

U.S. Congress readies \$100 million for 'contras' attacking Nicaragua



Barricada
Funeral for Nicaraguan peasants murdered in July by mercenaries armed and financed by U.S. government.

October 25 protests can get out truth

As the U.S. Senate was wrapping up its discussion and approval of a \$100-million aid package for the mercenaries waging war on Nicaragua, antiwar forces were gearing up for nationally coordinated regional protests on October 25.

The *contra* aid package was adopted by

EDITORIAL

the Senate on August 13 by a vote of 53 to 47. A highly publicized threat by senators critical of the aid proposal to conduct a filibuster never materialized.

An identical aid bill was approved by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives on June 25. The legislation now goes to a House-Senate conference where it

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'A long list of dead and crippled'

BY RUTH NEBBIA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "A long list of dead, wounded, crippled, tortured, kidnapped, and war refugees" is the result of Washington's "official policy of state terrorism," declared Víctor Tinoco, vice-foreign minister of Nicaragua, in a protest letter to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in late July.

Tinoco sent the letter following the July 28 ambush in Nicaragua of two trucks carrying civilians by mercenaries armed and financed by the U.S. government. The 15 civilians were fired on near the town of Zompopera in north-central Nicaragua. Five were killed, and two were wounded.

Two of the dead were a German and a Swiss volunteer who were helping build housing and water systems in the area. Two others were members of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

That same day, mercenaries attacked the tobacco-growing community of Panalí in northwest Nicaragua. Using mortar and grenade launchers, they killed a 75-year-old man, a 45-year-old woman, and three youths aged 13. They wounded 20 people, including two children, and burned four houses before they were repelled by militia and Sandinista army forces.

On July 27 a mercenary band attacked the town of La Pradera, wounding two civilians and destroying two tractors. On July 25 another U.S.-organized terrorist group raided the town of El Chile and kidnapped a Belgian volunteer worker, who was later released.

Despite the decision of the World Court condemning this U.S. aggression, Tinoco pointed out, the U.S. government "continues to deepen its policy of state terrorism against the people of Nicaragua and the citizens of various countries who engage in civilian cooperation activities."

Socialist candidates file for N.Y. ballot

BY NAN BAILEY

NEW YORK — On August 15 Socialist Workers candidates filed 44,000 signatures at the state board of elections in Albany to put the party on the November ballot in New York.

Forty thousand signatures were filed for U.S. Senate candidate Mike Shur and 4,000 for Jim Callahan, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, 23rd C.D. Shur and Callahan join gubernatorial candidate Theresa Delgadillo and candidate for lieutenant governor George Kontanis on the SWP statewide slate.

Civil libertarian and solidarity activist Reszin Adams joined Shur and Callahan at a press conference to express her support for the SWP's right to ballot status. Other supporters of the SWP's ballot rights include Pete Seeger; attorney Leonard Boudin; Margarita Aguilar, president of AFT Local 3882; James Haughton, chairman of Harlem Fightback; professors James McClellan (State University of New York) and Bertell Ollman (New York University), and Irish activist George Harrison.

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Socialist conference draws unionists, solidarity and liberation fighters

BY CINDY JAQUITH

OVERLIN, Ohio — The Hormel meat-packers' strike in Austin, Minnesota; the struggle to bring down the South African apartheid regime; the battle to stop U.S. intervention in Nicaragua; the fight to defend women's rights — these and other struggles of the oppressed and exploited around the world brought 1,000 activists together here at Oberlin College August 9-14.

They were attending a Socialist Educational and Activists Conference sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

The majority of conference participants are socialist workers in industry, from auto plants to garment shops to electronics

plants and rail yards. They brought with them many fellow fighters interested in seeing what a socialist conference would be like.

One fifth of those at the conference had never attended a national gathering of the SWP or YSA before. There were meat-packers from Austin, Minnesota; Ottumwa, Iowa; and Fremont, Nebraska. Trade unionists who work at TWA, in the coal mines, or in oil refineries also came, as well as farmers battling foreclosures.

There were students who had built shantytowns on their campuses in protest against the repression in South Africa, and women who had marched in support of abortion rights. There were activists from

groups in solidarity with Nicaragua.

The majority of these new conference participants were under 30 years of age.

Prominent leaders of these struggles also attended the conference to explain what they are fighting for and seek the support of those present. These included Jim Guyette, president of Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, currently under trusteeship, in Austin, Minnesota; Neo Mnumzana, chief representative to the United Nations for the African National Congress of South Africa; Yolanda Campbell, a member of the Autonomy Commission from Southern Zelaya on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast; Amalia Dixon Cunningham, a Miskito Indian from Nicaragua's Río Coco and a spokesperson for the Autonomy House in Managua; and Wabun-Inini (Vernon Bellecourt), a leader of the International Indian Treaty Council and the American Indian Movement.

Participants also came from Senegal, Argentina, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Britain, France, Germany, and Canada.

What brought them together for five days of study and exchange of experiences and political perspectives was the fact that all of them are involved in struggles that challenge the system in which a tiny minority of capitalists and landlords oppress and exploit the world's working people.

What it will take to end that system, what the international working class has discovered in its battles for more than a century, what lessons can be learned from the revolutions in Russia, Nicaragua, and Cuba, were major themes of the conference.

By the week's end, members of the SWP and YSA concluded that the growing interest in socialist ideas makes it possible to sell 10,000 subscriptions to the *Militant* and to *Perspectiva Mundial*, its sister Spanish-language publication, this fall. The subscription effort will be combined with sales of English and Spanish-language

We're signing up 10,000 new readers!

Supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* have launched a drive to sign up 10,000 new subscribers by November 15. Earlier the two publications had announced a combined target of 5,000. But enthusiasm for the drive at the Socialist Educational and Activists Conference, August 9-14, led to doubling the goal.

At meetings during the conference, the leadership of the big majority of the local units of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance decided to try to get more subscriptions than were initially proposed. Moreover, meetings of trade unionists who are members of the SWP and YSA voted to make the subscription drive a central part of their activity in the coming weeks.

The SWP and YSA branches and chapters and their active supporters, who will get the bulk of the subscriptions, began signing up new subscribers as soon as they left the conference. They

weren't waiting for anything and expect to have a lot of new readers before Labor Day.

Twenty teams are also hitting the road to sell subscriptions at plants, mines, farm protests, colleges, and high schools throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The first teams are getting under way this week.

International subscribers will also increase during the drive. Some were subscribers to *Intercontinental Press*, which suspended publication in early August. Others will be convinced to subscribe as the result of international promotional efforts.

For \$3.50, new readers will receive 12 issues of the *Militant* and the new Pathfinder Press pamphlet, "The 1985-86 Hormel Meat-Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota," by Fred Halstead, or for \$2.50, five issues of *Perspectiva Mundial* and the Spanish-language edition of the pamphlet.

N.Y. petitioners get good response from strikers

BY ANDY COATES, SHEILA KENNEDY, AND JANET POST

As part of the drive to put the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party on the New York state ballot, two teams of campaigners

They talked to strikers from United Steelworkers of America Local 3701. The workers are zinc miners who have been on strike at St. Joe Resources Co. in Gouverneur, New York, for more than a

committee.

A total of 16 miners signed the SWP petition. Seven copies of the *Militant* were sold along with two subscriptions.

The team then traveled to Defriet where they petitioned, passed out campaign leaflets, and sold the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at the gate of the Champion Paper Mill. Members of the United Paperworkers International Union have been working without a contract for a year and are facing a possible strike. Twelve workers signed the petition, and six *Militants* were sold. The next stop was Massena, just below the Canadian border, where there are a number of factories.

At the General Motors Foundry, which is scheduled to be shut down soon, the team sold six papers.

It visited the headquarters of Local 420 of the Aluminum, Brick and Glass Workers union, which

had settled its three-week-old strike the day before.

The union president invited Shur to speak before the executive board about his campaign. Four *Militants* and one subscription were sold at that stop.

Jon Teitelbaum, Sheila Kennedy, and Janet Post were on the central New York team. In addition to petitioning for Shur and his running mate for governor, Theresa Delgadillo, the team also petitioned for Jim Callahan, SWP candidate for Congress from the 23rd Congressional District. Callahan is an Albany textile worker.

A large layoff is expected soon at the General Electric plant in Schenectady. Several shutdowns are being discussed in Syracuse. Workers the team talked to were concerned about the adverse effects of these shutdowns.

Six papers were sold at the Chrysler plant gates in Syracuse. In Lansing the team had discus-

sions with members of the International Association of Machinists on strike at the Cargill Corp. salt mines. The main issue in the strike is seniority rights. The company has brought in scabs to work in the mines.

Two subscriptions were sold. One woman said, "I don't have very much money, but I want to use it to buy the papers. This is the kind of newspaper I want to read."

At Syracuse University the team set up a literature table, and more than 100 people signed the petition.

In Rome we met with supporters of the Young Socialist Alliance. After discussing politics for awhile, two decided to join the YSA.

In Auburn the team was invited to attend a slide show on Nicaragua and El Salvador presented by a YSA member and a campaign supporter. Many of the 25 who attended signed the SWP petition.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

traveled through central and northern New York.

The two teams got an excellent response from workers, farmers, and students.

Mike Shur, SWP candidate for Senate from New York, headed the team that traveled in the western Adirondack mountains just south of the Canadian border.

Tammy Saper and Andy Coates from the Capital District Young Socialist Alliance were also on that team.

year.

Referring to the company guards, gatehouse, and attack dogs, one striker, a new *Militant* subscriber, likened the situation faced by the workers to the situation in Central America. He said the company guards look just like mercenaries.

