

Important victory for affirmative action

BY HARRY RING

The Supreme Court decision upholding affirmative-action programs as a remedy for job discrimination against Blacks, Latinos, and other oppressed national minorities, is a victory for all working people. It will help promote greater solidarity within the labor movement and strengthen the unions in resisting the ongoing antilabor offensive.

Two July 2 decisions upheld the use of numerical quotas and goals as key remedies in compensating for past discrimination in hiring and promotion practices and in breaking into lily-white skilled trades.

The high court specifically rejected the Reagan administration's racist argument that hiring and promotion quotas and goals are illegal and that relief can be granted only to specifically identified victims of discrimination.

The administration's argument has been a thinly disguised legalism in its fight to destroy affirmative action, a proven weapon in combating discrimination.

The Supreme Court rulings involved a New York sheet metal workers' union with a long history of discrimination and the Cleveland fire department, which had systematically discriminated against Blacks and Latinos in hiring and promotions.

In the sheet metal case, the court divided 5-4, and in the Cleveland case, 6-3.

In the case of Local 28 of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, AFL-CIO, the justices upheld a lower court order that the union increase its nonwhite membership to 29.23 percent by August of next year. The percentage reflects the composition of the available labor pool in the area where the local operates.

In the case of the Cleveland fire fighters, a consent decree was upheld under which the city agreed that, for a period, it would give preference to Blacks and Hispanics in promotions, without being restricted by seniority lists or test results.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended in 1972, provides that the courts may order an affirmative-action program

Continued on Page 8

New union organizing drive at Austin Hormel plant

BY MAGGIE McCRAW
AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

AUSTIN, Minn., July 8 — "The strike is over, but the struggle continues." This is the message the Austin Hormel workers are spreading.

At a support-group meeting here tonight, over 200 meatpackers and their supporters broke into applause when Pete Kennedy, a charter member of the North American Meat Packers Union (NAMPU), announced that on July 7 they had filed over 600 signatures with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The signatures, gathered in one week among workers both inside and outside the Hormel plant, represent the 30 percent of all Hormel workers required to call a recertification election.

A piece of literature distributed to workers in the Hormel plant opened with the following: "A large group of P-9 members feel that the internal struggle between Local P-9 and the UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers) should not reduce efforts to fight against concessions and

U.S.-backed terrorists step up Nicaragua war

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In what government officials here call "the bloodiest terrorist action this year," mercenaries financed by Washington blew up a truck filled with peasants July 3. Twelve children, 12 women, and 8 men were murdered. All 32 were civilians. Eighteen of the victims belonged to a single family.

The peasants were traveling a road in Jinotega Province in northern Nicaragua. The counterrevolutionaries spotted them and detonated a mine by remote control. One victim, Salvadora Gutierrez, died together with her five-month-old baby. Her husband explained to reporters that out of fear of the U.S.-backed terrorists, Salvadora rarely ever left her home. But on July 3, she decided to make a trip to see her mother.

The same day other mercenaries, also in the pay of the U.S. government, opened fire on the passenger boat that ferries working people from the town of Rama in central Nicaragua to the port of Bluefields on the Atlantic Coast. A peasant woman was murdered in the attack, and seven other people were wounded.

The Nicaraguan Ministry of the Interior reported that mercenary units have infiltrated the Coast recently from both Honduras and Costa Rica. The group Pro-War KISAN, said the ministry, had carried out seven attacks on Sandinista army troops in the Río Coco northern border region. The group MISURASATA had attacked the community of Alamikamba in central Northern Zelaya Province, killing five people.

The ministry also warned that the U.S.-backed mercenaries were planning to assassinate leaders of those armed Miskitos who have entered a cease-fire and dialogue with the Nicaraguan government. Progress continues to be made in this dialogue. In June, 150 members of Pro-War KISAN deserted and returned to Nicaragua to join the cease-fire. And 4,500 of the 12,000 Miskitos that Pro-War KISAN forced across the border into Honduras in April have now returned to their communities on the Río Coco.

The July 3 slaughter in northern Nicaragua and on the boat to Bluefields occurred less than two weeks after the U.S. House



Contra camp in Honduras

of Representatives approved \$100 million for the mercenaries it claims are "freedom fighters." The Sandinistas declared at the time of that vote that the U.S. aggression against Nicaragua was entering a new and more dangerous stage. They said Nicaragua's revolutionary government would have to change some policies in order to defend the revolution.

Following the House vote, the government here suspended publication of the

pro-U.S. government daily *La Prensa* and denied Catholic priest Bismark Carballo the right to return to Nicaragua. Carballo has been the right-hand man of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the main internal spokesman of the counterrevolution here.

The government said that both *La Prensa* and Carballo had promoted the mercenary war and financial aid for the terrorists, violating Nicaraguan law. The Sandinistas

Continued on Page 4

National antiwar actions to take place Oct. 25

BY THABO NTWENG

National antiwar actions have been called for October 25.

A July 9 meeting in Philadelphia of a coalition for Actions for Peace, Jobs, and Justice called on antiwar, anti-apartheid, labor, religious, and student activists to build the protests. The actions will demand an end to the U.S. war on Nicaragua, the breaking of all U.S. ties to the apartheid regime in South Africa, abolition of nuclear weapons, and creation of jobs by cutting the arms budget.

The coalition is working with other groups to organize protests in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and many other cities. The coalition is composed of dozens of organizations, including peace, antiwar, anti-apartheid, labor, student, and religious groups.

The antiwar actions provide a big opening and opportunity for opponents of the U.S. war on Nicaragua to respond to Washington's stepped-up attacks on the people of that country.

There is a growing commitment by the U.S. ruling class to overthrow the workers' and farmers' government in Nicaragua. That was the meaning of the June 25 House of Representatives vote to give \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan mercenaries known as the *contras*.

The once-critical *New York Times* now supports Reagan's "freedom fighters"

and declared war on the Sandinista government in a July 10 editorial entitled "The Sandinista Road to Stalinism."

The liberal editors wrote: "The Sandinistas ask us to believe that Congress's full support for the Nicaraguan 'contras' is forcing them to crack down further on free thought and speech. We don't believe it . . . Only the credulous can fail to see the long roots of the police state now emerging . . . If a Stalinist tyranny was not the original aim, how can it serve the regime's security to alienate important segments of Nicaraguan society?"

In response to Washington's escalating aggression, Víctor Tirado, a member of the Sandinistas' top leadership, said the Nicaraguan people would continue to defend and advance the revolution. "All we ask," he said in a July 2 speech, "is active and committed solidarity in this struggle, which is an integral part of the struggle for peace and progress in the world."

And Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said after the contra-aid vote that "the U.S. government has for all practical purposes declared war on Nicaragua."

On April 20 last year over 100,000 people responded to the call for mass antiwar, anti-apartheid protests. This is what's required today. Trade unionists, students, farmers, and all opponents of U.S. worldwide aggression should begin now building for October 25.

Continued on Page 12

Good results from regular sales at coal mines

BY NORTON SANDLER

Socialist workers who sell the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* regularly at coal-mine portals report that they get good results.

The Price, Utah, branch of the

Charlene Adamson from Price explains that they carry a sign along on the sale, which helps get the attention of the miners driving to work. The sign will point out an international event covered in the

John Harris from Morgantown, West Virginia, reports that they sell from two to five papers a week at the Emerald mine just across the state line in Pennsylvania. A Black woman miner buys the paper each time.

Harris says that the *Militant's* consistent coverage of the battle that Austin, Minnesota, meat-packers are waging against Geo. A. Hormel & Co. draws a lot of interest from the miners. Workers wanting information on the P-9 fight look to the *Militant* and *PM* for information, since the major U.S. media tried to bury the story a long time ago.

Socialists in Birmingham,

Alabama, have been selling regularly at the Chetopa mine in nearby Walker County. One or two miners buy the paper on each sale.

Sometimes miners stop to talk to salespeople about what is going on in the mine. This happened recently at the Racine mine near Charleston, where one miner stopped to explain that there is a big discussion going on in the mine about how to fight the company's threat to lay off a number of people.

Several areas report that they are discussing ways to expand portal sales.

Sales at mine portals, rail yards,

mills, and factories are the main way socialists have of getting out our ideas to workers each week.

Workers who read the paper regularly get a broader outlook on national and international politics.

Often the only way workers in struggle in different parts of the country initially communicate with each other is through the pages of the *Militant* and *PM*.

Many of these workers come to identify the two papers as their papers.

The consistent efforts to take the papers to the mine portals demonstrate the potential that exists to develop an important regular readership for the *Militant* and *PM* among industrial workers.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

Socialist Workers Party organizes two or three sales at the mines each week. Sales are often organized on Saturday afternoons because many miners are being forced to work a mandatory sixth day.

particular issue of the paper they are selling.

For example, the sign might say, "Read about the U.S. war against Nicaragua" or "Break all ties with apartheid." She says they sell 3 or 4 papers most times out.

Toledo rally protests abortion-clinic bombing

BY MARIAN CARR

TOLEDO — About 100 defenders of abortion rights rallied here on June 26 to protest the firebombing of the Center for Choice, an abortion clinic. The clinic was totally destroyed by fire a month earlier, suffering over \$160,000 in damages.

The fundraising rally and reception was held at the University of Toledo Scott Park Campus cafeteria and was sponsored by Responsible Choice/Northwest Ohio. Responsible Choice is a coalition that was founded in 1980 and successfully organized to defeat an antiabortion referendum. It was revived at a meeting called by the executive director of Planned Parenthood following the arson of the Center for Choice.

The June 26 event was the broadest and most spirited event in defense of abortion rights to be held here in years. Participants applauded loudly as chairperson Gere Fulton, the director of the university's health services department, introduced Carol Dunn, the owner of the Center for Choice.

Dunn thanked the crowd for their help and support. She pledged that the staff would continue to provide abortion services if others would continue to defend them.

Sandy Craig, the chairperson of the Toledo chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, threw his organization's support behind the defense efforts. He was wearing a brightly colored T-shirt put out by the Center for Choice that said, "Stop terrorism," and had on it the date and exact time of the clinic firebombing.

Two union leaders sent messages to the gathering. Jerald Weidinger, the business representative of International Association of Machinists District 57, sent a message urging unionists to support the efforts to stop the violence against abortion clinics and defend civil liberties.

Dan Thomas, vice-president of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 544, had sent a letter to about 50 unions in Toledo urging

their support. The letter, which was read at the rally, said, "Many labor unions have taken a prochoice position. These unions recognize the link between the women's rights movement and the labor movement and are helping to forge a strong alliance." The letter was cosigned by Phil Schmidt, an attorney who coordinates Responsible Choice. It suggested that local unions pass resolutions condemning the attacks on the abortion clinics and take up collections to help rebuild the Center for Choice.

Joyce Arend, president of the Toledo chapter of the National Organization for Women, spoke, as did Diane Brown, a leading anti-apartheid activist.

Janie Gatewood of the Progressive Student Network explained that she had never known what it was like when abortion was illegal and until recently hadn't given much thought to abortion as a political issue. But she said that like many young people she has come to see the need to fight to defend abortion rights.



Militant/Lynn Edmiston

Toledo clinic after May 20 bombing

Roberta Scherr, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Ohio and a member of the United Auto Workers Local 12 women's committee, was well received. Scherr's presentation was inter-

rupted several times by applause as she blasted the local politicians, cops, and the federal government for their tacit complicity with antiabortion violence. She called for continued action to defend the clinic.

Labor leaders call for TWA boycott

Scores of ads featuring the Statue of Liberty appeared in the *New York Times* during the July 4 weekend. But one stood out as different from the rest.

A full-page ad calling for a boycott of TWA appeared in the July 3 issue under the slogan, "Say yes to liberty. Say no to Carl Icahn's TWA." It was signed by more than 250 labor leaders, elected officials, entertainment figures, and prominent individuals.

The ad points out that when Carl Icahn took over TWA, he targeted the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants for extinction.

"Carl Icahn demanded that Flight Attendants take a staggering 44 percent cut in salaries, benefits, and working conditions.

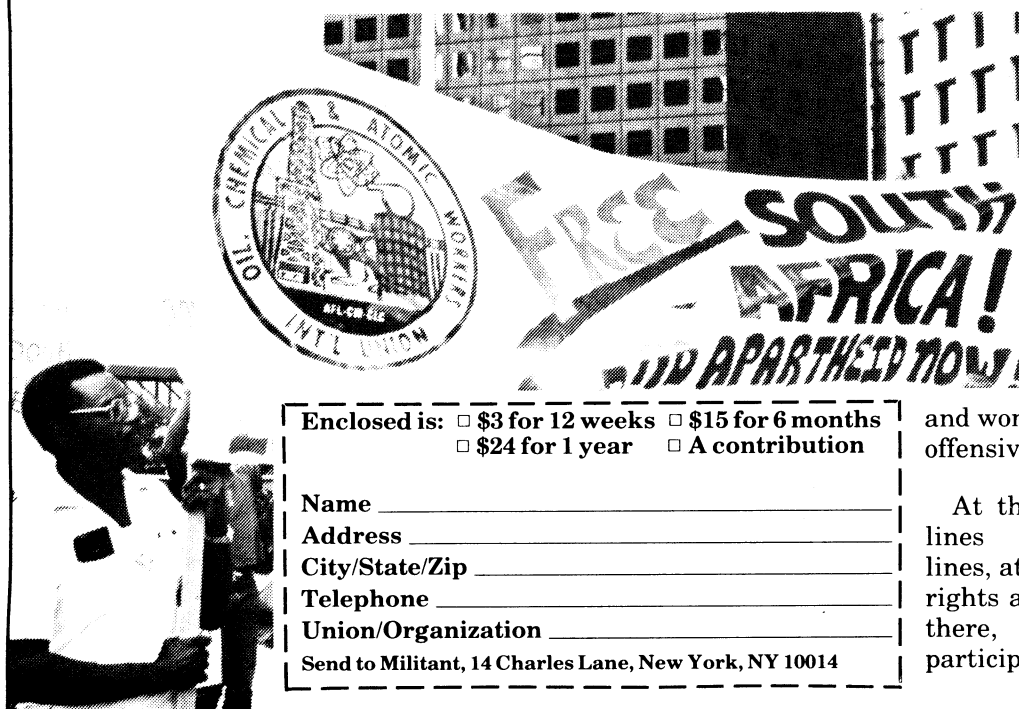
A 15 percent reduction in pay was accepted by comparably paid male employees. Mr. Icahn justifies this discrimination on the illegal and archaic notion that as women, Flight Attendants are not breadwinners!" the ad states.

Pointing out that members of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants have been thrown out of their jobs and replaced by nonunion employees "willing to work for near-poverty wages," the ad calls for a boycott of TWA until they are forced to rehire the IFFA members. "It is time to draw the line. The Flight Attendants' struggle against Carl Icahn's TWA will be a landmark in the history of American business and labor."

The signers of the ad include actor Ed

Asner; John Budd, president, Pan Am Flight Engineers FEIA; César Chávez, president, United Farm Workers; Colleen Dewhurst, president, Actors Equity Association; Patty Duke, president, Screen Actors Guild; Murray Finley, president, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Mary Hotwood Futrell, president, National Education Association; Victor Gotbaum, president, District Council 37, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Congressman Charles Hayes; Jesse Jackson; Joyce Miller, president, Coalition of Labor Union Women; Eleanor Smeal, president, National Organization for Women; and Lynn Williams, president, United Steelworkers of America.

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Send to Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014

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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Business Manager:

LEE MARTINDALE

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

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Attempted Philippine coup folds quickly

BY HARRY RING

The quick collapse of an attempted right-wing coup by supporters of ex-dictator Ferdinand Marcos made it clear that when the Filipino people threw out the hated tyrant they intended to be rid of him for good.

Fronting the coup attempt was Arturo Tolentino, who had been Marcos' running mate in the rigged presidential election of February 7, prior to Marcos' overthrow.

According to sources in the military, some 500 soldiers were involved in the attempt to dislodge the government of President Corazon Aquino.

They were said to include half a dozen generals, some active and others recently forced out, as well as several colonels. They were joined by a couple of hundred civilians, including former Marcos job holders.

Of the participating troops, 200 surrendered on the first day, saying they had been duped into believing that the coup attempt was supported by Defense Minister Juan Enrile and armed forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos. At the outset of the coup attempt, Enrile and Ramos declared their support for President Aquino.

The attempted power grab began July 6, when armed soldiers in trucks and jeeps joined some 5,000 pro-Marcos people at a weekly rally in a Manila park.

Participants in the coup attempt took over the plush Manila Hotel. An ousted justice of the Marcos-era Supreme Court swore in Tolentino, who declared he would act as president until Marcos was able to return from his exile in Hawaii.

Tolentino also declared the formation of a cabinet that reportedly included Enrile as prime minister and minister of defense.

Initially, Tolentino insisted he was acting with the support of Marcos, and in Honolulu an aide said the ex-dictator was ready to return as an "elder statesman."

When it quickly became obvious that the would-be coup was headed down the tubes, Tolentino tried to absolve Marcos and explained he had taken the oath of office only in response to "the clamor of the people."

Apparently the Marcos gang hoped that their takeover of the Manila Hotel would electrify masses of Filipinos, who would rally to their cause.

But, except for a relative handful who gathered outside, they were ignored by the people.

President Aquino, who was out of Manila at the time, returned to the city, charging Marcos with responsibility for what she described as "a desperate attempt to attract attention and sympathy to a forlorn cause."

With more than a thousand government troops massed outside, government negotiators then arranged for the departure of the Marcos people.

The rebelling soldiers holed up in the hotel were assured they would not have to yield their arms and that they would be able to return to their units.

Later, the surrendering troops were officially welcomed back by Enrile and Ramos at a ceremony at an army camp.

Enrile promised there would be no retaliation, and Ramos declared, "Gentlemen, we welcome you back."

On July 9 President Aquino said she

would offer clemency for the organizers of the coup attempt as well as ban rallies and demonstrations that "are designed to further the rebel cause."

At the outset, Washington was quick to disavow any involvement. It castigated Marcos for his continued interference in Philippine politics and asserted it was running out of patience with him.

