional demonstrations on August 9, South African Women's Day; August 26, Namibian Women's Day; October 11, South African Political Prisoners' Day; and October 27,

the anniversary of the UN mandate for immediate South African withdrawal from Namibia. After some discussion, October 11 was targeted as the major date to mobilize working people against apartheid.

At the Friday night opening session, delegates were welcomed by Jamal, of the S.F. State University General Union of Palestinian Students; Doris Ward, San Francisco Board of Supervisors; and Rev. Martin Rosel, secretary of the San Francisco religious council.

Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the city's labor council, also brought greetings. Pledging to help carry out the conference decisions, Johnson declared, "Let us do it [impose sanctions against South Africa], do it now, and do it completely."

Greetings were also read from Willie Brown, speaker of the California Assembly; Rep. Mervyn Dymally; and others.

Other speakers were John George, chairman of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement and a member of Alameda County Board of Supervisors; Gus Newport, mayor of Berkeley; Keith Carson, an aide to Rep. Ronald Dellums; and Robert Chrisman, editor of the *Black Scholar* magazine.

Hidipo Hamutenya, minister of information and publicity of SWAPO, told the crowd that the conference "is a testimony to the fact that SWAPO and the ANC have allies in the United States."

"Namibia is the colonial backyard of South Africa. The South African occupation army has carried out numerous atrocities there, yet for the last 20 years SWAPO has been carrying out the guerrilla struggle, which has forced South Africa to

deploy 100,000 men in Namibia," he said.

"This war," he continued, "is part of the struggle against apartheid. We are stretching the resources and power of the fascist state."

Hamutenya concluded by stating that by
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New York socialist campaign sets petitioning goals

BY VICTOR WALTERS

NEW YORK — A big effort to discuss socialist politics with the working people of New York State was launched here June 28 at a campaign rally for the 1986 Socialist Workers Party statewide election ticket. More than 80 people turned out to hear Theresa Delgadillo, SWP candidate for governor, and Mike Shur, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate.

The rally heard ambitious plans to hit the streets of New York State to collect thousands more signatures than the 20,000 required to place Mike Shur's name on the November ballot, along with that of Jim Callahan who is running for Congress in upstate New York. The drive, a campaign of the entire party, will be supported by a national team of volunteers.

Delgadillo, a 26-year-old garment worker, explained that big-business candidates like incumbent Democratic Governor Mario Cuomo and Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato offer working

people "nothing but more of the same. More war, attacks on Black and women's rights, union-busting, and farm foreclosures."

Shur told the rally that the June 26 congressional vote to provide \$100 million to Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries was "a vote for more murder and destruction of the Nicaraguan people and their country. It goes hand in hand with Washington's refusal to impose full economic sanctions on the apartheid regime in South Africa."

"These are the kinds of issues we will discuss with workers and farmers across the state as we petition to get on the ballot," said Shur.

The petitioning will begin July 8 and continue through the end of the month. Three Saturdays, beginning July 12, have been set as major target dates to collect signatures. Throughout each week the socialist campaigners will be on the streets with literature tables and campaign mater-

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