When the team visited the strike headquarters the following morning, Mike Shur was invited to make a presentation about his campaign to the strike steering

'Fidel and Religion' book launched in Philippines

BY DEB SHNOOKAL

MANILA — The book *Fidel and Religion, Conversations with Frei Betto*, which has already sold millions of copies in Latin America, has now reached the shores of another former Spanish colony across the Pacific Ocean — the Philippines.

As part of the commemoration of the 33rd anniversary of the attack on the Moncada barracks, which became the opening shot of the Cuban revolution, led by the July 26 Movement, a series of book launchings of *Fidel and Religion* were recently organized in Manila. Book launchings have also taken place throughout July and August in Australia and New Zealand. The first English-language edition of *Fidel and Religion* has been published by Pathfinder Press in Australia and is being distributed throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Fidel and Religion was enthusiastically received by large audiences at the Manila book launches held at the University of the Philippines July 28 and on August 1 at the Sister Formation Institute, a convent where the national offices of the human rights organization Task Force Detainees are located.

Father Ed de la Torre, a revolutionary priest who was imprisoned for many years under the Marcos dictatorship, commented on the similarities between Latin America and the Philippines in the August 1 book launch. De la Torre pointed in particular to the importance of the Cuban revolutionary experience. He said, "I think that Cuba is a better parallel country to the Philippines than China or Vietnam. We have so much in common — the U.S. occupation, a Christian culture. And the Marxist language from there is more open to Christianity than Asian Marxism. In Latin America



Militant/Russell Johnson
Father Ed de la Torre

a Marxist has to adjust to the cultural Christianity."

De la Torre also expressed his gratitude that *Fidel and Religion* is now available in English for Filipino readers because, he remarked, "there are not too many Filipinos who speak Spanish and who also want social change!" (Under the American occupation of the Philippines, Spanish remained the language of the ruling elite. Today, English and Tagalog are the two official languages.)

The August 1 book launching of *Fidel*

and *Religion* was sponsored and attended by a wide range of religious organizations.

A number of leaders of Bayan and other mass movements also attended the *Fidel and Religion* book launchings. Some reporters, including Armando Malay from the *Malaya* newspaper, the main opposition daily under Marcos, came too. Jose Maria Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, who was released in March by President Corazon Aquino after nearly nine years in prison, also attended the book launching.

The book launching was chaired by Sister Mary John Mananzan, dean of St. Scholasticas College and leader of the Filipina women's organization Gabriela. Mario Bolasco, a teacher from St. Scholasticas, also addressed the meeting.

The Cuban ambassador to the Philippines, Ana María González, was warmly received by the 250 people who attended the August 1 book launching. She related her experience when she first read *Fidel and Religion*, saying, "Reading this book was the first time we learned about the childhood of our president — that he had gone hungry as a child — even though Fidel had been our leader for so many years."

She then went on to review some of the experiences of the Cuban revolution, saying that "the first years of our revolution were not easy, especially after we began to institute the Moncada program, the agrarian reform."

González also explained how there were "some strained relations with the church" in these early years, but concluded by saying, "What communists and Christians have in common is the interests of the poor. I recommend that all of you read this book."

Father Ed de la Torre argued that *Fidel and Religion* was a challenge to the church: "The very person of Fidel Castro and the position he occupies as head of state and leader of a communist party is important in considering this book. It is one thing for such a view about Christian Marxist dialogue to be put forward by someone like Castro. But we don't find church leaders in similar positions who find it diplomatic to make such statements without endangering their positions."

Deb Shnookal from Pathfinder Press Pacific and Asia, the publishers of the new book, announced at the launching that *Fidel and Religion* was about to be reprinted in the Philippines by Popular Bookstore, thereby making the book more widely available at a lower price.

Another book launching was held in Manila July 28 as part of a forum at the University of the Philippines on the topic "Socialism and Democracy in Cuba: 27 Years of People's Power." More than 200 people participated in this meeting, which was also addressed by Ana María González.

González drew many parallels and contrasts between the Cuban and Filipino experiences in facing the challenge of dismantling the structures of overthrown dictatorships. The lively discussion that followed lasted several hours.

In his review of *Fidel and Religion* at this meeting, P.N. Abinales of the Third World Studies Center at the University of the Philippines commented, "We hope that through this book we Filipinos can also discover our ties with our struggling Latin American brothers, sisters, and comrades and learn from their experiences as we hope they will learn from ours."

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SPECIAL
GOOD OFFER
November 15

At the plant gates, mine portals, and picket lines; at antiwar actions and demonstrations against apartheid in South Africa; at schools, the *Militant* is there, reporting the facts and participating in the struggles.

The *Militant* is written in the interests of workers and farmers. Every week it tells the truth about the war Washington and the employers are waging against working people at home and abroad. It provides firsthand coverage of important struggles in other countries, such as Haiti, the Philippines, and Nicaragua. Regular on-the-scene reports come from its Nicaragua Bureau.

Take advantage of the special introductory subscription offer (good only until Nov. 15, 1986): 12 issues for \$3.

Plus for only 50¢ more you can get the new pamphlet "The 1985-86 Hormel Meat-Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota" by Fred Halstead.

The Militant

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Hormel workers continue the struggle

600 hail new union on anniversary of Minnesota strike

BY MEG ELLIS

AUSTIN, Minn. — One year ago on August 17, Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) went on strike to gain a fair contract from Geo. A. Hormel & Co.

The big-business media here has been labeling the strike a failure, calling the Austin workers losers and predicting a bleak future for Austin meatpackers.

A rally and picnic held here on the anniversary of the strike showed that nothing could be further from the truth.

Six hundred confident and determined meatpackers, their families, and supporters told a different story. Connie Dammen opened the rally by introducing herself as a charter member of the North American Meat Packers Union — Original Local P-9.

NAMPU is the new union recently formed by rank-and-file workers in Austin. It was organized after top UFCW officials put Local P-9 in trusteeship, called off the strike, seized the local union's assets and offices, and took over negotiations with Hormel.

Dammen welcomed union members from as far away as California, New York, Massachusetts, Texas, and Britain.

She also explained that many meatpackers could not attend because they were in Iowa meeting with other packinghouse workers.

'Not going it alone'

The crowd broke into applause when Dammen said, "We're not going it alone. People are discussing not *when* to leave the UFCW, but *how*. NAMPU is showing the way."

Another meatpacker who spoke was Kelly Cross, a 30-year veteran of UFCW Local 540 in Sherman, Texas.

In November 1984 her union went on strike against Oscar Mayer. UFCW International officials sanctioned the strike. "But," Cross said, "we were 600 people out in a thousand square miles by ourselves. The International wouldn't sanction roving pickets, but we sent them anyway."

In response, the union's top officials threatened to put the local under trusteeship, negotiated a concession contract, and forced the meatpackers back to work.

Cross concluded, "As a victim of the UFCW bureaucracy I had to come 800 miles to meet people like you. And it was worth the trip."

Larry McClurg from Ottumwa, Iowa, explained why 500 members of UFCW Local 431 had honored P-9's picket lines at the Ottumwa Hormel plant. "During the Morrell strike in 1921 my grandfather faced submachine guns used by the National Guard to escort the scabs. That's why we negotiated language in our contract to honor picket lines."

'Reorganize the organized'

"You're showing us how to reorganize the organized so the unorganized will want to be organized," McClurg said of the Aus-

Iowa Morrell workers honor roving pickets

The bulk of the 2,400 union meatpackers at the John Morrell and Co. plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, walked off the job on August 4 and again on August 15. They were honoring roving picket lines set up by striking meatpackers from the Morrell plant in Arkansas City, Kansas.

Morrell executives got a federal judge to issue a temporary restraining order barring the walkouts and are seeking an injunction. They complain that the walkouts have cost the company time and money.

"They've been led down the garden path by both the international union and local union leadership," Ted Steadman, vice-president for labor relations, said of the meatpackers who joined these acts of solidarity. He claimed the Morrell workers are on a "suicide mission."

Dennis Foster, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 304A, stressed that the Sioux Falls workers had the right under the contract to honor sympathy picket lines.

tin unionists. "You're showing that it doesn't matter where in the country or the world you are. The exploitation by the industrialists is worldwide. You're turning this around, too."

"And you've shown us the PDA process of functioning — prepare, decide, and act. Use all your resources, and implement the decisions you have made."

One of the rally's highlights came when Rod Huinker, also a charter member of NAMPU, reported on the support recently gained at the national convention of the American Postal Workers Union.

The postal workers adopted six families of Hormel workers, pledging to give them \$500 per month for two years. The postal workers also endorsed the boycott of Hormel products and sent a message to state and county authorities demanding that felony riot charges against 18 unionists be dropped. The charges stem from a peaceful picket line in Austin last April that was attacked by cops and sheriff's deputies.

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'Rally for labor fighting back' in Missouri

BY VIVIAN SAHNER
AND KIM KLEINMAN

HAZELWOOD, Mo. — More than 300 people — mostly from the St. Louis area but from other places in the Midwest as well — gathered at United Auto Workers Local 325 Labor Hall August 3 for a "Rally for Labor Fighting Back."

Veterans of the struggle against Geo. A. Hormel & Co. from Austin, Minnesota, and Ottumwa, Iowa, joined TWA flight attendants, Teamsters, coal miners, auto workers, and Coalition of Black Trade Unionists members in what one St. Louis daily paper called "an old-fashioned labor rally."

Oscar Mayer meatpackers from Chicago and Nashville traveled more than 300 miles to attend the rally. In Chicago the company has locked out the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) members and begun hiring replacements.

UAW Local 691 members on strike against Lincoln Engineering in St. Louis participated in the rally.

And members of International Union of Electronics Workers Local 1102 came to celebrate their victory over Emerson Electric's drive to take back previously won gains.