While the Aquino government handled the coup plotters with kid gloves, its police took the opposite approach to Filipinos protesting U.S. intervention in their country.

On July 4 — "Filipino-American Friendship Day" — police savagely attacked some 5,000 protesters at the U.S. embassy. They were there to demand the closing down of U.S. military bases and removal of nuclear weapons from their country and to protest continuing U.S. interven-

tion in Philippine affairs.

Cops waded into the demonstration with guns, clubs, and tear gas. One demonstrator was shot and a reported 25 injured.

The dispersed protesters regrouped at a government office where some members of the commission drafting a new Philippine constitution were holding a public hearing on the issue of the U.S. bases.

On learning what had happened, the members of the commission ended the hearing and joined the demonstrators in a return march to the U.S. embassy.

By then the crowd had swelled to 10,000. A battery of cops tried to bar the way, but Lorenzo Tanada, an 87-year-old ex-senator and longtime opponent of the U.S. bases, led the marchers through the cop formation and the rally was reconvened in front of the embassy.

3,000 rally in D.C. for Indian rights

BY CARL WEINBERG
AND FRED STANTON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Despite near-record, 98-degree heat, the July 6 demonstration against eviction of Indians from Big Mountain, Arizona, was a big success. Organizers estimate that 3,000 attended.

The spirited march and rally at the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol Building demanded an end to U.S. government and corporate genocide against the Hopi and Navajo Indians, self-determination for traditional Indian peoples, the honoring of treaties, and the repeal of Public Law 93-531, the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act.

This law, adopted by Congress in 1974, ordered the relocation of the Navajo and Hopi people from their land by July 7, 1986. But thousands of Navajo have refused to move.

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

However, underneath the soil of the Joint Use Area lie billions of dollars worth of coal and uranium. Powerful mining companies and electric 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 pressure tribal councils to allow them to begin strip-mining.

Chief Billy Tayac of the Piscataway nation told the rally, "We will not be relocated any more." He said Indians need the support of "the real human beings of all colors" to win their struggle.

Rev. Ben Chavis, Executive Director of the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, said "There is no bigger mockery in recent times than the July 4th celebration. . . . We're not fooled by the myth of American democracy, none of us is free unless all of us are free." He pointed to the struggle "between the forces of justice and the forces of injustice. The church is divided — Rev. Falwell is on one side, I'm on the other."

Chavis linked the struggle here with the fight in South Africa: "The imperialism of the apartheid regime is falling. Any blow we can inflict will help the struggle for freedom everywhere in the world. We must stop the war against Nicaragua. . . . We must turn America around and stop the oppression of peoples."

Sheri O'Dell, a vice-president of the National Organization for Women, said that at their national convention recently the delegates passed a resolution vowing to fight for repeal of Public Law 93-531, and she called for congressional hearings on the matter.

Mitch Snyder, head of Community for Creative Non-violence, brought a message of solidarity from 1,000 homeless people in a Washington, D.C. shelter. He said the fight of homeless people for their rights and the fight of the Hopis and Navajos for their land were part of the same struggle.

Danny Black Goat, a Navajo living on Big Mountain land, and Earl Pela, a Hopi elder, addressed the rally. Pela challenged President Reagan to come to Big Mountain to discuss the question of the land. He said that the Hopi council, which supports relocation, "is just a puppet — an extension of the U.S. government."

Pela denounced the lies of the press, explaining that "the Hopi has never been at war with the Navajo."

Other speakers included Hilda Mason, D.C. City Council; Louise Franklin-Ramirez, Grey Panthers; and Rev. Ambrose Lane, Martin Luther King Community Church.

Denver police attack Blacks

BY RODNEY HOLT
AND FLOYD FOWLER

DENVER — At a packed meeting in the Black community here June 24, hundreds of people were boiling over with outrage at the police assault on Denver's annual Juneteenth celebration. The attacks took place June 20 and 21.

Juneteenth is a celebration of Black pride in commemoration of June 19, 1865, the day slaves in Texas were finally informed of the Emancipation Proclamation. Plantation owners had succeeded in keeping the news from Texas Blacks for two and a half years.

As the meeting began, riot police were provocatively stationed just across the street. One man shook his fist at the TV cameras covering the meeting, "Why do police come around here with Uzis and dogs like that? This isn't South Africa!" (The SWAT team that led the attack on the festival is equipped with Uzi submachine guns.)

Another person we spoke to put it bluntly, "They don't want Juneteenth celebrations at all. Everybody knows downtown is coming this way. They want to wipe Five Points off the map and put up condos. They want us to look bad."

Denver's "city fathers" plan to expand commercial development into the Five Points area, where the Juneteenth celebration is held. This predominantly Black neighborhood is one of the poorest in Denver.

A week before Juneteenth, Denver Juvenile Investigation Bureau detectives predicted "fights, assaults, robberies, and assaults on police officers" at the festival. The city's big-business media gave this story wide circulation, blaming in advance Black youths supposedly linked to a Los

Angeles-based "street gang," the "Rollin 30 Crips."

On Friday night, June 20, with a helicopter circling overhead and police on rooftops and behind barricades, organizers were intimidated into closing booths and ending festival events early.

When the thousands in attendance did not immediately disperse, police dogs were brought out. When people verbally protested against shutting down the festival, the police responded by throwing tear gas into the crowd.

More police were brought in Saturday evening and again the scheduled events were ended early. Again tear gas was thrown and Uzi-toting police with dogs repeatedly charged into the crowd. Shots were fired and a police officer stationed on a roof was slightly wounded.

A Black youth, Charles Ross, was arrested and held on a \$100,000 bond. The press convicted him in full-page "news" stories.

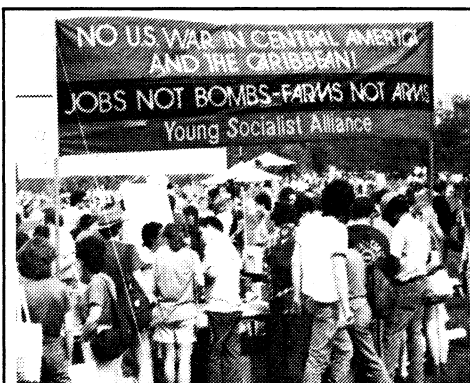
On June 28 he was released for lack of evidence.

Information about citizen injuries from the police attacks was, as the newspapers put it, "unavailable."

By attempting to discredit the Black community's biggest event, Denver developers hope to drive more businesses and people out of Five Points.

Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Colorado, Mike Chamberlain, responded quickly by releasing a statement condemning the police violence.

The statement was widely distributed by campaign supporters. Chamberlain attended a second community meeting held on June 28 to discuss how to respond to the unprovoked brutality of the police.



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.)

Nicaragua takes over anti-union company

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — On June 19 Nicaragua's Ministry of Labor took temporary control of the administration of six companies that are part of the Julio Martínez Group here.

The ministry acted in response to demands by Julio Martínez workers, who have faced a three-year union-busting drive by the owners. The government declared that the company was carrying out an "employers' strike" that affected the national economy and was damaging the interests of the workers.

The Julio Martínez Group is the largest auto import and repair company in Nicaragua. It employs 400 workers throughout the country and includes import companies, a large repair shop, an engine rebuilding plant, a tire retreading plant, and a large auto-parts business. It is privately owned, and controlled by a five-person board of directors.

The workers at Julio Martínez were able to organize a union and win a contract only after the overthrow of the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship in 1979. Their union, which is affiliated to the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), recently released a six-page chronology of the anti-union attacks by the company.

In 1983 the management stalled on new contract negotiations and unilaterally suspended 32 of the 51 clauses in the old contract. When the Ministry of Labor ruled that the company had to respect the old contract while a new one was being negotiated, the company appealed and dragged out legal proceedings for two years.

Campaign to divide union

Meanwhile, the management launched a campaign to divide and weaken the union. They began assigning work to those workers who opposed the union, while denying work to union activists. This was a powerful weapon since many automotive workers are paid on a piece-work basis with no guaranteed minimum wage.

"By 1986 some workers were receiving no pay for weeks on end," José Quintero Sánchez, an auto painter and union activist, told the *Militant*. "Others received as much as 200,000 córdobas a month." (This is eight times the median wage for industrial workers in Nicaragua.)

The Julio Martínez Group receives scarce foreign exchange from the government to import auto parts because its repair operations are vital to the economy. However, the company has sold some parts at black-market prices, assigned the rest to workers who do not support the union, and denied an adequate supply to union mechanics.

Because of this economic pressure, some union activists and leaders were forced to quit and seek work elsewhere. Others were fired outright by the company. In 1985 the company cut off light, water, telephone, and air conditioning to the union offices. In April 1986, 50 workers were denied the right to eat in the company cafeteria.

Company officials have physically threatened union leaders. In April 1986 they even threw inspectors and officials of the Ministry of Labor out of their offices.

Workers fight to defend union

Since 1983 the union has repeatedly filed complaints and petitions with the Ministry of Labor protesting the company's antiunion practices. In 1984 they twice signed agreements with the company after negotiations sponsored by the ministry, only to have the company violate the accords.

Finally, in July 1985, the union struck and occupied one of the workshops. This forced the company to sign an agreement to respect the terms of the contract, but two months later they again refused to give union officials their wages or assign work fairly to union mechanics. In April 1986 the company tried to fire 27 union activists.

In response, leaders of CST unions from other factories and offices in Managua organized protests in front of the main auto repair shop. On April 19 Julio Martínez workers raised their problems directly with

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega at a public Face the People meeting. Other unions, including some at other automotive companies, took up collections to help support Julio Martínez workers whose wages were cut by the company.

On June 12 the CST led 300 workers from different plants and offices throughout Managua in a march to the offices of President Ortega to demand government intervention. "For Julio Martínez: confiscation!" "National Directorate: Give the order!" and "People's power!" were their chants.

The workers crowded into a meeting room normally used for press conferences by top government officials. There, René Vallejos, vice-minister of labor, told them that the ministry had decided to take temporary control of the company if the management did not correct its actions by midnight.

The company's attitude was "abusive, dishonest, and illegal," Vallejos said. "If it does not change its attitude, we will prepare the technical plans to run the company, and put the administration in the hands of the workers." He added that the outcome of the Julio Martínez case should serve as an example for other private companies as well.

'Government responds to workers'

"Unions will not be destroyed here," Vallejos said. "The revolutionary govern-

Nicaragua takes steps to counter terror

Continued from front page

warned that similar measures would be taken against anyone else who abetted Washington's aggression.

On July 2 Catholic Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega, vice-president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference, held a news conference here in Managua.

In recent months Vega has made several trips to the United States where he has falsely accused the Sandinistas of violating human rights and discriminating against the church. He has even gone so far as to say that armed struggle against the Nicaraguan government is justified. The Sandinista daily *Barricada* has reported on each of his speeches abroad to alert working people here to the role the bishop is playing in helping legitimize the mercenary war.

But each time Vega has returned to Nicaragua from his trips, he has claimed that the press misquoted him and has couched his prowar propaganda in more cautious terms.

At his news conference here July 2, however, the bishop was more explicit. Explaining his view of the *contra* war, he said, "If a people are tormented, beaten down, stripped of their human rights, they have no other recourse but to struggle."

"There is a right to insurrection, including armed insurrection," he continued. "In the face of the facts, the military pressures on the people, this right to self-defense cannot be denied."

Referring to two areas of the country where *contra* forces are quite active, Vega said, "My people in Río San Juan and Chontales aren't challenging anyone for power, but rather defending their human rights in the face of ideological aggression and the snatching away of their boys [by the military draft]." He disputed the recent World Court ruling that it is Washington that has systematically violated the human rights of Nicaragua, calling the decision "biased."

Asked by reporters where he would stand if the U.S. government invaded Nicaragua, Vega replied: "The invasion from the one side will have its reason in the invasion being carried out by the other side. That's not the fault of the church or of the people, but of those who provoked it," referring to the Sandinistas. The real aggression Nicaragua faces, he claimed, is from Soviet "imperialism."

On July 4, the Nicaraguan President's Office released a communication from the



Militant/Ruth Nebbia

June 12 demonstration of workers demanding government takeover of Julio Martínez company.

ment responds to a call by the workers."

Ricardo Robelo, a regional CST leader, called for broader worker mobilizations in support of the embattled union. "To the *gusanos* [worms] of Julio Martínez, we are ready for anything," he said, ending with a cry of "Confiscation!"

The next day the union called in the Sandinista Police to guard the Julio Martínez warehouses after the company tried to remove large amounts of parts and tools. One week later, the Ministry of Labor took over the company administration.

In an interview with the *Militant*, Minis-

try of Labor official Donald Alemán said the action against Julio Martínez was taken under a provision of the Labor Code (which was established by the Somoza dictatorship in 1945), prohibiting "employers' strikes" in essential industries, such as transportation. The Julio Martínez management's attacks against the union disrupted production and constituted a strike, the ministry ruled.

In 1979 Nicaragua's workers' and peasants' government nationalized properties belonging to former dictator Anastasio

Continued on Page 8

government. It announced that a decision had been made to "suspend indefinitely the right to reside in this country of those, like Bishop Vega, who do not deserve to be Nicaraguans and whose real place is at the side of Reagan and the mercenary bands that assassinate children."

The communication listed five specific reasons for taking away Vega's residency:

1) That on March 5 Vega had gone to the United States at the invitation of the right-wing Heritage Foundation and spread the lie that the Sandinistas had murdered three priests. The bishop also met with two top commanders of the mercenary army, Enrique Bermúdez and Adolfo Calero.

2) That on June 4 Vega again went to the United States "to extend support to Reagan's request for arms, money, and military advisers for the terrorist forces assassinating the people of Nicaragua."

3) That in a June 24 speech, U.S. President Reagan said, "Reverend Father, we have listened to you."

4) That in Vega's July 2 news conference here, he "not only justified the approval of the \$100 million for the mercenaries, but also went to the extreme of calling the World Court decision biased . . . and justified an eventual U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua."

5) That "24 hours after the statements of Señor Vega, 12 children, 12 women, and 8 toilers, all of them peasants, were murdered by the mercenaries of Reagan and Vega."

"Given Bishop Vega's repeated antipatriotic and criminal behavior, his disrespect for the laws of the Republic and for the people of Nicaragua," the communication said, he had lost his right to live here. He would be kept out "as long as the U.S. government's aggression lasts."

The communication said Vega was now in Honduras. It said in closing: "The government of Nicaragua will continue guaranteeing the people's right to exercise with absolute freedom their religious beliefs and practices, which have been and will continue to be a vital part of the revolutionary transformation Nicaraguan society is passing through."

Speaking to gold miners July 5 in La Libertad, a small town near the city of Juigalpa in Region V, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega took up the government action against Vega. Vega was bishop of the Juigalpa diocese.

Because of the U.S. escalation of the war, Ortega said, "We've been forced to take measures we didn't want to take; actions that we didn't take [before] because we don't like them."

"Reagan is going to say that we're persecuting the church, that we're doing away with the church and with religious beliefs," Ortega pointed out. "We're quite aware of the kind of campaign that's going to follow the taking of these measures, but we've been left with no alternative."

In the months leading up to the most re-

Continued on Page 7

Jinotepe protests the \$100 million

BY RUTH NEBBIA

JINOTEPE, Nicaragua — Undeterred by the rain, 10,000 people paraded through the streets here July 5. The parade commemorated the seventh anniversary of the liberation of this town from the Somoza dictatorship in 1979. Waving red and black flags, residents showed their support for the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). The FSLN led the insurrection which ousted the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship.

The parade was kicked off by Nicaraguan singers Carlos Mejía Godoy and Otto de la Rocha. De la Rocha dedicated a song to "the mothers of mobilized soldiers and to those mothers who are now also fathers because their husbands died in the war."

One marcher walked around dressed as a

bishop, his hat decorated with dollar signs. His was just one of the ways people expressed their support for the recent government decision to deny Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega the right to live in Nicaragua.

Some floats carried banners condemning the \$100 million in aid for the mercenaries approved by the U.S. House of Representatives. Others supported the recent World Court decision that condemned the U.S. government aggression against Nicaragua.

Three children dressed up to represent the governments of El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica stuck their tongues out at the crowd to parody the contempt that these three governments have toward Nicaragua. The three Central American governments have opposed a negotiated peace in Central America.

Pace of land distribution picks up in Region V

"Notes from Nicaragua" is a column prepared by Cindy Jaquith, Harvey McArthur, and Ruth Nebbia of the *Militant's* bureau in Managua.

The Nicaraguan government will give 31,000 acres of land to some 400 landless peasants in Region V during June and July, announced Adolfo Hernández, regional director of agrarian reform. This will raise to 97,000 acres the amount of land distributed there this year, he said. Another 52,000 will be handed out by the end of 1986.

This is a sharp increase in land distribution in Region V, a major agricultural area in south-central

reform law and pledging to step up land distribution.

After recent protests in Region V, 2,280 families signed up to receive land. They will all get allotments this year, Hernández said. However, this will leave at least 10,000 families without land in Region V. Hernández said some peasants were still "timid" about the land reform and he called for more "political-ideological work among the poor peasantry to stimulate a fighting movement to demand land."

* * *

More than 100 leaders from 31 villages and communities in Southern Zelaya province attended the First Multiethnic Assembly, May 26-30. The gathering took place in Bluefields, the main city in Southern Zelaya, which is on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast.

The purpose of the assembly was to further concretize plans for establishing regional government autonomy in the province. In both Southern and Northern Zelaya an autonomy project is under way to overcome the Atlantic Coast's legacy of isolation, economic backwardness, and racial discrimination, conditions inherited from the U.S.-backed dictatorship that Nicaraguans overthrew in 1979.

There are five main racial groups in Southern Zelaya — Creoles, descended from African slaves; *mestizos*, who speak Spanish; Garifonas, descended from African slaves and Caribe Indians; Miskito Indians; and Rama Indians.

Delegates at the assembly discussed a proposal that pilot autonomy projects begin now in five



Militant/Cindy Jaquith
Members of Quisalá Co-op outside Juigalpa in Region V, a major agricultural area in south-central Nicaragua. Four hundred landless peasants in Region V receive land in June and July.

Miskito communities at the mouth of the Río Grande, and in the town of Orinoco, populated mainly by Garifonas.

The conference also refined proposals delineating the territory that autonomy will cover, how natural resources will be used, and how government officials will be elected.

Bayardo Arce, a member of the National Directorate of the FSLN, addressed the assembly. All conference proceedings took place in three languages — English, Miskito, and Spanish. The documents discussed were also available in all three languages.

* * *

A steady stream of Miskito Indians who left Nicaragua after the 1979 revolution are returning, according to Jaime Ruiz, representative in Nicaragua for the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). More than 2,000 have returned with UNHCR help since 1984, including 500 in the first five months of 1986.

"Last week, it was 150; this week, 35," Ruiz said in a June 13 interview with the *Militant*. "Next week, we expect 80 more." These statistics include only those UNHCR has helped return. Many more come back on their own, Ruiz explained.

Thousands of Nicaraguan Miskitos went to Honduras beginning in 1981, when the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary war against Nicaragua began. Some were forced across the border by Washington's mercenaries, while others were swayed by U.S. propaganda.

Nicaragua has encouraged the Miskitos to return to their native communities and requested the UNHCR to help with transporta-

tion and resettlement expenses. Ruiz stressed that the UNHCR return program is voluntary.

Prior to 1985, very few Miskitos returned, Ruiz said. But more than 900 came back under UNHCR auspices in 1985.

* * *

About 150 workers, a majority of them women, stayed after work to celebrate Nicaragua's Mother's Day, May 30, at the COTEXMA textile factory in Tipitapa, which is 14 miles outside Managua. Special guests at the celebration were mothers of COTEXMA workers who died in the war against U.S.-sponsored aggression or women whose sons are presently in the draft army.

The event took place in the knitting department, between rolls of cloth and knitting machines. The workers saw two movies sponsored by the North Korean embassy. They depicted the fight to defeat the U.S. war against Korea in the 1950s and life in North Korea today.

Speakers from the union and the COTEXMA chapters of the Nicaraguan Women's Association and the Sandinista Youth spoke. They highlighted the role of women in military defense of the Nicaraguan revolution, in production, and in supporting their children who are serving in the armed forces.

Celebrations like this happened in work places all over Nicaragua. Marlene Bello, a COTEXMA worker, told the *Militant* that before the revolution Mother's Day was a way for businesses to make money. They pushed workers to buy TVs, dresses, and many other things that they could not afford, she said. "Now, with these celebrations, we can all participate."

NOTES FROM NICARAGUA

Nicaragua where land reform had been limited until this year. A total of 2,153 families had received 141,040 acres of land from 1982 through the end of 1985. Another 1,661 families received titles to land they were already working. This left 13,000 peasant families still without land in the region.

The accelerated land reform is the "product of the pressure brought to bear by movements of landless peasants," said the June 22 issue of *Barricada*, newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Tens of thousands of peasants marched in demonstrations throughout Nicaragua during 1985 and early 1986 to demand land. In January the government responded by expanding the agrarian

Nicaraguan textile workers build child-care center

BY RUTH NEBBIA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — More than 500 workers gathered in the FANATEX textile factory here May 31 to inaugurate its new, 24-hour child-care center. The center was named for Hanna Qaddafi in a gesture of solidarity with the people of Libya. Hanna Qaddafi was Libyan Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi's year-old daughter killed during the U.S. bombing attack of April 15.

Delegations from a dozen other factories and regional leaders of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), and the Nicaraguan Women's Association (AMNLAE) attended the rally, pointing to the importance of this center as an example for workers throughout Nicaragua.

Three-quarters of the 1,600 workers at FANATEX are women. The rearing of children in Nicaragua remains primarily

the task of women. This is all the more difficult for the many working women who are single mothers, or whose companions are mobilized in the army.

There are very few child-care facilities in Nicaragua today. This often restricts the jobs women can take and determines whether they can participate in union or other political activities. Their productivity and pay also suffer when they have to miss or arrive late to work when looking after their children.

With the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship in 1979, the new workers' and farmers' government began building child-care centers. However, U.S. economic and military aggression forced Nicaragua to devote major resources to defense. Child care and other social programs have been cut back. The new FANATEX center was possible because the workers paid for and built the center themselves.

At the May 31 rally, Bernicia Sanders explained how the project was carried out. Sanders, a worker and Miskito Indian, heads the AMNLAE chapter at FANATEX. The project began with discussions among women workers last year, she said. The National AMNLAE Assembly, held in September 1985, further encouraged them when it proposed that women in different work places take the initiative to build child-care centers with local resources.

"We got the women together with the union, the administration, the FSLN, and the Sandinista Youth," Sanders said. "We organized to raise funds and asked the company to donate the building that used to be a supply center to be remodeled for the child-care center."

The workers, led by the women, held raffles, collections, and other fund-raising activities to buy the materials needed for construction. Men and women of FANATEX stayed after their shifts and worked on weekends to paint, build partitions, and make the cots, cribs, bed linen, curtains, and toys. They worked especially



Militant/Cindy Jaquith
Bernicia Sanders, head of Nicaraguan Women's Association (AMNLAE) chapter at FANATEX textile factory, addressed rally opening child-care center.

hard during the last month to make sure the center was finished by May 30, Nicaragua's Mother's Day.

Luis Guatemala Centeno, the organizational secretary of the union, told the *Militant* that the lack of child care was a big reason that many women were unable to participate in union activities, or missed work and lagged behind in production. Stressing this, Centeno said that the union is taking responsibility for the operating expenses of the center.

The center will begin caring for 120 children, 40 per shift, Centeno said.

As word spread of the FANATEX child-care project, 28 women volunteered to staff it without pay. However, the union has decided to place these women on payroll.

Present at the May 31 rally were delega-

tions from other factories, including the COTEXMA textile plant, the TOMASA clothing plant, the Victoria brewery, and the Bertha Calderón Women's Hospital, as well as from the U.S. solidarity group MADRE. Some of these women gave greetings and thanked Bernicia Sanders for leading the project and setting the example for women at other factories. The center also received donations of bibs and toys from women's groups of Argentina and Czechoslovakia.

Mercedes Mejía, AMNLAE secretary for the Managua region, also spoke at the rally. "We think that if women get together to discuss our problems, we are not wasting time," she said. "We are contributing to the revolutionary process, because we do not just discuss but we make concrete work proposals that are becoming a reality. We are not going to wait until we have a better economic situation in order to fight for women's demands. We must begin now."

"There are other problems that in time we will have to deal with," Mejía continued. "We are sure to get some concrete answers to these from our revolutionary government. For example, we must demand that women not be required to show proof of not being pregnant in order to obtain a job."

"As a result of our efforts we not only have a child-care center," Mejía stressed, "but fundamentally we have a greater awareness from our coworkers that women's problems are not the problems of women alone. Those problems that limit the broad participation of women in their jobs, job training, education, and political involvement are the problems of men and women."

The unity developed among FANATEX workers through building the center is an example for others, Mejía said. "Women who are present today and those who will hear about it through the media will use this example to move forward. It will strengthen our revolution and our union and will strengthen, develop, and broaden the women's movement."



Militant/Cindy Jaquith
Mercedes Mejía, AMNLAE secretary for Managua Region, told rally problems of women workers are concern for all workers.

Visit to a farmers' cooperative in Cuba

BY TONY PRINCE

When I was in Cuba recently as part of a delegation of unionists and others from Wisconsin, I had the opportunity to talk with leaders of the May 17 Cooperative Farm. The farm is located in Quivicán, a town about 25 miles south of Havana. The countryside around Quivicán is lush, with rich orange earth. Big bushes with purple flowers lined both sides of the road as we drove to the farm.

When we arrived we were greeted by Domingo Barrios, the secretary of the Communist Party in Quivicán; Francisco González, the vice-president of the co-op; Agilio Piedras, the production manager; Caridad Moreno, the co-op's accountant; and Ernesto González, the president of the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP) in Quivicán. The president of the co-op couldn't be there because he was sick that day. Piedras later told us that the president was recently elected to the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party.

Piedras answered our questions for about an hour. He told us that the co-op is named after the date in 1959 when Fidel Castro signed the First Agrarian Reform Law, one of the most important laws ever passed by the revolutionary government. This law confiscated the huge farms of the big U.S. and Cuban landowners. Many landless peasants were given land. And state farms and cooperative-type organizations were established on some of the big sugar plantations.

This co-op consists of about 4,500 acres and has 162 members, 145 men and 17 women. A farmer joins the co-op by adding his or her land to the land of the cooperative.

The farmers elect 12 of their members to form the board of directors, who are responsible to the assembly of all the cooperative members. The assembly approves the production plan, admits new members, and approves equipment purchases.

From agrarian reform to co-op

Piedras told us that before the revolution in 1959, all of the members of the co-op were tenant farmers. None of them owned their own land. With the passage of the Agrarian Reform Law, they became individual farmers. Then in 1963 they formed an "agricultural association," which Domingo Barrios referred to as an "embryonic co-op." In 1977 the functioning of cooperative farms was systematized and standardized and generally given more attention. This is when the May 17 Cooperative was formed.

Piedras and the accountant, Moreno, explained to us how the finances of the co-

op work. It has a line of credit with the local bank. Out of this the farmers are paid \$6 a day as a salary. Then when the harvest is sold to the state, the bank is paid off, and the farmers are paid a bonus based on the amount of work they contributed to the co-op. This year the bonus amounted to an average \$7.84 a day over the \$6 per day they had already received.

The year's profits are divided, with 50 percent going to the members as the bonus, 25 percent to investments, and 25 percent to social and cultural funds. The co-op pays a 3 percent tax on its gross earnings, and members pay a 5 percent tax on their bonus.

In return, medical care is free for all co-op members, as it is for all Cubans. Education at all levels is free. Also, the state provides free technical advice on request.

The interest rate on the credit provided to the co-op is fixed at 4 percent.

The co-op has crop insurance that covers 30 percent of crop losses. This is available both to co-ops and to individual farmers. The government also often helps out when it is not legally obliged to. For example, when Hurricane Kate hit Cuba last year it destroyed the co-op's tomato harvest. The debt the co-op owed the bank for the tomatoes was canceled even though the crop was not insured.

Piedras told us that for each peso the co-op earned in the past year it had invested 72 centavos. This is a smaller return on investment than some neighboring co-ops because the May 17 Cooperative has made big investments in machinery.

Whereas 15 or 20 years ago all sugar-cane cutting was done by hand, the co-op now has five combines for the sugar harvest. The hand cutting is handled by a brigade of 35 members.

The co-op has benefited greatly from the educational opportunities opened up by the revolution. The farmers now number among their members a technician, a veterinarian, an agronomist, and specialists in labor organization, cattle feeding, and machinery. There are a number of skilled workers, such as those who run the cane combines. All of these joined the co-op as farmers.

The members get 15 days of paid vacation a year. The co-op does not have its own doctor because it's quite near the town of Quivicán. In mountain areas, however, many co-ops do have their own doctors, and the availability of many more is planned for the co-ops in the future.

Piedras said that 140 houses are being built in four areas around the co-op for the members and their families. The farmers pay 4 percent of their income for rent, and rent payments go toward the purchase of



Cuban National Institute of Agrarian Reform
Before victory of Cuban revolution, members of May 17 Cooperative were tenant farmers. Their co-op is named after date in 1959 when first agrarian reform law was signed. Above, early in revolution, peasant family displays new title to land obtained under the law.

the house. If a member wants to build his or her own house, he or she can get a \$5,000 loan at 4 percent interest repayable in 15 years. (Prices are generally much lower in Cuba than in the United States, so that a \$5,000 loan in Cuba means a lot more than it does here.)

Vanguard workers of the co-op win prizes. Eighteen members have won new cars this way.

In spite of the vast improvements in the lives of the farmers both on this co-op and in Cuba generally, Piedras admitted that it was hard to keep the young generation down on the farm. While opportunities for farmers have vastly increased because of the revolution, they have also increased in Cuban society at large, and the young go out to seek these opportunities.

The co-op has a good relationship with the individual farmers who remain in the municipality. We asked why these farmers chose not to join the co-op. There are now only 38 individual farmers in the municipality. Piedras told us, "Well, they are mostly old farmers, and they have a low cultural level. They prefer to hang on to their land even if they live in a thatched hut, rather than to live in the co-op housing with electricity and TV." Domingo Barrios added, "It's totally voluntary whether they want to join a co-op or not, and we respect their wishes. We talk to them every week or two, but they are pretty set in their ways." Piedras said that he thought that eventually all the farmers in the country would be *cooperativistas*.

The co-op helps the individual farmers when they need additional labor, for cutting cane or for fertilizing their land, for instance. The farmers pay the co-op mem-

bers at a rate established by the state.

When we finished our meeting, the farmers took us on a tour of the co-op. In addition to the sugar cane, their main crop, they produce a lot of food for their own consumption. We saw a large pen where pigs were being raised. They had imported high-quality pigs from England and Canada, pigs that were disease resistant, had large litters, and grew fast.

Every few months a number of pigs are slaughtered and the meat distributed to the families that belong to the co-op. Francisco González told me that it worked out to about one pig for every four or five families every three months or so.

The co-op had several pens full of geese, which are raised for their down. The down is then sold for export. We saw their mango orchard, and of course the fields of sugar cane. This was the new crop, only a couple of feet high.

The last place the *compañeros* took us to was one of the new housing developments the co-op has built. These were attractive one-story, one-family houses on a new street on the outskirts of Quivicán.

I told Piedras about the debt squeeze and other problems that many family farmers in the United States are facing. I asked him if he had any suggestions for U.S. farmers. "Tell them they need a revolution to bring this about," he said smiling. "Having a cooperative by itself isn't enough. You have to have a revolution."

N.Y. July 4 march demands gay rights

NEW YORK — In the midst of the elaborately staged Fourth of July hoopla here, a genuine voice for liberty was heard. Several thousand gay rights activists rallied and marched in the thronged downtown area of Manhattan, principal gathering point for the Statue of Liberty extravaganza.

The demonstrators were protesting the recent Supreme Court decision that homosexual sex is not covered by the constitutional right to privacy.

Protesters gathered for a rally at Sheridan Square, traditional site of gay and lesbian rights demonstrations. They then marched downtown, stopping at the federal courthouse. On the courthouse steps, they shouted, "Shame, shame, shame!"

At Wall Street, a phalanx of cops sought to prevent the marchers from proceeding to the Battery Park area, where the huge holiday crowd was concentrated. By that point, the number of marchers had swelled considerably.

After being stopped by the cops, a good number of the marchers were able to regroup and make their way to the Battery Park, their intended destination.

Organized on a few days' notice, the protest involved more than 6,000 people. Several thousand had joined in an earlier demonstration on July 1, the day the reactionary Supreme Court decision was reported.

'IP': The Haitian people's struggle today

Five months after the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship, the workers and peasants of Haiti are continuing their struggle to uproot the vestiges of dictatorial rule and to establish greater democratic rights.

In an article in the upcoming July 28 issue of *Intercontinental Press*, Will Reissner examines developments in Haiti since Jean-Claude Duvalier fled on February 7.

Before he left, Duvalier appointed a new government headed by Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy to continue Duvalierism without Duvalier and protect Washington's interests.

Reissner assesses the new regime's attempts to stabilize the post-Duvalier situation and describes the ongoing struggles of the Haitian people.

Since the 28-year dictatorship was toppled, new community organizations have been formed, trade unions have begun to organize, and strikes and mass demonstrations have forced the regime

to yield on many points.

Among the other features in the July 28 *Intercontinental Press* are an article from the Communist Party of the Philippines' newspaper criticizing the CPP's tactics in the February presidential elections, and a speech by a leader of the South African miners' union.

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General strike hits Chilean dictatorship

BY RASHAAD ALI

A two-day nationwide general strike against the military government of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, July 2 and 3, brought life in Chile's main cities to a standstill. According to news reports, the work stoppage was the most extensive since the dictator came to power almost 13 years ago.

Independent truck operators, who supported the strike, said that in three of Chile's largest cities — Santiago, Valparaíso, and Concepción — 95 percent of all cargo trucks stayed off the highway.

Rodolfo Seguel, a union leader, estimated that in Santiago alone an average of 60 percent of all workers participated in the strike. Public transportation, health services, schools, universities, and shops were also affected by the work stoppage.

The strike was called by the National Civic Assembly — a broad coalition of unions, students, peasants, truck owner-operators, Indians, and professional and human rights groups — to demand a return to civilian rule.

The Pinochet dictatorship came to power in this South American country of 12 million people in 1973 after a U.S.-backed military coup overthrew the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende. Since the coup, the Chilean people have lived under an almost constant state of emergency, in which all political parties are banned. The Pinochet regime has murdered, tortured, disappeared, and banished thousands of people.

Malcolm Coad, correspondent for the *Washington Post*, reported "in Santiago, the protest was met with one of the largest displays of military force since Pinochet's 1973 military coup. Armored troop carriers and military trucks rumbled through working class districts. The nights were punctuated by the constant bursts of gunfire warnings. Soldiers with blackened faces guarded road junctions, and automobiles filled with security police patrolled militant districts."

According to human rights groups, in the two days of antigovernment strikes, troops and security police acted with "extreme brutality," killing at least six people, injuring more than 50, and arresting some 700 others. Brute force was used to break up any gathering and to prevent rallies

from taking place in downtown Santiago and elsewhere.

Charges of violating state security laws were brought against 17 protest leaders. Among other things, this law makes it a crime to incite "the illegal paralyzation of normal activities." Penalties range from two months to 13 years in jail for the violation of this law, said José Galiano, one of the lawyers representing the strike leaders.

The editors of two weekly magazines, *Análisis* and *Cauce*, also face similar charges. The two publications are accused of "inciting acts of violence, attacks on the armed forces, and continuous calls to disobey the government."

Four radio stations were ordered to limit their programming to music, commercials, and government pronouncements.