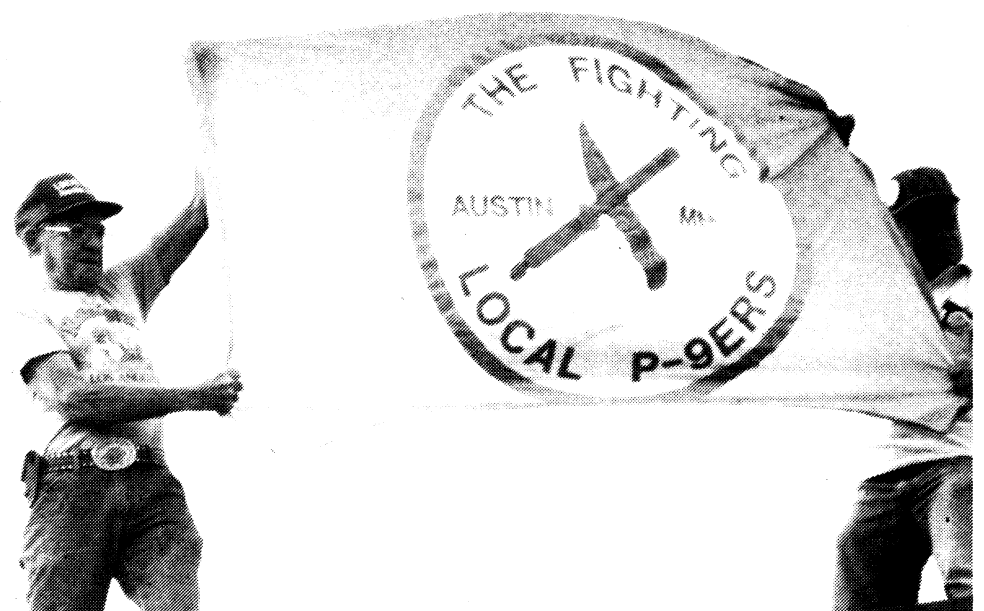
Inside the union hall listening to the speeches, at information tables at the back, and over heaping plates of food, workers gathered for a serious and thoughtful discussion of recent experiences in the labor movement.

Dave Dowling, president of United Steelworkers of America Local 67 at Granite City Steel, expressed the sentiment of many when he told the crowd, "This meeting is the most positive thing that's happened in labor here for a long time. As I look around and see the different unions represented here I get a sense that I'm looking at part of the solution — we just all have to pull together."

The rally was sponsored by the St. Louis Labor Solidarity Committee, which grew out of trips by local unionists to Austin and Ottumwa to demonstrate solidarity with the meatpackers.

One of the union locals most involved in this committee is UAW Local 325. In addition to hosting the rally, Local 325 prepared the barbecue, collected more than \$300 the week before the rally at a plant-gate collection, sold more than 5,000 "Hormel buster" T-shirts, and produced a new T-shirt for this rally based on the Austin Labor Center mural dedicated to African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

In introducing featured speaker Jim Guyette, suspended president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9, Larry Bastain, recording secretary of UAW Local 325, told the crowd, "Local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota, and Local 431 in Ottumwa, Iowa, have given us a shot in the arm. They've shown us the way to fight back and the true meaning of solidarity in



Militant/Margaret Jayko
Hormel workers at June "Solidarity City" encampment in Austin, Minnesota. Event backed their struggle for decent contract from union-busting company.

their fight against the Hormel company. I don't think you can call yourself a trade unionist today and not go to Austin and Ottumwa to learn from them."

Guyette recounted his local's struggle against Hormel, which has led them into confrontation with the cops, courts, National Guard, press, and, now, the UFCW International. "In the '30s we had the Great Depression, today in Austin it's the Great Oppression," he said.

A highlight of the meeting was Nomonde Ngubo's presentation.

Ngubo is special representative for international relations to United Mine Workers President Richard Trumka and a founding member of the National Union of Mineworkers in South Africa.

She was greeted by a standing ovation, punctuated by clenched fist salutes. She

spoke strongly for sanctions against the apartheid regime.

Jerry Parks, leader of farm protests in Chillicothe, Missouri, and a member of the Farm Alliance of Rural Missouri, described the devastating effects of the farm crisis on the state, saying, "Before union-busting there was farm-busting."

"I've made several trips to Austin and Ottumwa," he continued, "and without labor and farmers joined together the corporations will defeat us."

Vicki Frankovich, national president of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants, was one of 50 TWA flight attendants who attended the rally.

"Meetings like this help you understand that you're not isolated. We're proud to be part of a larger movement," she said.

Unionists team up to build rally

BY HILDE EDLER

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — "It's about time somebody took a stand and fought back," a warehouseman told Larry McClurg of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431 in Ottumwa, Iowa, as we were leaving the lunchroom at Consolidated Freightway.

McClurg, along with Bill Cook, also from UFCW 431; Dan Pedersen, an Austin, Minnesota, meatpacker; Helen McDermott of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants; Thomas Ludgood, from International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 600; and myself, made up a team that built the St. Louis Labor Solidarity Committee's "Rally for Labor Fighting Back" August 3.

Using a mobile home as an organizing and publicity center, we went to 17 trucking depots to pass out leaflets on the rally and talk about the labor struggles we are part of.

In many cases, mini-rallies of up to 30 workers took place as we went right into break areas to tell the story.

"It amazed me," McClurg told me, "that they would donate their breaks to us. It seemed like they were listening and listening hard."

Earlier in the week Pedersen spoke to 125 members of Laborers Local 42. The local had put out a "No Hormel" bumper sticker a few months ago. They continued their solidarity by voting to buy the entire supply — more than \$600 worth — of T-shirts, buttons, and other materials Pedersen brought from Austin to help build the rally.

Pedersen also received an "All Miners Working Together" T-shirt from the Southern Illinois Mining Support Team when he attended their meeting in Du Quoin, Illinois. The women miners there had previously heard about the struggle in Austin at the Coal Employment Project conference

earlier that month in Paintsville, Kentucky.

Pedersen also met with Jim Zeeb, news secretary of the Illinois American Agriculture Movement, Inc. Leaflets for the rally had earlier been distributed at a statewide AAM meeting on July 13.

McDermott of the flight attendants' union also helped build the rally. She announced it when she addressed a membership meeting of International Union of Electronics Workers Local 1102. At that meeting 350 leaflets were distributed to the workers who are involved in a contract battle.

She also spoke to the July 26 meeting of the St. Louis chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

A contingent of more than 20 members of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) canceled their monthly meeting to attend the rally. The CBTU also contributed \$150 to bring Nomonde Ngubo from the United Mine Workers of America staff to speak at the rally about the fight against apartheid in South Africa.

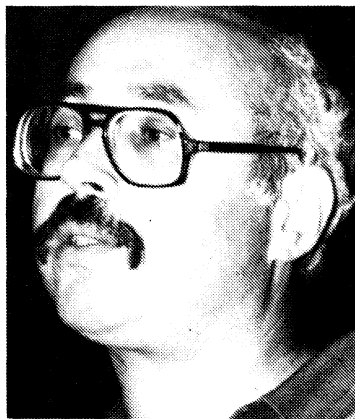
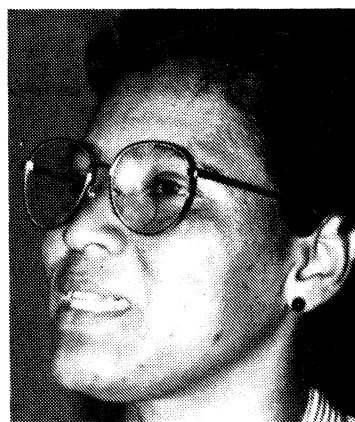
Contracts to expire

A number of contracts at meatpacking plants organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) will expire September 1. Negotiations for new contracts will take place amidst the growing ferment of packinghouse workers trying to resist the bosses' profit drive.

Contracts are due that day at Geo. A. Hormel & Co. plants in Fremont, Nebraska; Algona, Iowa; Beloit, Wisconsin; Dallas; Houston; Atlanta; and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Contracts are up at Oscar Mayer packing plants in Davenport, Iowa, and Madison, Wisconsin, that same day.

The Dubuque, Iowa, FDL packinghouse contract expires a few days earlier.



Special guests who addressed conference. Clockwise from top left: Indian rights leader Wabun-Inini, Yolanda Campbell and Amalia Dixon from autonomy project in Nicaragua; attorney Leonard Boudin; Neo Mnumzana of African National Congress; author Jeffrey Elliot; meatpackers leader Jim Guyette; flight attendant unionist Marsha Halverson.

Socialist conference draws unionists

Continued from front page

copies of the Pathfinder Press pamphlet, "The 1985-86 Hormel Meat-Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota," by Fred Halstead.

The importance of signing up 10,000 new readers of the socialist press was demonstrated by the fact that many of those attending their first socialist conference said they had learned about the YSA and SWP through buying a copy of the *Militant* or *PM*, attending a Militant Forum, visiting a Pathfinder Press bookstore, or meeting a campaigner for SWP candidates running for public office.

'Decline of last empire'

In a speech on the opening night of the conference, SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes pointed out that the deepening capitalist assault on working people's rights around the world is "driving the working class together." Differences of skin color, sex, or national origin — which the U.S. employers have always used to divide and weaken the working class — are becoming less important than the realization that those who work for a living are part of the same class, facing the same enemy. And that they are one with workers and farmers around the world.

The bankruptcy of capitalist rule in the United States is leading to what Barnes called "the decline of the last empire the world will ever see. The battle to finally remove it, and remove it before it destroys the earth, will open up an entirely new period in the history of humankind."

Barnes pointed to the struggle being waged by meatpackers in Austin, Minnesota, as an important example of workers fighting to build a labor movement that belongs to and acts in the interests of its membership.

The lessons of the P-9 strike were developed in the next day's talk given by Mac Warren, director of the SWP's Trade Union Bureau.