Two human rights organizations, Amnesty International and Americas Watch, reported that a military patrol in Santiago set two youths on fire. Carmen Quintana Arancibia, an 18-year-old university student, and Rodrigo Rojas de Negri, age 19 and a permanent resident of the United States, were picked up by uniformed men with painted faces July 2. They were doused with a flammable liquid and set on fire. Both were taken to the hospital in critical condition. Rojas later died.

His mother, Veronica de Negri, a Chilean exile, recently took part in protests against the participation of the Chilean torture vessel, *Esmeralda*, in the July 4th festivities in New York harbor.

The two youths were part of a group of 60 students from the University of Santiago who were touring the shantytowns on the west side of Santiago, a stronghold of antigovernment protesters. Police and military patrols were heavy in these areas during the strike. Residents mounted barricades of cement blocks and burning tires to interrupt transportation and prevent the entry of the police and troops.

The current wave of protests against the hated dictatorship began in March, when hundreds of women demonstrated against the regime. Protests by high school and university students, miners, and other workers culminated in a May Day demonstration and rally in Santiago that hundreds of arrests by soldiers failed to stop. The May 1 protest was called by the National



July 5 protest in Santiago against government repression. Banner reads: "No more deaths!"

Workers Command, the trade union federation opposed to the Pinochet regime.

The National Civic Assembly, which organized the 48-hour strike this month, is the largest opposition coalition fighting the dictatorship. It was formed April 26 when 250 organizations representing some 3 million people met in the broadest meeting to take place in the country since the 1973 coup.

The Assembly demands that the government end the state of emergency, abolish the secret police, and end military control of the universities. It also demands free-

dom of speech and association, compensation for the victims of human rights violations, and a democratically approved constitution. These demands were spelled out in a 50-point petition called the "Demand of Chile."

The petition, adopted in April, also proposed a public works program to reduce unemployment, collective bargaining on an industry-wide basis, and the renegotiation of the foreign debt, which exceeds \$20 billion.

The two-day strike was part of the campaign to press for these demands.

Nicaragua takes measures

Continued from Page 4

cent events, small delegations of Nicaraguans opposed to the contra war had repeatedly confronted both Obando and Vega, demanding that they speak out against the U.S. aggression. Groups of church activists, mothers of youth killed by the mercenaries, and soldiers permanently maimed by the war visited their offices to demand they change their stand.

Each time, Obando and Vega had the same answer: the church cannot take sides in a political conflict; the best solution is for the Nicaraguan government to negotiate with the mercenaries.

On June 14, 4,235 supporters of the revolution who are also active in the Catholic church in Juigalpa sent a letter to the Vatican's representative in Nicaragua. They urged him to call Vega to order.

"We want to give you some statistics," the letter said, "that show the blows we have suffered up to April of this year: 709 brothers of the countryside murdered; 636 peasant brothers kidnapped; 11,840 people displaced by the war; and 1,200 children orphaned."

"Our pastor, Monsignor Pablo Antonio Vega . . . has never given us one word of consolation or made any condemnation of these outrages."

"His sermons and seminars are aimed at creating lack of confidence and division; they are more political than religious."

On July 5, several hundred people marched from the Juigalpa Sandinista Workers Federation hall to the headquarters of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) to demonstrate opposition to the \$100 million and support for the action against Vega. They were addressed briefly by Ortega, who told them that Vega and Carballo "have not acted as Nicaraguans or as Christians, but as agents of Reagan and enemies of Christ."

Larger demonstrations have taken place against the U.S. aid to the contras in cities and towns on the Pacific Coast. On June 27, 65,000 rallied in Managua to repudiate the \$100 million. There was prolonged chanting of "Obando and Vega — out with them!"

Since then, 10,000 marched in the town of Jinotepe and 20,000 in the city of León. These were traditional celebrations of the date each city was liberated from the Somoza dictatorship by Sandinista forces in 1979. The actions were demonstrations of support for the revolution and the FSLN, and determination to defeat the mercenaries. The general mood was one of

agreement with the action taken against Vega, Carballo, and *La Prensa*.

One protest of the Sandinistas' measures has been reported. Cardinal Obando, who remains in Nicaragua and has said very little publicly since the approval of the \$100 million, held a mass in Managua July 6. Several hundred people attended.

Obando dedicated the mass to Vega and Carballo, who he said now bear the same scars as Christ.

Obando also read out a statement by Pope John Paul II, who appealed to the Nicaraguan government to "reconsider" its actions.

In a news conference after the mass, Obando said the government action against Vega was a "violation" of human rights. Vega was "expelled" from the country, Obando continued, because he spoke out against "some things" and "that had bothered" some people.

Meanwhile, Víctor Tirado, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, called for "determined action by revolutionary, democratic, and progressive forces and partisans of peace" in support of Nicaragua's struggle against the U.S.-backed war.

In a July 2 speech to the congress of the United Workers Party in Poland, Tirado said: "All our efforts are directed, basically, at defeating the foreign aggression of which we are victims. This has diverted our forces, our material and human resources, and is exhausting us in human and economic terms."

"It's because of this, among other reasons, that we have fervently struggled for a peaceful solution to the conflict Reagan has produced in our country and in Central America. This is why we firmly support the Latin American effort of the Contadora Group."

(The Contadora Group, which is made up of the countries of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, was formed in January 1983 and aims to achieve a peace accord in Central America.)

But the Contadora Group, he continued, "has invariably been sabotaged by the U.S. government from the beginning of its work."

In the face of Washington's decision to step up the war, Tirado said the Nicaraguan people would continue defending and advancing their revolution. "No one can substitute for us in this task and this historic responsibility. All we ask for is active and committed solidarity in this struggle, which is an integral part of the struggle for peace and progress in the world."

Gov't backs off in sanctuary case

Continued from back page

Americans "have fled political repression."

Amnesty International announced before the sentencing that it would view any of the defendants who were imprisoned as political prisoners and would wage an international campaign for their release.

Carrol had at first declared that, as a condition of probation, the defendants could not associate with any person or organization involved in smuggling or transporting "illegal aliens." When the first three of those sentenced indicated they would risk prison rather than comply with that stipulation, Carrol quietly rescinded it.

The sentencing itself stretched over several days because each defendant, before hearing Carrol's decision, was entitled to make a statement to the court explaining their actions, and each did.

This was the first opportunity in the course of the six-month trial for the defendants to make an unhampered statement about their motives or about conditions in Central America.

Sister Darlene Nicgorski, a Catholic nun who at one point was described by prosecutor Reno as a "threat to national security," recounted her experiences working with desperately poor Guatemalan refugees in 1981. She described the assassination of a Guatemalan pastor for "suspected" anti-government activities.

Standing before Carrol, she demanded to know of him, "What would you have done, judge, if you had experienced what I had experienced, if you knew what I knew?"

Defendant Peggy Hutchinson declared to the court, "I have been told that in most sentences people are supposed to understand the error of their ways and express remorse for them."

"I am remorseful, but only for the plight of the Central American refugees and the

fact that our immigration laws are not administered fairly."

Movement cofounder Phillip Willis-Conger added, "I believe our government was breaking the law. I believe I was upholding the law."

In an interview with a local newspaper, Nicgorski expressed the feelings and experiences of a number of the defendants. She told one reporter, "Eventually I came to believe that a person cannot wait for institutions to catch up with human needs. After all, as late as 1944 our government was still turning away boatloads of Jews because it said there was not enough documentation of Nazi atrocities."

PHOENIX, July 7 — Members of an Alabama-based anticommunist outfit, Civilian Matériel Assistance, firing automatic weapons, forcibly held 15 people alleged to be "illegal aliens." This terrorist action took place in southern Arizona near the border with Mexico. The detainees were then held at gunpoint until agents of the U.S. Border Patrol arrived. Two participants in the right-wingers' action said the vehicle containing the 15 had been stopped by booby traps set by their group.

Western Regional Director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Harold Ezell, indicated that the government would not press charges against the vigilantes because not one of the "aliens" had been harmed!

A spokesperson for the gang said that 20 of its members had been "conducting night maneuvers" in the border area, purportedly to intercept the flow of cocaine from Mexico.

David Zilly is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Arizona.

Labor wins victory on affirmative action

Continued from front page

where an employer or government unit has been found guilty of discrimination. In most cases such programs are the result of mutual agreements, or consent decrees, worked out to avoid a trial and verdict.

In the Cleveland case, the Vanguards, an organization of Black and Latino fire fighters, took action against the city in 1980. They charged systematic discrimination in job assignments and in promotions, including a refusal to administer promotion tests in the wake of a 1973 ruling that had opened the door to the hiring of a greater number of nonwhite fire fighters.

In its decision, the Supreme Court noted the charge by the Vanguards that promotion tests were discriminatory, and that retirement dates were manipulated so that nonwhites would not be at the top of the promotion list when higher positions became available.

To avert the Vanguards' suit, Cleveland officials agreed to the preferential promotion program as a remedy for the past victimization. Then the consent decree agreed to by the city was challenged in court by a mainly white fire fighters union. In carrying their appeal to the Supreme Court, union officials had the support of the Justice Department, as did the stubbornly racist New York sheet metal workers' local.

White-only policy

The fight to break the white-only policies of the sheet metal job trust goes all the way back to 1948.

At that time, Herbert Hill, then labor secretary of the NAACP, obtained a directive from the New York State Human Rights Commission ordering Local 29 to remove a whites-only membership clause from its bylaws. But a decade and several court rulings later, the local had but 3.19 percent nonwhite members.

The white job trust was ensured by an apprentice program operated jointly by the union and employers. Being accepted into — and completion of — the program was the only way to become a member of the union and hold a job in the trade.

An affirmative-action program pegged around the goal of a 29 percent nonwhite membership was finally ordered by the courts. The local's continuing discriminatory practices also resulted in imposition of a \$150,000 contempt-of-court fine, with the money to be used to recruit nonwhites to the apprentice program and union.

Finally, with the support of the Justice Department, union officials took the case to the Supreme Court, resulting in the present ruling against it.

Role of Justice Department

In its supporting briefs in behalf of the resisting sheet metal workers' and fire fighters' unions, the Justice Department leaned heavily on a reactionary 1984 Supreme Court decision involving Memphis fire fighters.

There, the high court overturned a decision giving recently hired Blacks job protection in a period of layoff despite lack of

seniority. In that case, the high court ruled that the seniority system could not be revised to benefit those who were not specifically proven personal victims of discrimination.

The Justice Department tried to interpret this ruling as applying to hiring and promotion as well, and used it as the battering ram in its drive to force the scrapping of all affirmative-action programs.

But in the present ruling, the Supreme Court specifically rejected this interpretation of its layoff decision.

Referring to the government's claim that the civil rights statute permits "preferential relief only to the actual victims of unlawful discrimination," the court majority responded:

"We reject this argument, and hold that Section 706 (g) [of the Civil Rights Act] does not prohibit a court from ordering, in appropriate circumstances, affirmative race-conscious relief as a remedy for past discrimination.

"Specifically, we hold that such relief may be appropriate where an employer or a labor union has engaged in persistent or egregious [flagrant] discrimination, or where necessary to dissipate the lingering effects of pervasive discrimination.

"The language of Sec. 706 (g) plainly expresses Congress' intent to vest district courts with broad discretion to award 'appropriate' equitable relief or remedy unlawful discrimination. . . .

"We decline petitioner's invitation to read *Stotts* [the Memphis fire fighter layoff decision] to prohibit a court from ordering any kind of race-conscious affirmative relief that might benefit nonvictims."

Weber case

Instead of the Memphis fire fighter decision, the high court majority turned to its entirely progressive affirmative-action ruling of 1979, the case of *United Steelworkers v. Weber*.

In that case, Brian Weber, a worker at Kaiser Aluminum, challenged a job-training program established at the initiative of the Steelworkers. Half the spots in the program were allocated to Blacks and women to compensate for long denials of job advancement.

Referring to that ruling, the court majority said, "It is equally clear that the voluntary actions available to employers and



West Virginia miners. Supreme Court decision upholding affirmative-action quotas for Blacks and other oppressed national minorities will also aid rights fight of women workers.

unions seeking to eradicate race discrimination may include reasonable race-conscious relief that benefits individuals who were not actual victims of discrimination. That was the holding of *Steelworkers v. Weber*."

Pressing the argument, the sheet metal decision said, "Further, even where the employer or union formally ceases to engage in discrimination, informal mechanisms may obstruct equal employment opportunities.

"An employer's reputation for discrimination may discourage minorities from seeking available employment. In these circumstances, affirmative, race-conscious relief may be the only means available 'to assure equality of employment opportunities and to eliminate those discriminatory practices and devices which have fostered racially stratified job environments to the disadvantage of minority citizens.'"

William Reynolds, assistant attorney general for civil rights, bemoaned the Supreme Court decision as "disappointing" and "extremely unfortunate."

Ruling hailed

Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, hailed the rulings as a "significant rebuke to the Reagan administration's pernicious efforts to destroy affirmative action."

Former NAACP official Hill also welcomed the sheet metal union decision, declaring it "reinforces and advances affirmative action as an appropriate remedy."

New York's Mayor Koch who, like Reagan, is a bitter foe of affirmative action with teeth, said he agreed with the court's finding, but not its "remedy."

And the AFL-CIO said it was pleased the court had clarified the issue and pledged it would press for complete compliance.

U.S.-Cuba immigration talks to begin

BY HARRY RING

The Reagan administration announced July 2 that the United States and Cuba have agreed to negotiations aimed at reviving an immigration agreement suspended by Cuba in 1984 in response to U.S. provocation.

Although not formally announced, State Department spokespeople said the talks were slated to be held in Mexico City beginning in early July.

The tabled immigration pact, announced in December 1984, was suspended by Cuba on May 20, 1985.

Cuba acted the same day that Washington began operation of a special radio station beamed at Cuba and aimed at promoting counterrevolution there. To add insult to injury, the cold-war station, staffed mainly by Cuban exile hirelings, was dubbed "Radio Martí," after the famed 19th century Cuban patriot who had steadfastly opposed U.S. imperialism.

The suspended immigration accord related to the 1980 boatlift from the Cuban port of Mariel.

Under the agreement, Cuba would have accepted the return of some 2,700 Mariel émigrés categorized by U.S. officials as criminals or insane. They have been incarcerated here under shocking conditions.

In return for Cuba accepting these "undesirables," Washington had agreed to finally accept some 3,000 released Cuban prisoners.

Convicted of various acts against the revolution, these people had been released earlier on the understanding that they would be permitted to come here. But Washington then reneged on that.

Under the suspended agreement, Washington also agreed to resumption of normal Cuban emigration to this country. This too

had been suspended.

From the beginning of its revolution, Cuba has maintained an open-door policy, with anyone who can gain legal entry to another country free to go.

For most of the 27 years since the revolution, the United States has enforced a ban on travel to Cuba, as it does currently, and has maintained a trade blockade throughout.

According to the Washington officials, the Mexico City negotiations would also include the issue of radio broadcasts, although they insisted Radio Martí would be maintained.

Meanwhile, in a substantial new blow to Washington's blockade, Brazil announced June 25 that it had reestablished diplomatic relations with Cuba, which it had broken 22 years ago.

The biggest country in South America, Brazil was the last holdout among the major Latin American nations in reestablishing ties with Cuba.

In the early 1960s, as part of its drive to try to crush the Cuban revolution, Washington had used relentless economic and political pressure on all the countries of Latin America to join the anti-Cuba blockade. It succeeded except with Mexico. But over the years, one country after another, deferring to public sentiment, has reestablished diplomatic and trade ties with Cuba.

The Brazilian decision to resume relations with Cuba came at a moment when Washington was engaged in an arm-twisting operation to further ensure the opening of the Brazilian market to U.S. exploitation.

In a move to develop its own computer industry, Brazil decided in 1984 to ban the

import of all small computers for eight years. U.S. exporters have bitterly complained that the Brazilian stand means they have "lost" \$1.5 billion in sales.

Last May, White House officials said that unless Brazil yielded on the issue, strong retaliatory measures were to be taken involving curbs on Brazilian exports to this country.

At the time, Brazil was given a June 25 deadline. That was the day it announced resumption of ties with Cuba.

Deadly chemical kills two workers at Brooklyn plant

Two workers suffocated July 5 after being overcome by fumes from a toxic chemical at a Brooklyn, New York, metal-painting factory. A third worker was hospitalized in critical condition.

Nineteen police officers and six Emergency Medical Service workers also were temporarily overcome by the fumes or burned by chemical residue on the floor of the factory, Ever-Nu Metal Product Co.

According to New York's Department of Environmental Protection, when the chemical, trichloroethylene, is released in a contained area, it can cause suffocation. But, a department spokesman claimed, the fumes did not pose a threat to area residents.

Nevertheless a police spokesman said, "This stuff was so potent [emergency] workers had to keep going back and switching places with each other."

Takeover of company

Continued from Page 4

Somoza and his close supporters. Since then it has nationalized some factories whose owners were decapitalizing and sabotaging the economy or who were actively supporting U.S.-backed mercenaries. The Julio Martínez case is the first time that the government has taken administrative control of a private company to stop a union-busting drive.

The June 20 issue of the Sandinista daily *Barricada* reported that government control will be maintained at Julio Martínez as long as necessary "to restore working conditions and resolve the problems that have developed." When conditions are improved, the company may be returned to its owners, ministry officials explained.

The new government-appointed administrator, Idermo Ignacio Cuadra, met with all the Julio Martínez workers on June 19. He stressed that no one would be fired, and urged them to work together to provide the repair service needed in the country. "We are here to take on a responsibility, which means fighting for efficiency, productivity, and unity of the workers," he said.

Women miners hear British speakers

Continued from back page

Author Sallie Bingham was also a keynote speaker.

A wide range of panels and workshops were held at the meeting. Topics included: How to use your union to fight discrimination and harassment; continuing the campaign for parental leave; women in the UMWA; safety in the mines; UMWA issues in the '80s; CEP issues in the '80s; how to file a grievance and use the contract; the A.T. Massey strike, an update; abortion: a controversy in our times; and international visits.

Considerable discussion was provoked in the A.T. Massey strike workshop. Jim Reid, president of UMWA Local 2248 at Massey's Sprouse Creek processing plant, explained that the strike began in October 1984 after Massey refused to sign the agreement the union negotiated with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association.

Massey claimed that its many affiliates were independent and would have to be bargained with separately. Five months into the strike, Massey began bringing in scabs to mine and haul coal.

UMWA President Richard Trumka ended the strike in December 1985 after the National Labor Relations Board upheld the union's position that Massey is in fact a single company responsible for bargaining for all of its affiliates.

Massey fired 26 workers including Reid at Sprouse Creek following the strike. Twenty-two union miners are currently working alongside 19 scabs at the processing plant, Reid explained. He said a similar ratio of union miners to scabs exists at other Massey mines in the area.

They are being paid under the terms of the 1981 contract. According to Reid, the union safety committees are still intact but the company is letting the grievances pile up.

Judy Scott from the union's legal department said that the UMWA has a case pending in federal court that makes Massey a signatory to the 1984 contract since one of its affiliates, Omar Mining Co., signed that agreement.

Several miners at the workshop expressed dissatisfaction that the membership of the union was not fully mobilized to aid the Massey strike.

Others expressed concern that a serious discussion of the outcome of the Massey strike be held in preparation for the 1987 contract talks.

Libby Lindsey from southern West Virginia told the *Militant*, "a year and a half is a long time to wait for a federal judge to tell you whether or not you have a job."

A film made by the United Auto Workers entitled *Would You Let Someone Do This To Your Sister* was shown in the workshop on sexual harassment and discrimination.

Ed Boling from the UMWA's Organizing Department encouraged women miners to use their union's structures to help fight against sexual harassment from management and from coworkers.

Several women complained that the mining companies are blocking women from bidding on and working many jobs in the mines.

An update on a parental-leave bill pending in Congress was given at the workshop on this issue. The bill would make it possible for a male parent or for both female and male parents to get unpaid time off from work for a birth, adoption, or serious illness of a child. The CEP since its founding has been a strong advocate of parental leave.

Women who participated in the March 9 national March for Women's Lives gave a report on that demonstration to the "abortion: a controversy in our times" workshop. A resolution passed at the final conference plenary encouraged local support teams to work with other unions and women's rights organizations to hold discussions about women's right to obtain abortions.

The "CEP in the '80s" workshop reaffirmed that the organization would continue to focus its efforts on the problems women face in getting and maintaining jobs in the coal mines.

The "international visits" workshop

heard a report from Joy Huitt about the trip she, along with union President Trumka, took to visit UMWA members in Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Huitt, recently elected secretary-treasurer of District 22, is the first woman to hold district office in UMWA history.

Joan Levitt from Alabama showed slides of her trip to Nicaragua in the same workshop. The slideshow provoked a lively discussion about how working people opposed to the U.S. government's aggression against Nicaragua can fight against the war.

The women miners voted to hold next year's conference in Birmingham, Alabama.



Militant/Kathy Mickells
Women coal miners from across the United States attended the Eighth National Conference of the Coal Employment Project.

What is the Coal Employment Project?

Since 1973, 3,852 women have been hired as underground miners in the United States. The Coal Employment Project (CEP) has played an important role in helping women obtain and hold on to jobs in the mines since it was founded in 1977.

Women miners from many parts of the U.S. coalfields are organized into Support Teams that work closely with the CEP. This year's conference in Paintsville, Kentucky, was hosted by women miners from that state.

The United Mine Workers of America has participated in CEP conferences for many years. A major advance for the CEP

and the UMWA was registered in 1983 when union President Richard Trumka was a keynote speaker at the conference that year.

In an endorsement that appeared in the *UMW Journal* last May, Trumka encouraged "full participation of our members, both men and women" in the 1986 event.

And in a message printed in the conference program book, Trumka said the UMWA endorsed the activity "not only as a demonstration of solidarity with our Union sisters, but as another vehicle through which the problems of women miners can be fully addressed."

More women miners were sent to this

year's conference by their union locals and districts than any previous year. A third of the participants indicated that they were attending their first conference.

The number of women working in the mines has gone down due to layoffs in recent years. Out of the 400 people hired in the United States as underground miners in 1985, 27 were women.

CEP Director Betty Jean Hall explained to the media that "the most striking thing is that despite the declining number of women miners due to the recession in the coal industry, the women's annual conference of women miners keeps growing."

—N.S.

Heathfield, Scargill on mine-closure fight

BY NORTON SANDLER

PAINTSVILLE, Ky. — The campaign by the government of Prime Minister Thatcher and by the British Coal Board to close a number of coal mines in Britain has escalated in recent months. In talking to the *Militant* following the Coal Employment Project conference, Betty Heathfield and Ann Scargill said that 30,000 miners have lost their jobs from mine closures since the end of the 1985 miners' strike.

"It is having a devastating effect on some of the mining communities," Heathfield said.

Scargill explained that one of the ploys the Coal Board uses is the offer of "redundancy pay" (a lump-sum payment for permanently giving up your job). "Five years' wages in advance, that's a lot of money. Miners have never had £25,000 [\$38,000] before. They are trying to make the men think of the short-term, not the long-term. But once the job is gone, it's gone forever," she said.

They explained that the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is trying to organize ongoing struggles against the mine closures.

The Union of Democratic Miners (UDM) was set up as a breakaway from the NUM in 1984 with the help of the Coal Board and the government.

Since the strike the government has tried to strengthen the hand of the UDM at the expense of the NUM.

Tactics employed against the NUM include giving higher pay raises to UDM members as a way of trying to make it more attractive to mine workers.

Recently a court approved the UDM as an official bargaining representative for coal miners along with the NUM. Since 1946, when the mines were nationalized, the NUM has been the sole representative of British miners in contract talks.

In spite of these sweetheart agreements, Heathfield said the UDM is losing members to the NUM.

NUM funds have been locked up by the courts since 1985. Heathfield said a recent court decision has given the funds back to the union but said that a "receiver" is still in charge of payments.

"As far as we are concerned, as far as the NUM is concerned, we still don't have control over our money."

The British government claims that the strike in 1984-85 was illegal. In a pending

court case the two women's husbands, because they are leaders of the NUM, are being held personally responsible for causing about \$2 million in damages in the course of the "illegal" strike.

I asked them their impressions of the CEP conference.

"I could see in talking to the women miners here that their fight is our fight. We have so many things in common. I am with the women miners all the way. They have

really lifted my spirits," Scargill said.

"I had heard a lot about the women miners before I came," Heathfield said. "But it is really nothing like meeting them en bloc. I feel I could now go and tell anybody and everybody in our country about what the women miners are doing, where before I might have just quavered a little trying to sell women the idea of working in the mines to British miners' wives and the NUM."

Canadian meatpackers' strike

Continued from back page

In Ventura's opinion, "It almost appears that Pocklington's got the police bought, the way they act so quickly on his behalf. The law in Alberta is very slanted towards the employers."

The Alberta Conservative Party government has set up a one-person inquiry board. Al Dubensky is to make recommendations by July 14 on how the dispute should be resolved. After 10 days, if Pocklington does not accept the recommendation, the report is dropped. However, if union negotiators do not accept the proposal, the government can force Local 280-P's membership to take a vote.

The federal government has also intervened on behalf of Pocklington, who is a Conservative and friend of Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Agriculture Canada has ordered meat inspectors to cross the Gainers picket line, even though the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), which represents inspectors and veterinarians, has advised their members not to do so. Meat inspectors and some vets have followed the advice of their union.

Despite Pocklington's help from the government and the courts, a recent poll published in the *Edmonton Journal* showed that 51 percent of Alberta's residents support the strikers. Less than 32 percent support Pocklington.

While Pocklington is using the cops, courts, and government against the strike, support for Local 280-P continues to pour in.

A coalition has been formed representing Alberta unions, farmers, and church and women's groups. The coalition has filed a suit against the court injunction that

limits the number of pickets and bans strike supporters from the picket lines.

Recent strike contributions include \$28,000 from the National Union of Provincial Government Employees; a monthly contribution of \$1,005 from United Steelworkers of America Local 1005, which organizes the Stelco plant in Hamilton, Ontario; and \$1,000 from the Ontario New Democratic Party.

UFCW Local 1118-P2 sent the Gainers strikers \$3,300 raised at a victory party to celebrate a settlement won from the Fletcher's meatpacking plant in Red Deer, Alberta. At the end of their recent 18-day strike, Local 1118-P2 had pledged to continue to aid the Gainers strikers.

The UFCW has launched a TV, radio, and newspaper campaign urging people to boycott Gainers products. The Canada-wide boycott is being supported by the Canadian Labor Congress, which is also urging its affiliated unions to give financial support to the strike.

The British Columbia Federation of Labor issued a hot-goods declaration telling its members not to handle Gainers products.

In response to this outpouring of support, Local 280-P President Ventura explained the stakes in the Gainers strike. "If we allow an employer like Pocklington to do what he wants to do," he said, "you'd get all the other employers jumping on the bandwagon to impose the same kind of settlement."

Contributions and messages of support to the Gainers strikers can be sent to UFCW Local 280-P, 9588-111 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0A7 Canada. Telephone (403) 474-8369.

Israeli rulers: allies of apartheid regime

BY FRED FELDMAN

Die Burger (The Citizen), a South African newspaper that backs the apartheid regime, put it this way:

"Israel and South Africa have a common lot. Both are engaged in a struggle for existence, and both are in constant clash with the decisive majorities in the United Nations. Both are reliable foci of strength within the region, which would, without them, fall into anti-Western anarchy. It is in South Africa's interest that Israel is successful in containing her enemies, who are among our own most vicious enemies."

The military and political alliance between the Israeli and South African regimes is a natural one. Both are imperialist powers and are based on the conquest and expulsion from the land of indigenous peoples by foreign settlers. Both are key strategic allies of U.S. imperialism, functioning as policemen for imperialist interests in the Middle East and southern Africa respectively. Both are in a state of permanent war — the white minority regime in South Africa with the Black majority and its allies, and with the nations of southern Africa that seek to maintain their independence; the Israeli regime with the Palestinians it oppresses at home or forces to live in refugee camps abroad, and with the other Arab regimes that it seeks to terrorize and dominate.

The first head of state to visit the newly founded state of Israel in 1948 was Prime Minister Daniel Malan of South Africa. He headed the National Party, which had recently been voted into office on a program of consolidating and extending white rule through the system of apartheid.

The 1967 war by the Israeli regime — in which it defeated its Arab neighbors and conquered more Palestinian and other Arab land — spurred closer military ties. A South African military mission flew to Israel during the war to study Israeli military tactics. General Modechai Hod, commander of the Israeli air force, and then defense minister (now prime minister) Shimon Peres were among Israeli leaders who subsequently visited South Africa.

Relations became still closer when Prime Minister Johannes Vorster visited Israel in April 1976, signing a comprehensive treaty of cooperation with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.



Johannes Vorster (left), then prime minister of South Africa, visited Jerusalem's Wailing Wall during 1976 visit to Israel. He and Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin signed wide-ranging treaty of cooperation. Some \$350 million in Israeli arms were purchased by apartheid regime in 1985.

The Israeli regime aided South African efforts to preserve colonial rule in what was then called Rhodesia. It did this by shipping 11 U.S.-made Bell helicopters to the white regime there by way of South Africa.

In 1981 Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon spent 10 days with South African troops along the Angolan border in South African-occupied Namibia. The South African regime has been at war with Angola since shortly before the country was proclaimed independent of Portugal in 1975.

In 1983 there were strong suspicions that a 60-ton shipment of Israeli arms supposedly destined for Zaire had actually been sent to the South Africa-backed terrorists who seek to overthrow the government of Angola.

The South African border is equipped with Israeli electronic fencing, infrared night vision devices, microwave detection systems, barbed wire, ground sonar, and antipersonnel mines.

Today the Israeli regime sells \$350 million annually in military equipment to the apartheid regime. It does so in defiance of an arms embargo, imposed by the United Nations, that even the United States and other imperialist governments claim to abide by.

"Conventional arms flowing from Israel to South Africa," reported the May-June 1986 *Palestine Focus* published by the November 29th Committee for Palestine, "included Reshef gunboats equipped with Gabriel missiles, patrol boats, self-propelled howitzers, air-to-air rockets, antitank missiles, assault rifles, radar bases, surveillance equipment, Kfir jet fighters, rebuilt Mirage fighters, drone reconnaissance planes, tanks, helicopters, and armor plating. Many of these weapons are based on U.S.-supplied technology and the Kfirs contain American-made engines."

Mossad advises South Africa

The two countries jointly produce the U.S.-designed Scorpion helicopter.

According to British journalist James Adams, Israeli "army experts and specialists on counterintelligence operations and interrogation from the Mossad [Israel's equivalent of the CIA] have been in South Africa in a permanent advisory capacity since 1976."

The Israeli and South African regimes are also believed to be cooperating in de-

veloping atomic weapons. A CIA report to the U.S. Congress in 1980 reportedly asserted that the two governments staged a joint nuclear test in the South Atlantic in September 1979.

Israel is the fourth largest importer of goods from and the seventh largest exporter to South Africa. Israeli purchase of South African diamonds alone amounted to an estimated \$750 million in 1985.

Last September Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir affirmed that Israel would impose no economic sanctions on South Africa.

In addition to diamond purchases, deals are cut to export South African goods to Israel for re-export to other countries. This allows South African capitalists not only to get around economic sanctions, but to take advantage of the duty-free status Israeli goods have in the United States and in many Western European markets.

Buys Israeli bonds

The South African rulers have become significant investors in Israel. "Beginning in April 1979 ... Pretoria, which had never before allowed another country to solicit South African capital, approved the sale of Israeli bonds," wrote Jane Hunter in the March-April 1968 issue of the *Link*, bimonthly magazine of the Manhattan-based Americans for Middle East Understanding.

As of 1984, 35 percent of non-U.S. investment in Israel came from South Africa.

Today the South African government owns 49 percent of Iscor, which produces half of Israel's steel. Zimcorn, a shipping firm, is owned by South Africa's Unicorn Shipping Lines and Israel's Zim Lines.

Koor, Israel's largest conglomerate, has many South African investments.

The Israeli regime sometimes claims that it collaborates with the apartheid regime to protect South Africa's 110,000 Jews. This overlooks the role of the ruling National Party in fostering anti-Semitic prejudices and propaganda for decades.

And it covers up the fact that South African Jews, like other whites in that country, are increasingly divided in their response to the anti-apartheid struggle. Jews are to be found across the South African political spectrum, from businessmen with a deep stake in the superexploitation that apartheid makes possible to freedom fighters belonging to the outlawed African National Congress.

What draws the Israeli and South African rulers together is the common interests of these imperialist regimes in pushing back the liberation struggles of peoples in Africa and the Middle East and the big profits to be made from the superexploitation of Black labor and the plunder of Arab land.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? 'PM': U.S. gov't smears Panama

A subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee recently accused Panama of being the linchpin in the drug trade. Jesse Helms, the subcommittee's chairman, said that Panamanian armed forces head Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega was the "head of the biggest drug trafficking operation in the Western Hemisphere."

A few weeks before, the Helms subcommittee had convened in secret to hear U.S. officials make similar allegations about corruption and drug smuggling in Mexico.

What have Mexico and Panama done to deserve so much attention from the U.S. government and big-business media?

Both the Mexican and Panamanian governments have taken stands on foreign policy that are not to Washington's liking, especially around questions relating to U.S. military intervention in Central America.

The new issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* includes an in-depth article on the smear campaign against Panama and Washington's worries about the Panama canal treaties and the strategic U.S. military bases in that country.

Perspectiva Mundial is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every two weeks brings you the truth about the struggles of working people and the oppressed in the U.S. and around the world.

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'United Farmer and Rancher Congress' set for September

A United Farmer and Rancher Congress has been called by several farmers' organizations. The congress, scheduled for September 11-13, was announced at a July 3 news conference in Austin, Texas.



Willie Nelson performing at Farm Aid II. Grant from concert proceeds will go toward financing congress.

The announcement preceded the holding of a second Farm Aid concert July 4, organized by singer Willie Nelson and attended by a reported 45,000 people, in nearby Manor, Texas. Farm Aid has provided a \$250,000 grant to finance the congress.

"People are going broke. Banks are folding. Foreclosures are increasing," said spokesperson Doug Zabel at the news conference. He said that the farm bill recently signed into law by President Reagan "hasn't done anything to help family farmers. If this farm law lasts five years, there won't be anybody left in the countryside."

The news conference announcing the congress heard representatives of the National Farmers Union, the American Agriculture Movement, the North American Farm Alliance, the National Farmers Organization, and the National Save the Family Farm Coalition.

The National Farm Bureau Federation, which supports administration policy against working farmers, has said it will not participate in the congress.

While the Farm Bureau has the largest formal membership of any farmers' organization, it is actually a huge business empire with many members who have no connection with farming.

South African unionist tours United States

BY JANICE LYNN

SAN FRANCISCO — International solidarity was the theme of a month-long tour of South African unionist Amon Msane, chief shop steward at the 3M plant organized by the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union near Johannesburg, South Africa, and Stanley Fischer, president of Local 8-760 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) at the 3M plant in Freehold, New Jersey.

On February 28, some 300 Black South African workers employed by 3M stopped work for the afternoon and marched and rallied in a show of solidarity with some 400 3M workers in Freehold, New Jersey, who faced the loss of their jobs because of the plant closing.

One of the many stops on the tour was a June 7 meeting here titled "Africa for USA." It was sponsored by OCAW Local 1-5; the South Africa Liberation Support Committee, Local 10 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), International Molders and Allied Workers Union Local 164, Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, and San Francisco Anti-apartheid Committee.

Msane explained, "As workers we believe we belong to one family. What affects workers working for 3M in one part of the world affects us all, and we need to come together."

"Let us try to strengthen the power of labor," he explained to the 85 unionists and others at the meeting. Msane said that the 3M workers in South Africa issued a call supporting divestment, and he argued against those who say that Blacks would be the ones most hurt by divestment.

"South African society is like a

ladder," he said. "If, through divestment, the ladder falls, those already on the bottom of the ladder will feel the least pain."

Other speakers at the meeting included Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer, San Francisco Central Labor Council; David Shelton, United Transportation Union Local 1731; and Leo Robinson, ILWU Local 10.