Warren related the experiences of the Austin meatpackers as they resisted the Hormel company's attempts to gut their rights and working conditions, went to the International union officials of the UFCW and found they were unwilling to back them up, and decided to continue fighting anyway. (The full story of this strike is contained in the pamphlet by Fred Halstead.)

What stands out about the Austin struggle, Warren said, is its democratic character, the confidence of the strikers that they could win solidarity from other trade unionists and their allies, and their conviction that it is better to struggle than surrender to employer demands without a fight. The P-9 fighters are not unique in this, he added, but rather stand as an example of the deepening militancy and political awareness of a broader layer of U.S. workers.

Conference participants had the opportunity to learn more about this battle from

meatpucker leaders who presented both a workshop and a special evening session before the whole conference.

At the evening session, Jim Guyette was introduced by Larry McClurg of UFCW Local 431 in Ottumwa, Iowa.

What is unionism?

"Unionism — what is it?" McClurg asked the crowd. "Maybe we should redefine what it is. We can say it's uniting together to gain strength, to fight against concessions. We can say it's a gathering together of people not only in this country but in all countries of the world to fight back against the exploitation of workers by industrialists who wish to capitalize from their misery."

In his talk Guyette described the learning experience P-9 members have gone through in their battle for a fighting union. He stressed that "the struggle continues," despite the big obstacles thrown in front of the unionists — from police attacks, to criminal charges against strike leaders, to attempts to bring contempt-of-court charges against the union's two attorneys, Margaret Winter and Emily Bass, to the efforts of the UFCW International to betray the struggle.

He pointed out that the UFCW officialdom has actively campaigned against Austin workers' efforts to win solidarity for their fight. "They told me I shouldn't go to Chicago, or Detroit, or New York, because there's Black people there, and 'you know what Black people do to white people,'" said Guyette. "And then they told Black workers in Chicago, Illinois, that they ought not come to Minnesota, because there's white people there, and 'you know what white people do to Black people.'"

Meatpackers at the Hormel plant will soon have an election, he reported, in which there will be three choices on the ballot: "no union, the UFCW union, or the North American Meat Packers Union [NAMPU]."

NAMPU, said Guyette, "represents a union in which people can vote for their representatives, people can vote for their contract, people can honor picket lines, a union where the democratic process is alive and well" and which believes that "labor solidarity knows no borders."

Employers' propaganda against women

The changes in the thinking of women workers as their experiences on the job and in society lead them to identify more as members of the working class was the theme of a major talk by *Militant* coeditor Margaret Jayko.

The employing class is barraging women with newspaper articles, pseudo-scientific studies, and TV programs telling them their only goal in life should be to get and stay married and raise children. But the ruling class doesn't care whether women are married or single, whether they bear children or have abortions, Jayko pointed

out. The aim of all this propaganda is to blunt women's interest in politics and their independence and reinforce feelings of inadequacy and inferiority in order to intensify their exploitation on the job.

Jayko's talk struck a particularly responsive chord among the many women workers in the audience.

As Marsha Halverson, a leader of the recent TWA flight attendants' strike from Cleveland, told the rally that closed the conference, "I didn't used to think of myself as a worker." She explained that she has been a flight attendant for 17 years. But after her experience in the strike, she said, "if someone told me I could have my job back — but I'd have to be like I was before — I wouldn't take it."

How the capitalist system perpetuates women's oppression and what it will take to emancipate women was the theme of a well-attended class series during the conference. The classes examined the Marxist view of women's oppression and the lessons that can be drawn from the experiences of women in both Nicaragua and Cuba, where capitalist rule has been overturned.

Identification with the gains women and working people as a whole have made in Cuba and Nicaragua and enthusiasm for the advancing revolution in South Africa marked the conference as a whole. Major talks were presented on "The Coming Revolution in South Africa," by *Militant* circulation director Malik Miah; "The Nicaraguan Revolution Today," by Cindy Jaquith, director of the *Militant/Perspectiva Mundial* bureau in Managua; and "Revolutionary Cuba," by Mary-Alice Waters, coeditor of the Marxist journal *New International*.

Nicaragua and South Africa

A highlight of the conference was a special session featuring Yolanda Campbell and Amalia Dixon of Nicaragua and Neo Mnumzana of the African National Congress.

The three were introduced by Thiago de Mello, a well-known Brazilian jazz musician who is a prominent activist in the fight against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua and a founder of Ventana, the U.S. artists' group in solidarity with the Sandinista revolution.

Campbell explained Nicaragua's autonomy project, which aims to overcome the legacy of special discrimination against the peoples of that country's Atlantic Coast — Miskito, Sumo, and Rama Indians; Creoles; Garifonas; and Spanish-speaking *mestizos* — and unite them with the Spanish-speaking population of Nicaragua's Pacific Coast.

The goal of the autonomy process, she said, is to "recognize the legitimate demands of the indigenous peoples and ethnic communities" of the Atlantic Coast; recognize that "these can only be fulfilled within a united, national state," and that "autono-

my is only possible because there is a revolutionary process" in Nicaragua.

"For the first time in history, a Miskito man, a Black man, a Sumo man will be proud of his identity," she said.

Drawing on her own experience, Dixon took up the U.S. victimization of Nicaraguans who are Indians. When the Sandinista revolution triumphed, she explained, it was natural that there would be a clash of different cultures, traditions, and experiences between the Pacific and the Atlantic. "The United States took advantage of this conflict, giving us arms to destroy ourselves," she said.

The autonomy process is overcoming this division and isolation, she explained, as well as conducting the dialogue for peace between the Sandinistas and those Miskitos still in arms. The result, she concluded, is that "for the first time, the Atlantic people are going to have our rights and exercise our rights as Nicaraguans."

Mnumzana described to the audience the deepening of the revolution in South Africa, emphasizing the advances in organization in the Black townships.

The slogan in the townships now, he said, is "From ungovernability to people's power," as the Black working masses establish street, block, and zonal committees to govern the towns, collect and reduce rents, administer justice through people's tribunals, and set up schools to teach the people their true history.

Mnumzana also emphasized the importance of the autonomy process in Nicaragua for the revolution in South Africa and revolutions around the world.

He hailed Nicaragua's revolutionary government for "encouraging people at different stations of development not to wait to have their station raised by someone else, but to participate in the process of the leveling of differences."

The speeches were greeted with standing ovations and a final chant of "Viva Cuba! Viva Nicaragua! Viva the ANC! Viva nosotros! [us]!"

Model for Indians

The international significance of autonomy was also explained by Wabun-Inini, who told the conference's final rally it "can in fact become a model, the example, for how 100 million Indians of North, Central, and South America are going to participate within the revolutionary struggle."

Wabun-Inini presented four slide-show classes to the conference on the Indian struggle in Nicaragua, the United States, Guatemala, El Salvador, and other countries, as well as on a recent trip he made to Libya.

His were among the broad range of classes and panels held during the conference.

The noted attorney Leonard Boudin, who is general counsel for the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, spoke on the recent World Court decision condemning the U.S. aggression against Nicaragua. In the United States, Boudin represents Nicaragua's mission to the United Nations and the government of Cuba and has defended many victims of capitalist injustice, including the SWP and YSA. He is the socialists' attorney in their landmark lawsuit against government spying.

Professor Jeffrey Elliot gave a presentation on his experiences in preparing the Pathfinder Press book *Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*, a major interview with Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

There were also classes on the history of the U.S. labor movement, the Marxist view of religion, fascism and how to fight it, Marx and Engels on the housing question, the fight against nuclear power and environmental destruction, and the role of imperialism around the world.

New York dairy farmer Jo Bates and John Burkett from the Ohio Family Farmers Movement participated in a panel on farmers' struggles.

Cultural contributions

Although classes, workshops, and informal discussions lasted late into the evening, conference participants didn't miss the opportunity to celebrate the cultural contributions the oppressed and exploited are making around the world. Those contributions were exemplified by the stunning, hand-painted banners that decorated the conference sessions, the work of Denny Mealy, a meatpucker from Austin, Mike Alewitz, and many others who volunteered

Continued on next page

Oscar Mayer workers press for united fight

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

CHICAGO — On August 17, some 300 Oscar Mayer workers rallied at a ballpark here across the street from the plant on Chicago's near North Side. They were protesting the company's lockout of 600 workers since mid-June.

The workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-100, overwhelmingly turned down two successive concession contract proposals from the company. Soon after the first vote, the company issued layoff notices to all but about 60 workers at the plant.

When the union rejected the company's second proposal, including a 10-month wage freeze, the company began hiring "temporary workers" to replace those laid off.

A further blow to the locked-out workers came when the Illinois Employment Security Department withheld their unemployment benefits on the grounds that a labor dispute was in progress at the plant. Union members are appealing the decision to the National Labor Relations Board.

Daily picket lines have been set up at the plant. The rally leaflet explained, "We are determined to build unity in strength. . . . We are building unity with other Oscar Mayer workers, especially those in Madison [Wisconsin] and Davenport [Iowa], whose contracts expire August 31. We are preparing to show the company one solid fist come September 1."

Breaking down divisions

Earlier this summer, Chicago Oscar Mayer workers traveled to the Madison and Davenport plants to break down divisions the company has fostered by pitting one plant against another in attempts to drive down wages and benefits.

The company's most recent proposal offered to increase the base pay of the mechanical workers (pipefitters, millwrights, maintenance workers, electricians, etc.), who used to make the same rate as production workers.

"They thought the mechanical workers would swing the vote for the last contract offer," Ed Malis, a mechanic in the machine shop, told the *Militant*. "But it didn't work out that way."

Protest in Hartford to demand freedom for Puerto Ricans

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

A demonstration demanding freedom for Puerto Rican political prisoners and independence for Puerto Rico has been called for Hartford, Connecticut, on Saturday, August 30.