Janice Lynn is a member of OCAW Local 1-5.

Puerto Rican health workers to aid Nicaragua

The National Union of Health Workers of Puerto Rico is helping organize a volunteer work brigade to Nicaragua in July at the invitation of the Nicaraguan Federation of Health Workers. Fourteen Puerto Rican health workers will take part in this year's Ramón

Emeterio Betances Brigade. Last year the brigade spent a month working in Nicaragua in the field of health care.

The union stated: "As Latin Americans, we are in solidarity with our sister peoples fighting in difficult circumstances in order to better their living conditions."

Currently, the brigade is organizing fundraising activities to help pay for the airfare, including a showing of the documentary film *Witness to War: Dr. Charlie Clements*, which is about Washington's intervention in El Salvador.

June 14 antiwar rally in Toronto

Eight hundred people rallied at Toronto City Hall June 14 demanding that the Canadian government "embargo South Africa and increase aid to Nicaragua." Before the rally they marched from city hall to the U.S. consulate.

A contingent from the New Democratic Party (NDP), Canada's union-based labor party, and Public Service Employees Union members also participated.

Chants of "Reagan, Reagan, pay attention, we don't want your intervention," "One, two, three, four, U.S. out of El Salvador," and "Hey, hey, Uncle Sam, we remember Vietnam" were prominent at the action.

Speakers included Dan Heap, NDP; Yulof Saloojee, African National Congress; Maurice Hill, Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front; Sherie McDonald, Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics; Richard Martin, executive vice-president, Canadian Labor Congress; and Midia Bishop, Canadians Concerned About South Africa.

In Vancouver 100 people marched in the rain to the U.S. consulate to demand an end to Canadian government complicity with the U.S. government's war against Nicaragua.

S. Africa miners' strike hits jailing of unionists

BY FRED FELDMAN

Thousands of Black miners in South Africa have gone on strike demanding the release of hundreds of union leaders jailed under the state of emergency imposed by the apartheid regime.

At least 15 miners had been killed as of July 7 in what the mine bosses called "faction fighting." This term is commonly used by the South African rulers to describe attacks on anti-apartheid Blacks by vigilantes organized by the employers and the cops. They try to pass off the murder of strikers by such hired goons as "Black-on-Black violence."

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines, the mineowners' association, had threatened earlier that his organization would view a strike protesting the crackdown on union rights "as an illegal strike and deal with it as such."

The miners' strikes began July 3 when nearly 2,000 Black mine workers walked off the job at four diamond mines owned by De Beers, a mining firm linked to the giant Anglo American Corporation.

As of July 5, 11,000 miners were reported on strike or slowdown at diamond and gold mines.

On July 9 De Beers officials said that strikers at its mines had agreed to return to work, following a company promise to campaign for the release of union leaders.

The protest strikes and the murder of miners came in the midst of a sharpening dispute with the mineowners over wages and working conditions. Black miners make an average of \$78 per month, about one-fifth the wages paid white miners. The National Union of Mineworkers is asking for a 30 percent increase. The owners have said no.

On July 2 the union declared a formal dispute with the companies, the first step in calling a strike under South Africa's labor laws.

In addition to the miners, workers at eight chemical plants were reported striking for the release of jailed unionists.

The 600,000-member Congress of South African Trade Unions, to which the National Union of Mineworkers is affiliated, has set July 10 as the deadline for the government to release jailed union leaders, cease other harassment of the unions, and take steps to end repression.

The federation set July 14 as a day of industrial action if the deadline is not met. Advocacy of strikes is barred under the emergency.

At least 10 leaders of the 250,000-member National Union of Mineworkers have been jailed. Union President James Motlatsi and Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa have left the country to avoid arrest.

Hundreds of union officials and well over 1,300 other unionists are among the more than 4,500 people jailed without charges since the emergency was proclaimed June 12.

While the Congress of South African Trade Unions has been a prime target, other unions independent of the apartheid regime have been hit as well. On July 5 international labor groups reported the arrest of James Mndaweni, president of the Council of Unions of South Africa, which has tens of thousands of members. He was charged with participating in an illegal meeting May 1.

On July 7 the police prohibited 33 organizations from holding meetings in the Johannesburg area. The groups affected include the United Democratic Front (the 600-group anti-apartheid coalition), the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the National Union of Mineworkers, and the Council of Unions of South Africa. All student councils at high schools and universities were also barred from meeting.

Two days later the regime dropped the ban on indoor union meetings.

A similar ban has been issued by the police in the Cape Town area.

Not even the capitalist parliamentary opposition to the government of President Pieter Botha has been immune to attack.

Peter Gastrow, chairman of the capitalist Progressive Federal Party, which has been critical of the repression carried out by the Botha government, reported July 2 that a party branch chairman in the Eastern Cape region had been arrested.

Events since the state of emergency was

proclaimed have shed light on the modifications the regime is making in the system of white supremacy. Last September Botha sought to create the impression that formal South African citizenship would be restored to about 9 million Africans currently assigned to the supposedly independent Bantustans of Transkei, Ciskei, BophutaTswana, and Venda. They were stripped of citizenship when the regime proclaimed these Bantustans to be independent states.

The four are among the 10 Bantustans created by the apartheid regime — desolate reserves where millions of Africans are required to live unless they are working for a white boss elsewhere in South Africa.

Of course the citizenship offered by Botha did not include the right to participate in determining how South Africa is governed, the right to live where one pleases, or other rights normally associated with citizenship.

But the law on citizenship enacted June 25 affected only 1.8 million of these 9 million people, and they are required to apply individually for citizenship.

Bantustan administrators, handpicked by the regime, are seeking to further minimize the number who will obtain citizenship. The so-called foreign minister of the BophutaTswana Bantustan recently declared that anyone receiving South African citizenship would lose all citizenship

rights in BophutaTswana.

The denial of even formal citizenship to millions of South African workers assigned to "independent" Bantustans guarantees that the repeal of the old pass laws has no meaning for them. They are covered by immigration laws that are just as restrictive.

The regime is pressing ahead with plans to force fake independence on South Africans assigned to the KwaNdebele Bantustan. This would mean the loss of formal citizenship for thousands of people who work in the capital city of Pretoria.

Winnie Mandela, the anti-apartheid fighter who is married to imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, declared June 18 in an interview with Cuba's Radio Havana:

"We do not see any choice for a peaceful solution other than the application of measures that strangle the regime economically and isolate it completely. Let the foreign companies not be an obstacle in our struggle. Let them not finance the bloodshed. Let them not finance the armament with which the regime kills us each day.

"Each time that we bury one of our dead, each time we pick up our brothers fallen on the streets, we know that the main allies of the bloodshed are the governments of the United States and Great Britain.

"I do not think that at this point there is a better choice than economic sanctions against the regime. . . ."

London racists vandalize Mandela bust

BY HARRY RING

During a recent visit to London, I took the customary walk along the Thames River in the area of the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, and, nearby, the Royal Festival Hall, part of a cultural complex somewhat similar to New York's Lincoln Center.

Walking by the Royal Festival Hall, I was unexpectedly and pleasantly surprised to see a bust of Nelson Mandela, the famed South African freedom fighter.

An inscription declared:

"The Struggle Is My Life. Nelson Mandela. Gaoled 5th of August 1962. Sentenced to life imprisonment 12th of June 1964 for his actions against apartheid.

"Erected by the Greater London Council. Unveiled by Oliver Tambo, President of the African National Congress, 28th of October 1985."

Later, I returned to get a picture of this impressive work. It was then that I saw it had been vandalized. I learned it had been done by racists in the early morning hours of June 24.

Ian Walter, the sculptor who had created the bust, was at work preparing to repair and restore the bust.

He explained that it was made of spun glass and it would be possible to restore it

so that the damage would not be noticeable.

He said it had been struck a number of blows with a pickax and that the police had apprehended three men who were being charged with the crime.

Walter said it was the second time the bust had been attacked.

He laid responsibility for the attack on the National Front, a fascist outfit that promotes racist violence.

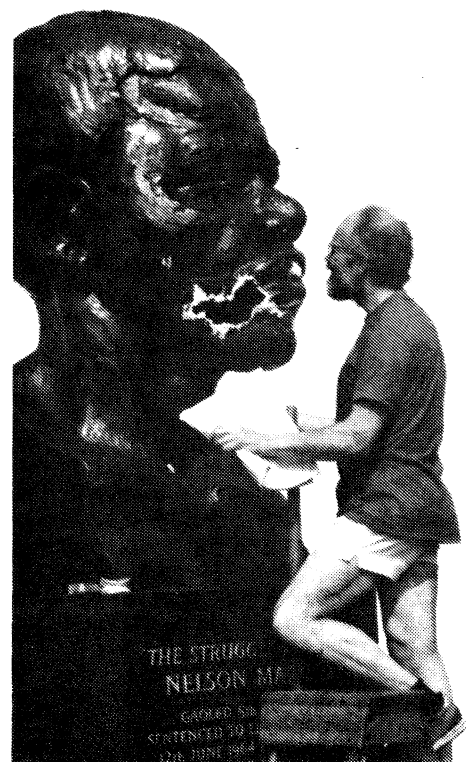
The racists, Walter said, hope to build resistance to the growing movement in support of South Africa's anti-apartheid fighters. But, he predicted, "they will fail."

If anything, he added, such acts as vandalizing the Mandela bust help expose them. People, he said, "are appalled."

And, in fact, in the few minutes I talked with Walter, at least three people stopped to ask what had happened. All expressed indignation.

A strong supporter of the anti-apartheid movement, Walter said he had initially made the bust for the African National Congress and later the agreement was won to put it on public display under the auspices of the city council.

As he went about stenciling the damaged area, Walter said, "As long as it stands here, we'll maintain it in its original state."



Militant/Harry Ring
Sculptor surveys damage to vandalized bust of Nelson Mandela.

The ultimate investment — Service Corp. International, the nation's biggest burial operation, owns 309 funeral homes, a 100,000-member cremation society, and 50 flower shops. It's enjoying an annual growth rate of 23



Harry Ring

percent. Observes a Wall Street analyst: "It's got a product that's not going to go out of style. Everybody's a potential customer."

Laugh, I thought I'd die — "Service Corp. International... is a bit of a challenge for investors. Can you get used to smiling every time the nation's mortality rate rises?" — *USA Today*.

Probably so — With a lower state minimum wage for teenagers, Connecticut tobacco farmers rely on high schoolers to pick their crops. But with a few more jobs available, the low-wage pickers are harder to find. One farmer conceded that working tobacco is hard, hot, and tiring. But, he said, "It's an education people can't get out of school or books."

With justice for all — A New York police lieutenant who hired

20 goons to clear tenants from his four apartment buildings pleaded guilty to grand larceny and extortion. He copped a plea and a judge gave him 1½ to 4½ years, which means he'll be out in months. Meanwhile, victimized tenants were threatened with contempt for voicing protests.

Besides, they come from broken homes — A presidential commission probing rampant corruption among war contractors, recommended relaxation of the rules because enforcement only makes for more tense relations between contractors and government and heightens public awareness of the abuses, an awareness the commis-

sion found "deeply disquieting."

Yup — In 1961, a young New Zealander organized Conticki International to provide camping tours for budget-minded youth. Not now. Today's programs feature tours using hotels, or organized campsites plus stays at a French chateau, an Italian villa, and a castle on the Rhine.

Home furnishings dep't — A Southampton, Long Island, display of the works of various posh decorators sounded great. There were "down-home touches... albeit in interiors that sport \$2,800 Aubusson pillows or the odd \$85,000 18th century Italian

chest." But for us, the neatest touch was the zebra-striped toilet paper.

Knock your socks off — Feature stories about Bijan's, the Beverly Hills and New York men's shop, invariably focus on the \$75,000 crocodile luggage set, or the \$7,500 topcoat. But there are also items for the budget-minded. Like silk socks for \$65 a pair, or cotton ones for a mere \$35.

P.S. — It is a bit of a reversal, but somehow the above item reminded us of the street merchant who warned us against a nearby competitor, advising, "He'll steal your socks without untying your shoes."

CALENDAR

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Freedom Struggle in South Africa Today: Mounting Repression, Mounting Resistance. Speakers: Sita Mathiba, South African student and anti-apartheid activist; Dave Ferguson, member United Steelworkers of America Local 6612 and Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., July 12, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua! Speaker: Heidi Rose, member Socialist Workers Party, recently spent one month in Nicaragua. Sun., July 20, 4 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Nicaragua Today: An Answer to Washington's Lies. Speaker: Dave Zilly, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Translation to Spanish. Sun., July 20, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell Rd., room #3. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Nicaragua: Why a State of Emergency? Speakers: Olga Rodríguez, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., July 18, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Socialist Campaign Fundraiser. Help put the socialist campaign on the ballot. Potluck dinner. Sat., July 12, 8 p.m. 3222 Palmyra St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign '86. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

Nicaragua: Seven Years of Struggle for Self-determination. Speakers: Joan Levitt, member United Mine Workers of America, Birmingham, Alabama; Jim Gallese, former planner at Nicaraguan Ministry of Agricultural Development and Reform. Sat., July 19, 7:30 p.m. 3207 Dublin St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Hormel Strike Called Off. Struggle Against Union-busting Continues. Speaker: Andrew

Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress and member United Auto Workers Local 5960. Sat., July 12, 8 p.m. 2135 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

Why U.S. Government Attacks Nicaragua. Speaker: Tim Craine, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor, member Detroit Federation of Teachers. Sun., July 20, 6 p.m. 2135 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Defend Labor Rights and Free Speech in Austin, Minnesota. Drop the felony charges against 16 members and supporters of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 charged after peaceful demonstration at Hormel plant gate April 11. Speakers: Jim Guyette, suspended president of Local P-9; Ray Rogers, Local P-9 consultant. Sun., July 13. Refreshments, 4 p.m.; program, 5 p.m. United Auto Workers Hall, 2191 Ford Pkwy. Ausp: Twin Cities Hormel Strikers Support Group.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Gay Rights in the '80s: the Meaning of the Supreme Court Attacks. A panel discussion. Speakers: Joe Allor, member Socialist Workers Party and United Auto Workers Local 110; Arlene Zarembka, civil rights lawyer; representative from *Gay News Telegraph*. Sat., July 12, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women. Speakers: Cathlene Denny, member International Association of Machinists and Socialist Workers Party; Peggy Mow, March 9th Committee. Sun., July 13, 7 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Toledo

Stop Racist Attacks: Cleveland Violence. Speaker: Kate Button, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. Sun., July 13, 7 p.m. 1701 W Bancroft St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

The Philippines Since Marcos' Overthrow. Speakers: Aida Jordan, coordinator, Ohio Coalition for Philippine Concern; Glenn Orlic, Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., July 20, 7 p.m. 1701 W Bancroft. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

OREGON

Portland

Break U.S. Ties With South Africa! Speakers: Ben Priestley, Black United Front and Portlanders Organize for Southern Africa Freedom; Abdi Hassan, Portland State University African Students Association; Chayatha Phelps, Lewis and Clark College South Africa Action Group; K.C. Ellis, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 13, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

New organizing drive at Hormel

Continued from front page

the UFCW International trustees.

Since the trustees have taken over the labor center they have denied P-9 members, their supporters, and Hormel retirees use of the union hall.

The mural painted on the outside of the building and dedicated to imprisoned South African leader Nelson Mandela has been defaced since the trustees took control. The trustees are threatening to entirely remove the mural.

Two new offices have been set up just blocks from the Austin Labor Center. One houses the North American Meat Packers Union and the other the offices of the United Support Group. The support group continues to sell T-shirts, buttons, and caps and distribute groceries and financial aid to those not back to work. It holds regular meetings.

At the July 3 support-group meeting, hundreds gathered at Austin's Sutton Park. Veteran Local P-9 members John Winkels and Caspar Winkels explained that it was in the same park 53 years earlier that they had helped form the first union at the Austin Hormel plant. Suspended P-9 business agent Pete Winkels said, "You just heard

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Nicaragua: Our Own Country. Film showing. Fri., July 18, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Let Nicaragua Live! Celebrate the Seventh Anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Speakers: Ed Asner, actor; Sister Darlene Nicgorski, defendant in the Tucson sanctuary trial. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 19, 6:45 p.m. Centennial Hall, 733 N 8th St. Donation: \$3, \$4 at the door. Ausp: Central America Solidarity Coalition, Mobilization for Survival; Jobs With Peace; Wisconsin Action Coalition; others. For more information call (414) 224-9352.

from my dad and my uncle and I'm here tonight so that 15 years from now my kids won't have to go through this."

North American Meat Packers Union organizer Carl Pontius explained NAMPU's efforts to rebuild a fighting, democratic meatpackers' union. Referring to their leafletting at the Hormel plant and calls to workers in the plant, he said, "Everyone wants a real union in there, one where they can vote and make decisions. They tried to act like we did before but now they get called on the carpet. We need to get out and talk to them."

Other speakers reported that 90 percent of those going into the plant took leaflets and that some signed the recertification petition and are helping to sign up others. The workers in Austin are continuing their efforts to petition for NAMPU and to reach out and gain support.

Messages of support and contributions for the Hormel workers can be sent to the United Support Group, P.O. Box 396, Austin, Minn., 55912. Phone (507) 437-4110. Information on the North American Meat Packers Union is available at 103 4th Ave. NE, Austin, Minn. 55912. Phone (507) 437-8589.

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

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

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

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 2803 B St. Zip: 92102. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 25 W. 3rd Ave. Zip: 80223. Tel: (303) 698-2550.

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

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd Floor. Zip: 30303. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

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

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

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: SWP, YSA, 107 Brighton Ave., 2nd floor, Allston. Zip: 02134. Tel: (617) 787-0275.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: SWP, YSA, 2135 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48201. Tel: (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4725 Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. **St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

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 Paddock 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.

U.S. brands Salvador's 'Las Madres' as terrorists

On May 6 in the downtown section of El Salvador's capital, San Salvador, María Teresa Tulla was grabbed by a group of men in civilian clothes and forced into a car at gunpoint. During 48 hours of interrogation, she was repeatedly raped by seven men, and her stomach was cut



WOMEN IN REVOLT

Pat Grogan

by a blunt metal instrument.