This protest will take place one year after 13 political activists were arrested in a massive FBI raid in Puerto Rico. In that attack 200 government agents raided more than 30 homes, closed down a proindependence magazine, and arrested 11 people. At the same time, the FBI arrested two other activists in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and Dallas, Texas.

All 13 activists are charged with the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo armored truck in Hartford. The FBI claims they are members of the proindependence organization Macheteros, which Washington alleges is a terrorist group.

Last March, three more people were arrested and face the same frame-up charges.

The government denied the defendants their right to bail, claiming this was legal under provisions of the 1984 Bail Reform Act. In May a federal court declared this law unconstitutional. But despite this decision, nine of the political activists remain locked up at Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City as the government appeals this ruling.

The Hartford action is being organized by the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, which has active organizations building the demonstration in New York City; Boston; Amherst, Massachusetts; and New Haven and Hartford, Connecticut.

Buses for the action will be leaving from the New York City area. For more information contact: Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, P.O. Box A-840, New York, N.Y. 10163. Telephone (212) 286-0924.

Joe Rodriguez spoke to the rally on behalf of the mechanics. "The company is trying to separate us out. But when I get my check every week it doesn't say mechanical worker, it says Oscar Mayer — the same thing it says on the production worker's check. We're all just slaves, little people, in the company's eyes. We're the ones who made the company what it is today, and they reward us by locking us out."

Two suspended elected officers of Local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota, Lynn Huston and Floyd Leno, addressed the rally. Local P-9 was put under trusteeship by top UFCW officials in May.

"We have a lot in common," Huston told the crowd of predominantly Black and Latino workers, "because we work for the most profitable meatpacking companies in

this country. None of us has received a raise in six years. Our companies are increasing their profits, yet they want to cut our pay and benefits because every meatpacking company across the country is doing the same."

"The two most important people in this country today are the production worker and the farmer because we make the products," Leno said. "You here at Oscar Mayer can do what we did in Austin, Minnesota. We must solve our own problems."

Support needed

Cary Brown, a leader of the Oscar Mayer workers, urged everyone to join the union's picket lines.

Support for a boycott of Oscar Mayer products was a focus of the rally. Rev. Al Sampson, a Chicago city council member,

urged the rally to win support for the boycott from churches, grocery stores, and from the mayor's office.

Other speakers at the rally were Mike Rosewell, *Chicago Tribune* Mailers Local 2, which has been on strike for the last 13 months; Virginia Beckett, vice-president of United Electrical Workers Local 1154; Mary Prindle, president of United Paperworkers Local 325 and representative of the Chicago Area Labor Support Committee; and Willie Ollie, striking member of UFCW Local P-100 at Ampac meatpackers.

The rally was organized by the Oscar Mayer Workers Support Committee.

Donations and messages of support can be sent to Oscar Mayer Workers Support Committee, P.O. Box 804331, Chicago, Ill. 60680-4331.

Activists attend socialist conference

Continued from previous page

their time.

And they were highlighted by two major concerts. Sechaba, the cultural group of the ANC, gave a performance titled "In Salute to South Africa's Freedom Struggle." Amazon, the jazz band of Thiago de Mello, performed a "Celebration of the Sandinista Revolution." Joining Thiago were the prominent trumpet player Claudio Roditi and composer-pianist Llew Matthews, who played for years with singer Lena Horne. Singer Claudia Hommel also performed.

The broad range of opportunities to learn and exchange experiences led many participants who had initially registered for only a day or two of the conference to stay the whole week. And it convinced 18 of those present to join the Young Socialist Alliance, bringing to nearly 100 the number of young people who have joined the YSA since last January.

The success of the conference was celebrated in a wind-up rally the last night, hosted by the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Greetings were presented by Wabun-Inini; flight attendant Marsha Halverson; Denny Mealy; Mary Ellen Marus, of the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada; Yolanda Campbell; and Neo Mnumzana.

'A most important role'

Campbell emphasized that opponents of the war against Nicaragua "should not become depressed" by the \$100 million for the contras that has been approved by the U.S. Congress. "You have a most important role to play" in deepening opposition to the U.S. war, she emphasized. This solidarity goes hand in hand with the solidarity U.S. working people are receiving from "those on the Nicaraguan war front who are dying every day for you and me, the brothers who are dying every day in the mountains in El Salvador," and "the thousands who have died in Cuba," she said.

"South Africa is prophetic of things to come," Mnumzana told the crowd, just as "Nicaragua is the harbinger of the future," and "we have Cuba, which continues to show us how brilliant the possibility of the future can be."

"When workers across seas and oceans begin to discover the natural bonds of solidarity, it's not the workers who are in trouble, but the property owners," he said.

The solidarity U.S. workers extend to their brothers and sisters abroad also has a complement, he said. "The most powerful current of solidarity with all the struggles of the Third World," he concluded, "is the struggle to liberate the United States of America."

The opportunity to deepen that two-way solidarity that is offered by the October 25 regional antiwar protests in the United States was pointed to by YSA national leader Laura Garza.

'A piece of their own story'

PM editor Martin Koppel reported the enthusiastic response to the *Militant/PM* subscription drive, which prompted the doubling of the fall goal.

Fred Halstead encouraged the crowd to



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Sechaba singers from the African National Congress received a good response at conference.

take the meatpackers pamphlet to working people across the country as part of this subscription effort: "Sell it to fellow workers, who will recognize in it a piece of their own story."

Militant coeditor Doug Jenness explained how the *Militant* and *PM* will be powerful weapons in the fight to defend the Nicaraguan revolution by getting out the facts of what the workers and farmers in that country are defending against the mightiest imperialist power on the globe.

Meatpacker leader Guyette speaks to striking USX Steelworkers

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

CHICAGO — Jim Guyette, suspended president of Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union in Austin, Minnesota, was a featured speaker at a solidarity rally for USX Steelworkers held in Gary, Indiana, August 12.

Several hundred Steelworkers and their supporters gathered at the Lloyd McBride hall, headquarters of USWA Local 1014, and then marched to the USX Gary plant gate.

The Steelworkers' picket signs said, "Locked out and on strike" because USX Corp. began shutting down its steel operations in anticipation of the strike, which began July 31.

Jesse Jackson was also a featured speaker at the rally.

Larry Regan, president of Local 1014, and Al Peña, president of Local 1104 at the USX plant in Lorain, Ohio, spoke.

The next day, Chicago police were called in to remove striking members of Local 65 at USX South Works from railroad tracks leading to the plant. The cops arrested 27 Steelworkers who were trying to prevent a train carrying steel from leaving the plant. The unionists were released when the company declined to press charges.

As Malik Miah told the conference earlier in the week, "Our main contribution to the struggle of workers like those in Austin, Ottumwa, and Fremont and other workers fighting against the employers around the world is that we tell the truth. We begin with the facts."

"If you present the facts, any thinking working person will come to the conclusion that they should stand on the side of these fighters. That's what this drive is all about."

Picket lines have also been set up at USX plants throughout western Pennsylvania's Mon Valley.

At the Clairton Coke works near Pittsburgh Steelworkers from Local 1557 massed at the gates to protest the entry of 200 additional company personnel into the plant, bringing the number working there to more than 300.

The people entering the plant brought in televisions, washers, dryers, air mattresses, and other items suggesting plans for a long stay.

USX also held up the Clairton workers' paychecks. The company went to common pleas court to limit the number of pickets at the Clairton works and to instruct the workers to allow company personnel to move freely in and out of the plant.

Recently at a hearing in common pleas court, USX agreed to release the paychecks after the union agreed to allow plant managers free passage through the gate.

Local 1557 President Charles Grese stressed that the local would continue to seek measures to stop production in Clairton.

Holly Harkness is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 758 in Chicago.

S. African people 'speak with one voice'

Demand end to state of emergency, scrapping of apartheid

BY ERNEST HARSCH

With much of South Africa still in revolt, top apartheid officials gathered in Durban in mid-August for a federal convention of the governing National Party.

President Pieter Botha and other party leaders struck an intransigent pose.

Botha stressed that there would be no scrapping of residential segregation or other key apartheid policies. Defense Minister Magnus Malan declared emphatically that there "can be no possibility of talking with the ANC," the African National Congress, which is leading the South African freedom struggle. Minister of Law and Order Louis le Grange proclaimed that the state of emergency would not be lifted until "there has been an end to the revolutionary climate."

Since the state of emergency was imposed June 12, nearly 250 people have been killed, the bulk of them Blacks shot down by police or right-wing vigilante squads. This has brought the death toll over the past two years to more than 2,200.

In addition, an estimated 12,000 political activists have been detained.

But the crackdown has not cowed popular resistance, even among the detainees themselves. On August 15, some 600 political detainees at the Modderbee Prison in Johannesburg launched a hunger strike to demand the lifting of the state of emergency.

Since mid-July, several hundred thousand Black primary and secondary school students have been boycotting classes. Students in the rebellious Eastern Cape region walked out of their classrooms first. Then the student actions spread to Soweto, the huge Black township outside Johannesburg.



Workers strike at tire factory in Benoni

These protests were provoked by new repressive controls clamped on the schools, which included the posting of police on school grounds and a requirement that all students wear special identity passes. This was an attempt by the regime to halt the spread of "people's education" — the unauthorized teaching of banned political subjects and the history of the freedom struggle.

Besides boycotting classes, many students participated in demonstrations and burned their identity cards. Some teachers and school principals also joined in the actions.

According to the August 8-14 Johannes-

burg *Weekly Mail*, "Classes of 'people's education' are still being taught in some schools in Soweto, despite the stringent security measures introduced more than a month ago."

Thousands of white students at the country's five English-speaking universities have likewise demonstrated against the state of emergency.

In the Vaal Triangle region south of Johannesburg, Black township residents have been refusing to pay rent for nearly two years, in protest against high rents and the lack of services. Such rent strikes are spreading to Soweto and other parts of the country. It is estimated that some 300,000

families in 38 townships are now refusing to pay rent, costing the apartheid regime more than \$100 million.