Two days after her abduction, she was dumped in the city's Cuscatlán Park. She was one of the lucky ones. She was alive.

Tulla is a leader of El Salvador's Mothers' Committees for the Disappeared and Political Prisoners, a coalition of three groups known as Co-Madres.

"Vivos los llevaron. Vivos los queremos" is their slogan. It means, "Alive you took them. Alive we want them back."

The Mothers' Committees were among the first to break the silence surrounding the fierce government repression during the period 1979-82, in which thousands were murdered by government death squads, "disappeared," or forced to flee the country. The women braved the government terror and took to the streets in the now-familiar black dresses and white scarves demanding to know the fate and whereabouts of family members.

They publicly put the U.S.-backed regime of José Napoleón Duarte on notice that it would be held responsible if anything should happen to them for their activ-

ities.

Members of Co-Madres continue to expose the Duarte regime as the brutal, Made-in-USA murder machine it is. Their persistent demands for the return of the disappeared, the release of political prisoners, the suppression of the death squads, and an end to torture and violation of human rights make it hard for the U.S. government to pass off the Duarte regime as the democratic, popular government it paints it up to be.

That's why the U.S. government has declared that members and leaders of the Mothers' Committees are "terrorists."

María Teresa Tulla was one of four leaders of the Mothers' Committees who were denied visas to travel to the United States in 1984 in order to receive a human rights award. The State Department said that the women were terrorists and would not be allowed in the country.

María Teresa Tulla was interviewed by representatives of human rights groups following her abduction. They examined her wounds, substantiated the attacks against her, and called for an independent investigation. The U.S. embassy in San Salvador, however, flatly refused to investigate the charges of abduction and torture, and again condemned her in a press release.

At a press conference following Tulla's release by her abductors, the Mothers' Committees released a statement squarely placing the blame for the repression on the U.S. State Department's accusation of terrorism, "an irresponsible accusation which has resulted in the persecution and arrest of our members."

"Therefore," the statement charged, "we hold the government of President Duarte and his military and paramilitary forces responsible — along with the [U.S.] State Department and the U.S. Embassy — for the capture and torture of María Teresa and any future attacks against her family and any of our members."

Despite the repression, the Mothers' Committees went

ahead with plans for a May 10 Mother's Day demonstration.

Members of a U.S. women's delegation were present at the demonstration as part of a tour organized by the Women's Association of El Salvador (AMES). They included representatives of the Woman to Woman Campaign, Friends of AMES, and several journalists.

They reported that more than 1,000 women marched through downtown San Salvador May 10, taking over the streets, blocking traffic with ropes, chanting slogans, and handing out leaflets.

After a special mass for the disappeared at the cathedral, in a show of courage and defiance they marched to Cuscatlán Park where María Teresa Tulla had been dumped. Many of the women gave testimony about their own experiences and the attacks on themselves and their families. Solidarity messages from the labor movement were read.

"We want to affirm our unbreakable decision to continue struggling," Co-Madres said in their press release. "They want to intimidate us so we will renounce our commitment to obtain the freedom of the political prisoners and disappeared and justice for all those who have been murdered."

On May 28 María Teresa Tulla was again arrested, according to a report from the Woman to Woman Campaign. The next day, two other members of Co-Madres — Dora Campos Segovia and Reina Isabel Hernández — were also arrested by heavily armed men.

On June 1, 40 members of the Mothers' Committees took over the cathedral in downtown San Salvador to demand that the women be released unharmed.

Telegrams protesting this U.S.-instigated campaign against the Mothers' Committees can be sent to President Duarte, Casa Presidencial, San Salvador, El Salvador; and to Edwin Coor, U.S. embassy, San Salvador, El Salvador.

N.Y. Militant Forum hears ANC, SWAPO reps

BY CAROL BURKE

NEW YORK — Some 100 activists and supporters of the movement against apartheid attended a lively panel discussion on "Struggling against apartheid — from South Africa to the United States." The event was sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum and held June 20.

Many people who were attracted to the forum had participated in the historic march and rally against apartheid on June 14 here. That march of 100,000, organized by the New York Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council, was the largest anti-apartheid protest ever held in the United States.

The panel included Tseke Morathi, African National Congress of South Africa; Hiyangerwa Asheeke, the South West Africa People's Organisation's deputy representative to the United Nations; Adeyemi Bandle, National Black United Front; and Mel Mason, a member of the Socialist Workers Party's National Committee. Both Bandle and Mason are members of the New York Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council.

Tseke Morathi traced the history of the upsurge in South Africa, from the student protests in Soweto in 1976 to the mass mobilizations against the apartheid regime occurring today.

Hiyangerwa Asheeke reported on de-

velopments in his country, Namibia, which is ruled by South Africa. There, too, the independence fighters continue to gain support.

Both freedom fighters stressed the need for continued pressure on the U.S. government in order to force an end to its policy of "constructive engagement" and to force sanctions against the Pretoria government.

Mason spoke about the significance of the June 14 action and explained the role that Black trade union leaders played in founding the New York coordinating council. He pointed out that the involvement of trade unionists and other U.S. workers in the fight against apartheid would bring powerful forces into the movement demanding that the U.S. government break all ties with the racist regime.

Bandle spoke further on the need to deepen anti-apartheid organizing. He observed that the movement in the United States has many fronts, such as the cultural and sports boycotts, as well as the fight for divestment from companies doing business with South Africa. He reported on proposed legislation requiring that all New

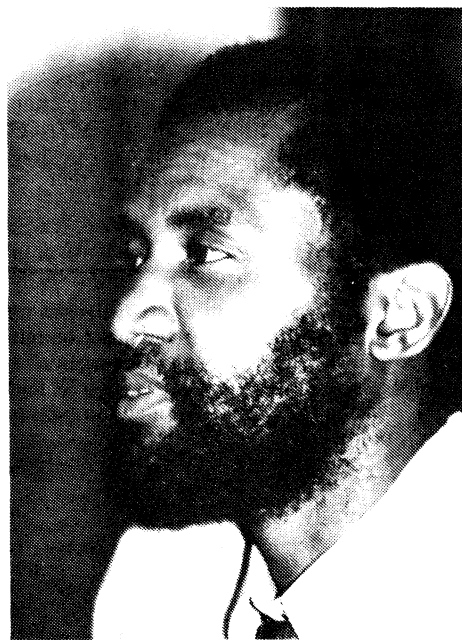
York State pension funds divest.

In the discussion period, activists attending the forum raised many questions: how to counter the propaganda barrage about "Black-on-Black violence" in South Africa; what prospect there is for peaceful change in southern Africa; what effect on South African workers would the withdrawal by U.S. corporations have; and on many other topics. The discussion continued informally long after the program was over.

The new Pathfinder Press books by Nelson Mandela, *The Struggle Is My Life* and *Habla Nelson Mandela* were of great interest, as was the literature table set up by members of the South West Africa People's Organisation.

A number of people who had first learned of the Militant Labor Forum at the June 14 action expressed interest in coming back to future forums, and one young Haitian man was interested in finding out more about the Young Socialist Alliance.

The forum was taped by New York radio station WBAI, to be broadcast in excerpts during their news reports.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Hiyangerwa Asheeke, deputy representative to UN of South West Africa People's Organisation.

Antigovernment protests shake Pakistan

BY MALIK MIAH

Major antigovernment protests shook Pakistan on July 5, the ninth anniversary of the July 5, 1977, military coup that brought dictator Gen. Mohammad Zia ul-Haq to power.

General Zia overthrew the government of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was later hanged in 1979 for an alleged conspiracy to murder the father of a political rival five years earlier.

Bhutto's daughter, Benazir, is the chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party and the central leader of the opposition movement demanding an end to the dictatorship. The Pakistan People's Party is the principal party in this opposition.

Steven Weisman, correspondent of the *New York Times*, reports that 50,000 people rallied in Lahore and "a few small towns and cities in southern Pakistan, Miss Bhutto's home territory, were reported shut by strikes and roadblocks."

Benazir Bhutto, who has spent most of the last nine years in exile or under arrest, called the protests a big success.

In an address to a rally of a thousand workers, Bhutto promised a sweeping program of benefits for workers in labor unions. These included an increase in the minimum wage and more opportunities for

profit-sharing and worker ownership of business, once the dictatorship is removed from power.

"In view of the galloping inflation, the purchasing power of the workers has tremendously eroded," she said. She denounced as "tall claims" the government's reports of a healthy economy.

Since martial law was lifted by the regime in December 1985, political strikes and mass protests have significantly increased. Workers, peasants, and other opponents of the regime see the gradual lifting of the most onerous provisions of martial law as a byproduct of the mass democratic struggle.

The first six months of this year have seen the largest and most sustained protests in Pakistan's history. Estimates of the largest rallies range upward to half a million people. Workers and peasants by the thousands lined the road when Bhutto made a tour of the Punjabi countryside earlier in the year.

"The speech to the workers," Weisman noted, "was seen by political experts as representing an attempt by Miss Bhutto to gain the support of labor in possible future strikes, work stoppages, and other measures in what many predict will be a stepped-up campaign for elections later this year."

A central demand of the opposition is a call for elections. Opposition parties boycotted the last elections in February 1985 because they were undemocratic. So far Zia and his hand-picked prime minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo, have rejected the demand for elections, hoping to ride out the protests. The next elections are not scheduled until 1990.

But, as Bhutto has pointed out, Pakistan's economy is in crisis. This country of 100 million has a per capita income of \$300 per year, and a growing foreign debt, now at \$10 billion. In addition, there are 2 to 3 million refugees from Afghanistan, primarily in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province.

Zia's main backer remains the U.S. government. The Reagan administration has proposed a \$4.02 billion, six-year aid package beginning next year. This is on top of the \$3.2 billion Washington gave Zia's regime over the last five years.

This is the context of the growing democratic movement to oust the dictatorship. Bhutto says more pressure will be exerted until elections are called.

At the July 5 rally she asked, "Will you join the campaign this autumn?" The crowd shouted, "Yes! Yes!" She said, "This will prove to be the last July 5."



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Tseke Morathi, representative of African National Congress of South Africa.

Solidarity can cost you benefits

The Supreme Court chipped away another piece of union power in a decision it handed down July 2.

The court said that states may deny unemployment benefits to workers who financially support a strike that causes them to be laid off, even if they are not on strike themselves.

In 1967 the United Auto Workers union assessed special dues from all its members to build a strike fund to take on General Motors. The union reached a national agreement with GM, but strikes hit several plants over local issues.

The case started when three GM workers were denied unemployment benefits by the State of Michigan. They were laid off because local strikes at other GM plants caused shortages that stopped production where they worked.

The state said they were not entitled to unemployment benefits because they had paid into the strike fund, and were therefore plainly responsible for their own unemployment.

States already have the discretion to decide whether or not to give unemployment benefits to strikers. This ruling lets them use cutoffs of benefits more widely as a weapon against the union movement.

The ruling is directly aimed at weakening the union's hand in a strike. It is meant to make it more difficult for the union to prepare for a strike or to use union resources to back a strike.

The court's 6-3 ruling is aimed at making it harder for workers to organize solidarity with other fighters. And at making them think twice before coming to the aid of strikers, sending a contribution, or organizing a plant-

gate collection.

The ruling is in clear violation of the National Labor Relations Act that recognizes the rights of workers to join unions and to support them with dues and contributions. As Justices Brennan, Marshall, and Blackmun wrote in a dissenting opinion, the ruling violates federal labor laws because it "may prevent workers from exercising their right to expend money in support of a strike," or "to contribute to a fund that will strengthen the union's position in collective bargaining."

It is not surprising that this ruling comes nearly two decades after the case began. The employing class with its government, courts, and other institutions has stepped up its attacks on the wages, working conditions, and rights of working people. As a result of this offensive, more working people have come to see the need for solidarity. Over the last several years especially, solidarity for workers and farmers in battle has grown.

Of particular importance is the broad campaign of solidarity with the embattled Hormel workers in Austin, Minnesota.

The impressive support won by members of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants in their battle against TWA and for the Communications Workers of America's strike are other recent examples.

It is this budding solidarity the ruling class and its courts and judges seek to weaken and undermine.

This high court decision is an attack on the fundamental right of working people to join together in support of the union cause and to stand together in a fight.

The response of the labor movement must be to redouble solidarity efforts.

Racist gunman must face trial

The July 8 decision by the State Court of Appeals, New York's highest court, to reinstate charges of attempted murder and assault against Bernhard Goetz is a gain for the democratic rights of Blacks and all working people.

The decision means that Goetz will have to face trial.

On Dec. 22, 1984, he gunned down four Black youths on a New York City subway, claiming that he believed they were trying to rob him. Eyewitnesses said the youths had threatened no one on the train. After shooting the four youths, Goetz went from one to another, checking to make sure all were hit. When he got to Darrel Cabey, he said, "You don't look so bad, here's another," and shot him again.

Cabey's spinal cord was severed in the shooting. He has suffered irreversible brain damage and is paralyzed from the waist down. He is suing Goetz for \$50 million.

Goetz later boasted to reporters, "If I had more control, I would have held the gun to his head and blown his brains out." He admitted intending to "murder" all four.

Much of the capitalist media made a hero out of Goetz for this orgy of racist brutality. The rulers used the case to

seek more support for increasing the number of cops and police power to trample on the democratic rights of "suspects."

Ultrarightist forces, such as the *New York Post* newspaper, sought to popularize extralegal vigilantism as well.

In the midst of this antidemocratic media campaign, a grand jury charged Goetz only with illegal possession of weapons. Wide protests led by the Black community forced a second grand jury hearing, which brought charges of attempted murder and assault against him.

On April 17 an appeals court threw out the charges against Goetz. The green light this gave racist vigilantes was indicated by Goetz's lawyer, who said his client might soon resume carrying a gun on subway trains.

The latest court decision states: "Mr. Goetz's own statements, together with the testimony of the passengers, clearly support the elements of the crime charged. . . ."

The decision that Goetz must stand trial is a victory for the continuing efforts to bring this racist, would-be mass killer to justice.

Sports drug tests: antiunion

Gene Upshaw, the executive director of the National Football League Players Association, has announced that the union will fight football Commissioner Pete Rozelle's new mandatory drug-testing program.

Under cover of "cleaning up professional sports" — and using the tragic deaths of Don Rogers of the Cleveland Browns and University of Maryland basketball player Len Bias — the league management is attempting to make inroads against the players' union and the democratic rights of all working people.

If any boss in a mine, mill, factory, or office announced that from now on workers would have to submit to unannounced urinalysis tests that could result in suspension, the immediate reaction would be outrage.

But that's what Pete Rozelle is imposing on the players, who will have to submit to drug-testing for cocaine, marijuana, opiates, PCP, amphetamines, and alcohol. Players who test positive can be suspended without pay and forced to enter hospitals.

Asked about the players' right to privacy, Rozelle answered that "in the unique world of professional sports, you give up some of that privacy for the benefits."

But this is not a "sports" issue, or a "celebrity" issue,

or a discussion of responsibilities of public figures.

It is a basic question of democratic rights. It is a basic union issue. And the outcome will affect the rights of all working people.

Major inroads have already been made against civil liberties with the mounting use of drug tests by private employers.

Under a federal ruling, 100,000 rail workers are now legally required to submit to such tests.

The president's Commission on Organized Crime has called for mandatory drug testing for all federal workers and has recommended them for all workers.

The unions are fighting such intolerable invasions of personal privacy. These programs are used to establish a witch-hunt mentality against workers, to intimidate and victimize them.

If they get away with this antiunion move against the players' association, the employers will be one step closer to shoving it down the throats of all working people.

The players' fight deserves the strong backing of the entire labor movement and all supporters of democratic rights.

Carl Skoglund, one of Ellis Island's last prisoners

There have been a lot of articles in the press recently about the Statue of Liberty and the millions of immigrants who passed through Ellis Island when they first came to the United States.

But there is another Ellis Island: the one that served as a prison for thousands of immigrants who were "detained" and sometimes turned away, and the many U.S. residents awaiting deportation — usually for political reasons.

During 1953, 38,000 people were "detained" for different periods of time on Ellis Island. Many were awaiting deportation as part of the McCarthyite anticommunist witch-hunt aimed at breaking the fighting capacity of the labor movement.

Mounting protests against the barbarous treatment of the detainees forced the government to shut down Ellis Island in November 1954.

One of the last people to be held on Ellis Island was Carl Skoglund, the veteran leader of the U.S. working class and a founding member of the Socialist Workers Party.

On Dec. 15, 1950, Skoglund was ordered deported. He was the second person to be found deportable under provisions of the newly enacted McCarran Immigration Act. The sole basis for the deportation order was that he had belonged to the Communist Party in the 1920s.

Skoglund came to the United States in 1911 after being blacklisted in his native Sweden for union activities. For

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

four decades, he had been blood and bone of the U.S. working-class struggle. He played a leading role in the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters' strike and was one of 18 socialists imprisoned in 1944 for his opposition to World War II.

On May 20, 1954, a few weeks after his 70th birthday, Skoglund was imprisoned on Ellis Island to await deportation. He was held there for five months. A broadly sponsored defense campaign succeeded in blocking his deportation and he was released from Ellis Island on Oct. 7, 1954.

The following editorial entitled, "Quit Persecuting Carl Skoglund!" appeared in the June 14, 1954, issue of the *Militant*.

* * *

Once upon a time Ellis Island was the port of entry for millions of oppressed people who came to this country to escape tyranny. It was a reception center for the down-trodden workers and peasants of the "old countries" who dreamed of making a new life for themselves in the great democracy of the United States.

Today Ellis Island is something different. This little island off Manhattan has become a stockade where victims of the witch-hunt, who were not "fortunate" enough to be born in the United States, are held under lock and key until they can be "sent back to where they came from."

Carl Skoglund, lumber worker, railroad man, truck driver, and union leader — a veteran fighter for labor — is incarcerated on Ellis Island today. For 13 years Skoglund has been fighting moves to deport him to his native Sweden. Carl Skoglund figures that he gave 43 years of hard labor to the United States. He worked for the robber barons who appropriated the wealth he and tens of millions of others produced. His "crime" in the eyes of the witch-hunters is his belief that there can and must be a better way for the workers to live.