In an effort to break the rent strikes, the apartheid authorities have begun serving eviction notices in some areas.

As the mobilizations continue, new layers of the Black population are being drawn into struggle. This now includes some African businessmen. Although much better off than most Blacks, they too face racist restrictions.

In May a delegation from the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (NAFCOC), which represents 15,000 Black businessmen, met with top leaders of the ANC in Lusaka, Zambia. Since then, NAFCOC officials have called for the unbanning of the ANC and other groups, the release of imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela, the lifting of the state of emergency, and the scrapping of apartheid.

Speaking at a NAFCOC national congress in Cape Town in early July, its president, Sam Motsuenyane, outlined the organization's points of agreement with the ANC, including the need to abolish the Bantustan system, redistribute land among those who work it, and end the extreme concentration of wealth in the hands of a few white-owned monopoly enterprises.

Later that month Motsuenyane also came out in support of international economic sanctions against the apartheid regime.

Of all the rural Bantustans, Kwa-Ndebele, some 70 miles north of Pretoria, has witnessed the most sustained political upsurge in recent months.

This was spurred by the apartheid regime's plans to proclaim KwaNdebele "independent," which most Blacks see as a ruse to deny them their political rights in South Africa as a whole. Opposition has also been provoked by the brutalities of a right-wing vigilante force called Imbokotho. Since mid-May at least 160 people have been killed in the Bantustan, most of them by Imbokotho thugs.

For several weeks in July the Kwa-Ndebele administration's entire Black work force went on strike to protest the "independence" plans. Later that month Interior Minister Piet Ntuli, who headed the Imbokotho gangs, was killed by a car bomb. Thousands of people poured into the streets to celebrate.

In face of this massive upsurge, Kwa-Ndebele's Legislative Assembly decided in mid-August to shelve the "independence" plans. This was the first time any Bantustan administration had been forced to concede to popular pressure on such a key issue.

The people of South Africa have "refused to continue to be ruled in the old way," declared a July statement of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the mass anti-apartheid coalition that is in the forefront of the upsurge.

"Together as workers, youths, students, parents, in towns and villages, we must speak with one voice," the UDF stated. "Our people are simply demanding the democratic transfer of power."

Sanctions on Pretoria pick up steam

BY ERNEST HARSCH

Within just 10 days of each other, the U.S. Senate and several Commonwealth member states called for the imposition of new economic sanctions against the apartheid rulers of South Africa.

This has added further strength to the broad and growing international campaign for the breaking of all ties with apartheid. And it has put yet greater pressure on the two most prominent opponents of anti-apartheid sanctions — U.S. President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The August 15 Senate vote approved a package of sanctions that included a ban on all new U.S. investments in South Africa; a prohibition on the import of South African steel, iron, uranium, coal, and textiles; and an end to South African landing rights in the United States.

This Senate bill was less sweeping than one passed by the House two months earlier, calling for a ban on all South African trade and investments. But it nevertheless marked a setback to the Reagan administration's stance against sanctions. Both Republicans and Democrats joined in passing the Senate bill, by a vote of 84 to 14.

Supporters of the different House and Senate measures are slated to meet in September to work out a final, compromise sanctions bill.

On August 5, the heads of state of seven Commonwealth countries — Britain, Canada, Australia, India, the Bahamas, Zambia, and Zimbabwe — met in London.

Thatcher, who had previously rejected any sanctions, felt obliged to agree to several: a ban on the import of South African iron, steel, and coal, as well as "voluntary" bans on new British investments in South Africa and the promotion of tourism to that country.

But this was less than what the six other Commonwealth states called for. They favored, in addition, a ban on the reinvestment of profits earned in South Africa, a severing of air links, and other restrictions.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda reacted sharply to Thatcher's refusal to endorse more stringent sanctions. He called Thatcher a "pathetic figure" who

was "worshiping platinum and gold" — two chief South African exports.

Prominent opponents of the apartheid regime hailed the decision of the six Commonwealth states. "The Commonwealth sanctions, mild as they are, could be the beginning of a groundswell of worldwide punitive action against South Africa," declared Nthato Motlana, chairman of the Soweto Civic Association.

Meanwhile, South African government and business figures have expressed alarm. Foreign Minister Roelof Botha condemned the "hysterical stampede" toward international sanctions. The August 8 Johannesburg *Business Day* complained that "the West's membrane of resistance to sanctions has been severely ruptured."

Although both Thatcher and Reagan are becoming more isolated on the sanctions issue (and have been forced to make some concessions), they are continuing to put up stiff resistance.

This was reflected in two recent speeches by Reagan, on July 22 and August 12. In both talks he argued strongly against sanctions.

Reagan also sought to take the focus off the apartheid regime's brutal methods by pointing an accusing finger at the victims of apartheid. He red-baited the African National Congress and accused it of employing "calculated terror," his term for the ANC's armed struggle. The South African government, Reagan maintained, had "a right and responsibility to maintain order in the face of terrorists."

The apartheid authorities in Pretoria welcomed Reagan's comments. And the Associated Chambers of Commerce, a leading South African businessmen's body, has praised the efforts of the Reagan and Thatcher governments to slow down the drive toward sanctions. If sanctions are introduced only gradually, the association said, then Pretoria would have time to adjust to them by developing "unconventional trade," that is, ways to circumvent sanctions.

In the meantime, Pretoria is seeking to retaliate against those neighboring states that support sanctions. "The Blacks will pay," Roelof Botha threatened.

From Pathfinder Press

Apartheid's Great Land Theft: The Struggle for the Right to Farm in South Africa by Ernest Harsch.

Tells the story of the fight over land, which has been at the center of the struggle between South Africa's white rulers and its subjugated Black majority.

This pamphlet is an important tool to help build the movement to break all U.S. ties with the apartheid regime.

It is available at the Pathfinder Bookstore nearest you (see directory on page 12) or from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. 56 pp., \$1.25. Please include \$.75 for handling.

ERNEST HARSCH

APARTHEID'S GREAT LAND THEFT

The Struggle for the Right to Farm in South Africa



How unionist in arms industry beat witch-hunt

BY DUNCAN WILLIAMS

DENVER — This spring, Sally Goodman returned to her job as an electrician at the Martin Marietta plant here. Although she had been off work on a one-year leave for medical reasons, her return marked a big political victory in a fight against government and company harassment and intimidation that she had been waging for nearly four years.

What has become known as the Sally Goodman case began in January 1982 when the Defense Investigative Service (DIS), a cop agency of the Defense Department, began investigating her. Goodman, then 23, did not learn of this operation until the fall of that year when she was called off the job to talk with two DIS agents. They informed her that she was under investigation because of allegations that she was a member of the Young Socialist Alliance, at least an associate of known members of the Socialist Workers Party, and a lesbian.

None of these things is illegal, but DIS does not consider itself bound by legality. It was set up to conduct "national security" investigations of workers at companies that do business with the Defense Department, such as Martin Marietta. This company makes the Titan missile and parts of the MX missile, among other things.

By national security, DIS does not have in mind the well-being of working people in the United States or anywhere else; DIS has never concerned itself with dangerous work conditions, health and environmental hazards, or lousy pay and benefits. Rather, it seeks to police the work force and to protect the secrets of the giant corporations and their government and military.

As the U.S. government presses its dirty war in Central America, it is stepping up its antiunion and antifarmer policies here at home. To carry this out, the government and war profiteers such as Martin Marietta need to weaken and divide the unions. That's where DIS comes in.

Work closely with FBI

Their agents work closely with company security forces, the FBI, and other cop agencies. They are also authorized to conduct investigations at companies doing business with almost any other federal agency, including the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, and Small Business Administration.

Every year DIS carries out hundreds of thousands of investigations. The purpose is to create a climate of fear and suspicion among workers, to intimidate and divide them, and make it harder for them to fight for their rights and for better wages and working conditions.

One target of such harassment is women, especially those who have fought through discrimination to get their jobs and are outspoken in their views. Gay-baiting is also a favorite tool; DIS claims the right to investigate the private life of any worker to see if he or she has done anything that could lead to blackmail.

All these "investigative techniques" were at work in the Sally Goodman case.

In 1980 she hired on at Martin Marietta as the second of three women electricians; as part of her job she had to obtain a security clearance in June 1981.

Combative unionist

At the time of her initial encounter with DIS, Sally Goodman was known as a combative unionist who had helped organize support for the 1981 air traffic controllers' strike and the miners' strike, as well as participation in the 1981 Solidarity Day demonstration in Denver.

She was and is a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the National Organization for Women (NOW). She also supported the socialist campaign of Eileen Thournir, a coworker at Martin Marietta, for U.S. Congress.

The aim of DIS was to put an end to this by intimidating her directly, to isolate her from the union and her coworkers, and to eventually get her fired or force her to quit.

"When I was first called in," Goodman



Sally Goodman Militant/Holbrook Mahn

recalled in an interview, "it was pretty scary. I was in a little room with two government agents I'd never seen before. They said I was under investigation and why, and I told them I wanted a union steward present. After they repeatedly refused, they let me go."

The DIS investigation didn't end there, of course, but slithered on for more than two years. It included a full check of all Goodman's job and personal references on her application; "visits" to former landlords and acquaintances; and an exhaustive interrogation by DIS agents.

They asked questions such as: "Can you describe the general types or characterization of individuals with whom you have participated in homosexual acts and whether or not these relationships were of a lasting nature or were they numerous transient liaisons through chance meetings?"; "Have you traveled outside the United States?"; "Do you support the principle of democratic centralism?"

Something else happened during this period as well. Goodman, together with supporters in the Political Rights Defense Fund, began to fight back. First she went to her union, United Auto Workers Local 766, which filed two grievances. "These grievances were later denied," Goodman pointed out, "because the company claimed to have nothing to do with the investigation, but they put the union squarely on record against the harassment and intimidation I was facing."

'Nail to the fence'

Despite DIS and Martin Marietta attempts to isolate her, Sally Goodman was able to win support from coworkers who understood what was behind the lesbian- and red-baiting. As one put it, "Sally's the coyote they want to nail to the fence to keep the other coyotes away."

Outside the plant, the American Civil Liberties Union provided an attorney, John Tredennick, at no cost.

The local Political Rights Defense Fund won support from a wide range of political figures and organizations to demand an end to the investigation of Goodman. Several rallies and picket lines were organized. Resolutions were adopted by unions and other organizations. Petitions were circulated at national and regional gatherings of NOW, UAW, and other labor and women's rights organizations.

In November 1984 the DIS investigation officially came to an end. Although Goodman had submitted to an interrogation in 1983, DIS had asked for a rematch. Goodman declined, since the earlier interrogation had been a violation of her privacy, the Bill of Rights, and DIS' own guidelines. She offered instead to provide written answers to any relevant, legal questions given to her and her attorney by DIS. This DIS refused to do.

'Investigation' falters

Aside from this, the DIS "investigation" was in trouble, as shown by the investiga-

tive files Goodman later obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

First, the results of all the interviews and background checks were "favorable"; the security files on Goodman at Martin Marietta contained "no unfavorable information."

Second, despite their best efforts, in questioning coworkers and foremen, the DIS snoopers couldn't come up with any basis for lifting the security clearance.

One agent noted, "We have not proved that subject [Goodman] has established a sympathetic association with any person who advocates the use of force or violence to overthrow the government by unconstitutional means . . . nor have we proved any membership or activity 'knowingly' in sympathy with or in support of persons who instigate, conspire or foment the commission of acts to deny other persons their rights under the Constitution or who seek to alter our govt by force or violence or other unconstitutional means."

He also stated, "The issue of HER alleged homosexuality is not a matter of any great interest to me, as several sources expressed the opinion that SHE may be a lesbian and has spoken publicly in favor of gay rights. SHE claimed that SHE was not subject to blackmail or coercion because of anything in HER personal life, which should also include HER sexual preference, and based upon what I have read . . . I agree with that assessment."

Impact of defense campaign

Most important, perhaps, was the impact of the defense campaign, as revealed in the files: "It is recognized that this case is very controversial and because SUBJECT's case has been highly publicized and SHE is represented by THE ACLU maybe this case should be forwarded" to another branch of the Defense Department.

The case was finally shuffled to the top echelons of DIS, where a decision was made in April 1985 to suspend Goodman's clearance.

The timing of this action was especially insidious, since it came while Goodman was in the hospital on medical leave for major back surgery and unable to respond immediately. Also, DIS coyly noted that it had not revoked the clearance, but merely suspended it. She might get it back if she agreed to another degrading interview.

The suspension came at the same time the government was whipping up a huge spy scare. This scare campaign also resulted in many workers and military personnel losing their clearances in a move to overhaul the security program.

The Political Rights Defense Fund was able to cut through the spy scare, focus on the political issues of the case, and campaign widely for support in Goodman's case. Funds were raised to put out a new brochure; supporters gathered signatures at

union events, gay pride rallies, and the NOW national conference in New Orleans. Goodman's union reaffirmed its support for her fight against harassment.

Goodman and her supporters soon faced up to a difficult decision: whether or not to press ahead with the legal case and challenge the entire national security set-up of DIS and the Defense Department.

Balance sheet

In arriving at a decision, a balance sheet was found useful.

First, and most important, Goodman had been victorious. While she no longer had a clearance, DIS had failed in its overall objectives: Goodman is not intimidated; is less isolated than ever from her coworkers and her union; and she still has her job. Under the pressure of the support campaign, the company was forced to make public assurances that Sally Goodman would still have a job when she came back.

Moreover, this fight has made it easier for unionists at Martin Marietta to exercise their constitutional right to discuss political ideas with each other. And in the past year or so, activities have been organized to help send material aid to Nicaraguan unions and to support the meatpackers at Hormel in Austin, Minnesota.

To file a lawsuit and pursue the legal case would most certainly generate widespread support and could go a long way in exposing the dirty methods of government spy agencies. In this sense, regardless of its eventual outcome, it would have been a gain for unionists, antiwar fighters, women, and for those fighting for gay and lesbian rights.

However, it would also be a long and arduous affair. The government would certainly do everything it could to stall and drag out the proceedings, costing many years and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The most important fact of the case is that, despite everything, Goodman kept her job. In other similar cases, the victims of repression have been fighting to get their jobs back. Within the union and among coworkers, this is well appreciated. "The first time I went back to the plant," she reported, "the guys would come up to me and shake my hand and say things like, 'Well, they didn't get rid of you after all' or 'You beat 'em,' and then ask me where the case was at."

Finally, partly because of the fights that Sally Goodman and others have waged, workers in the war plants have shown that they are able to carry out political activities in their unions and in their workplaces, as can be seen at Martin Marietta. In this situation, Goodman and her supporters decided not to proceed with the legal case.

Her victory registers a gain for democratic rights for all workers, and now, after almost six years at Martin Marietta, she is moving to Chicago to participate in the labor movement there as she did here.

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Nicaraguan working people debate draft constitution

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "This power that we workers are defending — our power — is the only way that our voices will be heard, that our suggestions and contributions will be listened to. I am sure that the constitution will be a class constitution that will guarantee the future of the working class and the peasants."

José Meneses, a farm worker, was speaking at a June 11 meeting of 750 workers here to discuss the draft of Nicaragua's new constitution.

"Therefore," he continued, looking at the National Assembly delegates presiding over the meeting, "I want to tell you, Commander [Carlos] Núñez, that the draft constitution contains various articles that must be improved."

Meneses said he thought the draft did not distinguish clearly between peasants — those who actually work the land — and big landlords. The constitution should also provide for government regulation of the profits of private businesses to protect workers from "those who exploit us and submit us to misery and poverty," he added.

These were two of the issues discussed throughout Nicaragua during a series of open, town meeting-style assemblies held during May and June. The meetings were organized to discuss the draft of Nicaragua's new constitution.

These town meetings took place seven years after the Nicaraguan masses, led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), overthrew the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship, took political power out of the hands of the capitalists and landlords, and established a workers' and peasants' government. Tens of thousands of people took the opportunity to step back from their day-to-day tasks, assess the progress and the shortcomings of the Nicaraguan revolution, and discuss its future goals.

Among the questions discussed were how to defend the interests of workers and peasants in a country at war, where capitalists and large landlords still have significant influence in the economy; what to do about counterrevolutionaries who side with the U.S.-backed mercenaries attacking Nicaragua; how to overcome obstacles to women's equality; what autonomy will mean for the Atlantic Coast and Nicaragua as a whole; and whether the FSLN is the vanguard party of Nicaraguan working people.

"The town meetings surpassed all expectations," Carlos Núñez, president of Nicaragua's National Assembly, said in a June 23 interview with the Sandinista daily *Barricada*. "They became extraordinary schools of learning, exchanges, and studies."

The new constitution was drafted by a National Assembly commission composed of deputies from the FSLN; the capitalist People's Social Christian Party (PPSC) and Democratic Conservative Party (PCD); and three ultraleft groups, the Nicaraguan Socialist Party (PSN), the Nicaraguan Communist Party (PCN), and the Marxist-Leninist Party (PML). The capitalist Independent Liberal Party (PLI) refused to participate in the commission.

The assembly approved the initial draft on February 21, although none of the parties, including the FSLN, was satisfied with it. Núñez said at that time that they would take this draft to the Nicaraguan people for a thorough discussion to enable the legislators to come up with a final, improved version.

The draft was printed in full in the daily papers *Barricada* and *El Nuevo Diario* in late February, along with a report from Núñez on the disagreements within the commission on many of the 221 articles.

The town meetings themselves began on May 18 with an assembly of journalists, artists, and intellectuals. Seventy-four more followed, organized in each region of the country by sector of the population: workers, peasants, women, students, artisans and merchants, army and Ministry of the Interior (MINT) troops and police, church activists, and professionals. The meetings were open, and anyone could take the floor to raise a comment, a proposal, or a criticism.

Most town meetings drew 500 to 1,000 participants and had dozens of speakers take the floor. The one exception was the meeting with capitalist landlords, merchants, and industrialists scheduled for June 7 in the Las Mercedes Hotel in Managua. Only 23 people showed up, and they decided to cancel the meeting.

'Peasants cannot be without land'

Some 500 peasants packed a town meeting in Tipitapa June 8. The future of the land reform was at the heart of the discussion, provoked by a PCD proposal to stop distributing land to poor peasants.

"No, comrades!" one cooperative leader began. "Under no circumstances should they stop giving land to the peasants. The peasants cannot be without land."

"Under no circumstances should land belong to a landlord. Then, we have to sell our labor to another, and this causes poverty for me, my wife, and my children. There should be no more landlords in Nicaragua!" he finished to loud applause.

Several peasants in Tipitapa took up the problem of speculators and black market profiteers.

"Why is food so expensive for the consumer?" asked a peasant from the Camilo Ortega cooperative. "Because there is no

law that really works and keeps the merchants and speculators from exploiting the consumers."

Another proposed the creation of a peasant market, where working people could buy directly from peasant producers. "As for the merchants," he explained, "if they don't disappear, they should go to the countryside and produce."

Farm workers discuss right to strike

Some 150 farm workers met June 5 at the big Loredo Pravia rice farm near the Costa Rican border in southeast Nicaragua.

The right to strike sparked the biggest discussion at this meeting. One worker said that he disagreed with putting this in the constitution "since the nationalized properties belong to the people, and striking would be fighting against our own interests."