A short distance from Ellis Island stands the Statue of Liberty. Skoglund can see it from where he is locked up. Does he perhaps recall the first time he and others like him saw the Statue of Liberty 43 years ago? What did he think then, and what does he think now?

Those who know Carl Skoglund know him to be the incarnation of the best instincts and qualities in the working class. He never went to the great universities of this country. He was too busy chopping down trees and delivering coal. But he is self-educated, like many workers. Carl Skoglund's interests are wide. He is absorbed in astronomy as well as the fate of humanity. Skoglund is a successful man — if you measure the success of an individual by the contributions he has made to society. He belongs to that group of men and women who pioneered and founded the modern American labor movement.

He was a leader of the heroic struggles of the Minneapolis truck drivers during the Thirties. These struggles have entered into the history of the United States as a vital force in transforming the lives of millions — from the status of corporation slaves to the organized working class capable of leading America to a new era of progress and democracy.

What's this man doing on Ellis Island? What kind of a reward is that for a man who has given a lifetime to the cause of the working people? Why are the crooks and moneyed scoundrels and the Hell Bomb [hydrogen bomb] madmen free while Carl Skoglund is imprisoned on Ellis Island?

Legalized extortion swells insurance corp. profits

BY DAVID SALNER

The U.S. insurance industry is nothing more than a disguised form of legalized extortion. And the most important "protection" that these racketeers offer — medical coverage — is becoming more and more costly for working people.

The rising premiums and growing deductibles have been used by this industry to swell profits. According to the Government Accounting Office, the property-casualty companies generated \$75 billion in net profits between 1975 and 1984.

The highest profits come from medical malpractice insurance, where losses on claims are often not paid for many years. This gives the insurance companies a chance to earn profits from investments while payments are de-

AS I SEE IT

layed in the courts. Although these funds turn a profit, they are considered a tax deductible reserve. The insurance companies get a second tax write-off on any claims they pay out.

Recently the medical malpractice insurers banded together and threatened to cut off all their policies in West Virginia by May 31 if certain legal changes were not granted to further boost their profits.

Democratic and Republican politicians complained about the insurers' heavy-handed approach (blackmail is more like it) but they ended up granting the legitimacy of the insurance companies' claims and caving in on several key demands.

For example, a cap was placed on noneconomic damages and restrictions on nonrenewal of policies were lifted.

But even more critical than these givebacks was the fact that the racketeers were able to use the media for a campaign of unanswered lies, which prepare further attacks on the health-care rights of West Virginia workers and farmers.

Add this to recent attacks on workers' compensation; mine layoffs that leave many West Virginia workers without a job or coverage; as well as the broader federal benefit cutbacks. What you get is a big concern among working people that they will not have the funds for necessary treatment for themselves or a family member.

Doctors and hospitals both use high insurance premiums as an excuse for cutting back on services and length of treatment and closing hospitals that they consider "unprofitable." This especially affects working-class and rural areas.

When working people get sick they often have to travel to a distant hospital, uncertain of whether or not they will be accepted for treatment and with no idea of how they will pay for it if they do get it.

Health-care and hospital workers face layoffs, speed-up, and union-busting. Steelworkers-organized employees at the Appalachian Regional Hospital system have been forced out on strike by administration profiteering.

Harry Simms, vice-president of the striking local in Man, West Virginia, pointed out that his local took a stand for better health care in this depressed coalfield community. "The community is behind us 100 percent," he said.

The U.S. is the wealthiest country in the world — but among industrialized nations it ranks among the poorest in providing affordable health care for working people.

At least one underdeveloped nation is able to provide more extensive affordable health care to its people — Cuba. That is because Cuba has placed a high priority on the human needs of the workers and rural toilers. The

working class has political power in Cuba, and the revolutionary government does not tolerate racketeers who attempt to put a dollar sign over people's health.

The insurance industry in the United States could be abolished and the resources now wasted on paperwork and collection could be used to set up a free clinic and hospital system that could revolutionize U.S. health care. Not to mention what could be done with the corporate profits that are estimated to hit \$90 billion for the years 1986-90, according to the General Accounting Office.

But these profits are deemed untouchable.

The top officials of the AFL-CIO refuse to lead a fight for national health care. They prefer to cut deals with the bosses, hoping that individual employers will agree to provide some coverage for some workers (not new hires, of course). The rest of the working class and the farmers are left to fend for themselves.

And, increasingly, so are the workers covered by these company-by-company plans as the employers plead poverty and coverage is reduced or ended.

A campaign for national health care, the union tops know, would get in the way of campaigning for Democratic and Republican friends whose job is to find ways to further cut medical care.

This rotten setup will change as workers learn through struggle how to defend ourselves from capitalist greed and how to gain control of our unions and use them to fight for the interests of all working people — even if that upsets the insurance racketeers and other multimillionaires.

David Salner, a power-plant worker and member of the United Steelworkers of America, is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from the 3rd C.D. in West Virginia.

LETTERS

Columbus YSA

The Socialist Workers Party campaign of Roberta Scherr for governor of Ohio, Mark Rahn for lieutenant governor, and Kate Button for U.S. Senate is actively supported by the chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance here in Columbus.

The chapter played an important part in gathering the 10,000 signatures to place the socialist candidates on the ballot.

The YSA petitioning effort won the active participation of a number of people who were not members of the Socialist Workers Party or the Young Socialist Alliance. The response of working people in Columbus was good, with petitioners signing up an average of 25 people an hour.

When the petitions were submitted May 1 to the secretary of state, a news conference was held here. Reporters from the *Columbus Dispatch* and *Akron Beacon Journal* were joined by newspeople from five radio stations.

During the weeks of petitioning, the Columbus YSA, the All African People's Revolutionary Party, and African Students Concerned About U.S. Aggression Against Libya sponsored a meeting on Libya. The speaker was John Quigley, a professor of international law who has traveled to Palestine several times.

Roberta Scherr, the candidate for governor, participated in Women Take Back the Night, a march here for women's rights. About 200 people joined the parade. They marched past such symbols of women's oppression as the state house, a police station, and a pornography and prostitution business. Scherr and her supporters sold about 50 copies of socialist publications to participants.

*Nevin Siders
Columbus, Ohio*

'Artistic value'

Birth of a Nation — the very graphic film that so brazenly depicts duly elected Black Reconstruction politicians as being lunatics while glorifying the KKK — is acceptable material for inmates

at United States Penitentiary-Marion. Reason? It has "great artistic" and "immeasurable historical" value!

Our response here is that with all of the race-related slayings that occur in the federal prison system, what sensible prison administrator would even order such a film, much less show it to convicts? Add to this the real race-related tensions with the present USP-Marion lockdown, then ask the question again.

But the *Birth of a Nation* is being repeatedly shown here via a video-television hook up.

*A prisoner
Marion, Illinois*

U.S.-Britain military ties

We members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the largest disarmament organization in Britain, are writing to you as you celebrate Independence Day.

We are asking you to help us regain our independence. We have no say in the decisions which are made in our name and which affect our peace and security.

Two hundred ten years ago you threw off your colony status and declared yourselves independent of king and country, establishing the foundation for a democratic republic.

● There are over 100 U.S. military facilities in Great Britain (a country of over 50 million people in an area one-third the size of Texas) regulated through secret agreements.

● Most of the U.S. weapons based in the United Kingdom are forward-based systems such as cruise missiles and F-111s, the bombers used in the raid on Libya.

● Almost two-thirds of British people do not want cruise missiles based in Britain.

● Our parliament was not consulted when a 'Star Wars' agreement was signed between Britain and the United States last December, and not even parliamentarians are allowed to know what is in the agreement.

● Some government ministers did not know that the F-111s had taken off from British bases to bomb Libya, and most British people think that actions of this kind will make terrorism more,



not less, likely.

We are not being anti-American when we say that we want an end to the secret agreements on U.S. bases and Star Wars research.

We are not being anti-American when we call for the removal of American nuclear bases here and an end to British Star Wars research.

We are not being anti-American when we call for positive initiatives to end Britain's role in the nuclear arms race and to promote the peaceful solution of international problems.

Rather, we write to you because we know that your government will listen to you and that, in the true spirit of 1776, you can help us gain our independence. We can work together constructively as partners to make the world a safer place.

*Hal Dalwood
Secretary, Aylesbury
Peace Campaign
Aylesbury, England*

Hidden story

I am a prisoner in Attica, an institution that left a profound impression on the minds of the masses in 1971, when 43 people (mostly prisoners) were massacred by the hands of the state governor.

Some would believe that such acts do not exist within the borders of our country. This idea is what motivated me to write this story and title it, "The Hidden Story."

I have witnessed a prisoner gunned down in "C" block in 1985, only to be covered up by the Department of Correction. They say that this prisoner was chasing a correctional officer with a bat in the "C" block yard. There was never anything mentioned as to why an inmate was chasing a prison guard.

Solitary confinement in which the prisoners are isolated from the main population and society would give you the impression, if you could see it, of how Dr. Martin Luther King and 2,500 other demonstrators were treated in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1962. The only difference between the brutal treatment of the prisoners in solitary is that there are no dogs.

I have seen fire hoses used on prisoners caged in a 5 by 8 foot cell, and the terrorist practice of several prison guards jumping and clubbing a handcuffed prisoner.

There have been reports about female prison guards being raped and sexually harassed by their own coworkers and some are forced to use their clubs to fight off the satanic thinking of these male prison guards.

These are just some examples of the horror and sadistic behavior practiced by the so-called correctional officers. Yet the stories never seem to reach the public in their true form. They have a tendency of being distorted or slanted.

*A prisoner
Attica, New York*

Sheer desperation

I am an inmate in the Texas Department of Corrections. I have a subscription to your newspaper and find it very educational. I am a Muslim. During my incarceration in this institution I have been brutally assaulted and discriminated against because of my color and religious beliefs.

I am writing out of sheer desperation and fear. I am constantly harassed and physically abused by department of corrections officials. I cannot tolerate this type of treatment and abuse much longer. I am writing with hope of outside assistance from someone who might read my letter and offer some type assistance and protection from this ruthless system.

*A prisoner
Palestine, Texas*

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.

Solidarity theme at women miners' mtg. Leaders of British miners' support group address Ky. conference

BY NORTON SANDLER

PAINTSVILLE, Ky. — "I didn't fully understand this until I got here," Betty Heathfield said, "but I understand now what a fantastic contribution you are making to the women's liberation movement. You are proving the real truth about women being equal to men, you are proving that women's contribution to society is as great as men's."

Heathfield, a leader of Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC) in Britain, addressed those remarks to the women coal miners attending the Eighth National Conference of Women Miners, held here June 27-29.

Sponsored by the Coal Employment Project (CEP) and the Coal Mining Women's Support Team, and endorsed by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), the conference was attended by 350 women coal miners and their supporters. Women miners came from Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, West Virginia, and Virginia. A dozen of the women were Black. Native American and Chicana miners were part of the delegations from the Western states.

The majority of the women were working coal miners, though participants included several women who had been laid off from the mines. Several male miners also attended as did some of the miners' husbands.

The participation of a WAPC delegation of Heathfield, Ann Scargill, Gwenn White, and Betty Cook in this year's conference marked an important step in opening the door to increased collaboration between miners in Britain and the United States.

No women work in the underground mines in Britain today. The WAPC is made up of female family members and supporters of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) who got active during the 1984-85 British coal strike.

Scargill's husband, Arthur, is president of the NUM. Heathfield is married to the union's general secretary. Cook and White, active in the Barnsley WAPC, are also married to miners.

Throughout the weekend, the British delegation exchanged information with the women miners about the common problems working people are facing in both Britain and the United States.

They also held discussions with Carl and Susan Benson from Austin, Minnesota. Carl is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9, which has been waging a battle to win a decent contract from Geo. A. Hormel & Co. since August 1985. Susan is active in building



Four leaders of Women Against Pit Closures hold statues of a woman miner presented to them by Coal Employment Project. CEP conference was held June 27-29 in Paintsville, Kentucky. From left, Betty Cook, Betty Heathfield, Ann Scargill, and Gwenn White.

support for the P-9 struggle. (See last week's *Militant* for a report on the response to the P-9 fight from miners at the conference.)

The British women brought conference participants up to date on the attacks their government has been waging against the NUM since the end of the strike.

"The government will fail to destroy

Britain's greatest union," Scargill told the conference. She explained that the NUM is increasingly seen by the entire working class in Britain as a "focal point for resistance to the attacks" by the government and the employers. (See accompanying story on page 9.)

A major theme struck by the WAPC delegation was the need for international solidarity by working people in the face of the

employers' offensive. They described the speaking tours British miners and the WAPC members made to several European countries, and also told about the delegations from those same countries that brought with them material support for British mining villages during the coal strike.

"We found it wasn't such a big world," Heathfield said, "it is important for working people to close ranks, to see it's not our little area that is under attack, it's not just our own country."

The four led the conference in singing fighting working-class songs on several occasions and invited the U.S. miners to come to Britain next year to attend the annual miner's summer "galas."

UMWA staff member Nomonde Ngubo, who is from South Africa, was one of two keynote speakers at the conference. "Apartheid's bare knuckles crack" against the women of South Africa, she said, but "The women of South Africa are becoming hardened like steel by the struggle against apartheid." She noted that under the apartheid laws, Black women are separated from their husbands 11 months out of the year.

"I never heard people talking about reforming Nazi Germany, so why talk about reforming apartheid," she continued, referring to U.S. President Reagan and British Prime Minister Thatcher's approach to the South African government.

She urged support for the Shell Oil boycott campaign the UMWA is waging, saying that such boycotts are essential to bringing about nonviolent change in South Africa.

Continued on Page 9

Gov't retreats in sanctuary case

BY DAVID ZILLY

PHOENIX — On the eve of the Fourth of July, eight convicted sanctuary activists were given sentences of three to five years' probation here by federal Judge Earl Carroll.

The government faced heavy political problems. For one thing it was saddled with its Fourth of July propaganda barrage of "land of the free" and "give me your huddled masses" demagoguery. And, in addition, there was the fact of the widespread public support for the humanitarian work of the sanctuary movement in aiding Central American political refugees — victims of U.S.-supported repressive regimes.

To cut the political losses it incurred in the course of the prosecution of the church workers, the government decided not to

throw the book at them.

Eight of the original 11 defendants had been convicted and faced possible sentences of up to 25 years in prison and \$18,000 in fines. Three were acquitted during the trial.

The trial itself was marked by widespread legal abuses by the court and the prosecution. Blocking of defense evidence and other prejudicial rulings by Carroll were so pervasive during the trial that the defense refused to present a case after the prosecution rested.

The judge had consistently refused to let the defendants explain to the jury why they had provided sanctuary to refugees from Central America, refugees who fled political terror and who were wrongly denied political asylum in the United States.

Carroll and chief prosecutor Donald Reno were adamant throughout the proceedings in claiming that the government's Central America policy was not on trial. Carroll repeatedly refused to allow testimony about the illegal war being perpetrated by Washington throughout Central America or about the humanitarian motives or religious convictions of the defendants.

Time after time Carroll instructed the jury that the scope of the trial was limited to violations of U.S. immigration law concerning the smuggling of "illegal aliens," leaving the jurors little choice but to find the defendants guilty.

The government's trial strategy leaned heavily on its assertion that those aided by the sanctuary movement were "economic" refugees. In doing this the prosecution sought to deny the existence of thousands of victims of political repression by Central American governments supported by the United States. At the same time it took advantage of the racist campaign against "economic" refugees and the immigration laws that back up that campaign.

Juror Anna Browning, the last holdout in voting for the convictions, later told reporters that she had felt "trapped by the law" and had been tormented by her decision to convict. A number of jurors expressed relief that none of the defendants would be sent to jail.

Indications of considerable pressure to back off from imposing harsh sentences began to be seen in the days immediately preceding the sentencing. Carroll was besieged by messages calling for restraint. A letter signed by 47 members of Congress urged the judge to "consider the underlying circumstances in Central America and the humanitarian motives of the defendants." The letter stated that thousands of Central

Continued on Page 9

Canadian meat strike gains support

BY JIM UPTON
AND MARY-ELLEN MARUS

EDMONTON, Alberta, Canada — "We'll be out here fighting for as long as it takes. We're not giving up." The determined attitude of Vicky Beauchamp sums up the feeling of strikers we spoke to on the picket lines at Gainers meatpacking plant.

On strike since June 1, the members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 280-P continue to resist efforts by Gainers' owner, Peter Pocklington, to break their union.

Vicky Beauchamp explained to us why Local 280-P is so determined to continue fighting this time after agreeing to major concessions in the 1984 contract. "In 1984 Pocklington told us: 'I'm in a financial crisis. Unless you people help me I will be

out of business, and you'll be out of a job.'"

"When we took concessions, consumers didn't get the benefits. Their meat prices weren't decreased. The hog producers didn't benefit, nor did we."

"This man was making large profits, and we were the ones making them for him. He says he can't afford to pay. No one believes him because of what happened two years ago."

Farmers, too, are more and more in agreement with how the strikers see Pocklington's greed. At a recent conference of Region 7 of the National Farmers Union in Edmonton, John Oberg, the NFU's regional coordinator, explained, "Pocklington wants to make large profits, pay cheap wages, and get cheaper hogs from the farmers. Farmers and workers are struggling against the same forces."

gling against the same forces."

UFCW Local 280-P President John Ventura agrees with the NFU that Pocklington is the enemy of both workers and farmers. He referred to the "hog wars" of 1984, when Pocklington attempted to drive down hog prices. "Pocklington's problem is he wants the hogs for nothing. He's not interested in how much money farmers lose," Ventura told us.

Hundreds of strikers and supporters rallied at the plant gate the first days of the strike and more than 400 have been arrested. Scabs attempted to cross the picket lines escorted by hundreds of police, backed by the riot squads. Now a court injunction limits pickets to 42, allowing some scabs to enter the plant.

Continued on Page 9