"Even in the private enterprises, a part of the profits now go to social needs. We must find better ways to obtain our demands," he concluded.

Other workers declared that the right to strike was a historic conquest of workers' struggles and "necessary for the role of the working class in building the revolutionary power." One worker even said that they needed a strike at Loredo Pravia right now since the administration was not providing badly needed improvements in housing.

At the end, most workers nodded in agreement with Baldazar Sevilla, former president of the union at the farm. He said that the right to strike should be in the constitution, but that usually workers could raise their needs and get satisfaction "without stopping production."

Workers' participation in administration

Marvin Soto, the first speaker at the June 11 town meeting of Managua workers, took up the question of workers' role in running factories and increasing production.

"Capitalism excludes the possibility of a real participation by the workers in the administration of productive enterprises," he said. In Nicaragua today, however, "we workers are the ones who exercise power, and we share in its responsibilities." He called for the unions to organize workers to take initiatives "to increase production, overcome labor indiscipline, eliminate bureaucracy, and be more efficient and economical in our work."

Carlos Berríos Gutiérrez, a construction worker, said that the draft "should stipulate that it is the workers' responsibility to take care of the social property — for example, our work tools, the machines, and means of production. These are the weapons with which we are going to consolidate our revolutionary process and move our country forward."

Several workers stressed that their right to participate in management should apply to private companies as well as nationalized enterprises.

End to 'exploitation of man by man'

In several of the town meetings, some speakers raised questions or disagreements with Article 6 of the draft constitution. It defines as one of the "fundamental principles of the Republic" Nicaragua's "mixed economy."

Article 6 reads: "Mixed economy is understood to mean an economic model where diverse types of property exist and combine with each other: state, private, mixed, and cooperative. All shall have the well-being of the people as their principal objective, without impairing the establishment of reasonable profit margins."

Domingo López, a worker at PETRONIC, the nationalized oil company, said that "I am in complete disagreement with this because it will mean that there will be an unlimited number of bourgeois with their private property, doing what they please."

A few speakers at town meetings raised the view that Nicaragua should become a socialist society. During the farm workers'



Peasants with draft constitution at Tipitapa



Student and youth meeting in Managua

town meeting in Juigalpa, for instance, Orlando Centeno declared that "the large landholdings should disappear."

"I am for the construction of socialism," he said, "and therefore for the disappearance of the exploitation of man by man."

On the other hand, Salvador Montenegro Rodríguez, a landowner in northern Nicaragua, said he hoped the constitution would include an article which gave "complete respect to private initiative."

Support for the Sandinista Front

A popular article in the draft constitution calls for veneration of the tens of thousands of Nicaraguans who died fighting the Somoza dictatorship and defending Nicaragua from the U.S.-backed *contras*.

"Today, there are some parties that are bothered by this article," said textile worker Tomás Centro. "Maybe they have not contributed with their blood to the struggle." He pointed out that more than 60 percent of Nicaraguan families have lost at least one member in this fight.

Right-wing parties opposed characterizing the Sandinista People's Army as "Sandinista" and demanded that the constitution prohibit the re-election of the president. (FSLN leader Daniel Ortega was elected president of Nicaragua in 1984.)

These proposals sparked a strong response in the town meetings in favor of the FSLN.

The army should keep the name "Sandinista" because "it grew out of the ranks of the workers and is no more than the living expression of the armed people," said Lieutenant Jazmina Gutiérrez in a Managua town meeting of army and navy troops. "Its historical antecedents are in the army of General Sandino, and the Sandinista People's Army is anti-imperialist and nationalist," she added.

On the re-election of the president, Felipe González, a MINT official, said that "it is a right of the people to re-elect the president of the republic. If the president is governing in the interests of the people, and if the people ask for his re-election, the people must be listened to."

Defense of the revolution

Some participants in the meetings said that the draft constitution was weak since it did not include the reserves, the militias,



Militant/Ruth Nebbia

Farm worker takes mike at discussion held on rice farm in southeast Nicaragua



meeting. "There should be no more landlords!" proposed one.

Militant/Ruth Nebbia



Militant/Harvey McArthur

civil defense, territorial militias, and other ways in which tens of thousands of workers and peasants are organized actively in defense. Others called for stricter enforcement of the military service law and harsher penalties for draft evaders.

Sara Sánchez, speaking at a June 8 peasants' meeting in León, said that "women should be included in all aspects of defense along with men and without any type of differentiation."

Many speakers called for a crackdown on those in Nicaragua who actively support U.S. intervention and the counterrevolutionaries.

"The activities of some of the Catholic church hierarchy are known to everyone," said Patricia Morena, a MINT officer speaking in Managua June 8. "You know cases where they have used religious ceremonies to organize counterrevolutionary meetings." She called for the "inalienable right of freedom of religion," but within "the strict fulfillment of the law."

Others raised demands for cracking down on right-wing parties and the U.S.-backed capitalist newspaper *La Prensa* and to strip contra supporters of their citizenship.

Atlantic Coast discussion

With a "tengki-poli," a "muchas gracias," or a "thank you," National Assembly deputy Ray Hooker thanked each speaker in the first town meeting held in the Atlantic Coast city of Bluefields May 29. Each participant spoke in his or her preferred language, Miskito, Spanish, or English, with translation provided into the other two languages.

The hundreds of participants were church and traditional leaders of Indian, Black, and Spanish-speaking communities throughout the zone. They focused their contributions on the issues of autonomy for the Atlantic Coast peoples: use of natural resources, communal land ownership, bilingual education, official recognition of the Miskito language, etc.

A later workers' town meeting in Bluefields was one of the largest in the country, with more than 1,000 participants. Marvin Taylor, a worker who was quoted in *Barricada*, asked that the constitution "be more clear in defense of the interests of the working class," since now "the worker lives two weeks each month

from his work and on thin air the other two."

All the parties represented in the National Assembly were supposed to share responsibility for presiding over the town meetings. The capitalist PCD and PLI refused to participate in the meetings, although well-known PLI members spoke from the floor at some meetings.

At a Masaya meeting of more than 1,000 artisans, craftsmen, and market vendors, PLI member Alfredo Ruiz Gutiérrez denounced the draft constitution, saying, "It is written in the crude and ugly Náhuatl tongue" (a local Indian language) and that it was "an ignominious scrap of paper written by men who had not gone past fourth grade."

Roberto Potosi, a local artisan, an-

swered Gutiérrez, saying that although the draft was written in Spanish, he would have been proud "if they had written it in Náhuatl, because the humble people and the artisans would understand it better, since that is our true language."

When Gutiérrez denounced the Nicaraguan government, calling it "Marxist-Leninist," the meeting replied with chants of "Long live people's power!"

La Prensa carried no coverage on any of the actual town meetings, though it ran extensive features attacking the draft constitution and reporting on the right-wing boycott of the discussion.

The May 16 *La Prensa* ran a feature by "experts" of the Conservative Party of Nicaragua that challenged the validity of the town meetings, saying, "Obviously the masses of common citizens don't have the slightest ability to discuss the complex juridical issues that are contained in a constitution."

In the next issue, the Conservatives accused the FSLN of trying to impose a totalitarian regime with the new constitution and called actions of the Nicaraguan government "typical of any dictatorship."

In a May 28 feature against the constitution, *La Prensa* singled out for criticism the provision that says the army would defend "the conquests of the revolution." The newspaper argued that "yesterday there was no revolution, today there is, and tomorrow, perhaps, there won't be any."

A two-part series June 19 and 20 complained that the constitution's provisions for nationalizations and government leadership in economic policies "left private property dangling by a thread."

Ultralefts oppose 'bourgeois constitution'

The Marxist-Leninist Party (PML) was the only ultraleft group that participated widely in the town meetings. A few PSN members did speak at some of the meetings.

The PML distributed a flyer declaring that "the Sandinistas and the bourgeois parties have come to an agreement so that the wording of the constitution will guarantee large-scale private property. . . . It says that neither workers' power nor socialism will be built in Nicaragua. It guarantees capitalism forever."

PML members spoke in the youth, women's, journalists', and workers' town meetings in Managua. Some points they

raised — such as questioning the meaning of "reasonable profits" and calling for workers to oppose abuses by bosses and factory administrators — got a favorable response. Their general view — that the constitution and the FSLN were defending capitalism and holding back the workers' struggle — was rejected, though their comments were usually listened to patiently.

Near the end of the Managua workers' town meeting, however, many participants lost their patience when a PML member began by lamenting that he did not "see here the weathered faces of the vanguard workers who are carrying forward the historical process."

Ten minutes later, as he declared that "here there exists the right to strike for bosses, but workers get no answers" and compared the FSLN-led government to the 1973 Allende government in Chile, boos and jeers broke out from the crowd of 750 workers.

"He's a reactionary!" several workers cried out. The shouting continued until the PML speaker was forced to leave the microphone and sit down.

Carlos Núñez then intervened to urge the crowd to let everyone speak freely "whether they are mistaken or not. That's what these town meetings are for. It is neither desirable nor civilized to cut off any citizen," Núñez admonished.

New form of popular participation

Summing up the experiences of the town meetings in an interview in the June 23 *Barricada*, Núñez said the meetings were a "new, full, and direct form of participation by all the people."

"They had the role of a political literacy campaign," he said. The tens of thousands of participants had to learn about, think about, and give their opinions on the big questions addressed in the constitution. "I think that the people know more about their country, their revolution, and about how to design their own political system," Núñez explained.

The meetings "broke the schema of bourgeois traditions," he went on, "where the most important document of the country was drafted and approved without getting out of the hands of a few politicians."

In the future, the town meetings would have to be included as another "new, modern, and open expression of popular participation," Núñez concluded.

Lively exchange on abortion: a right or a vice?

BY RUTH NEBBIA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Esperanza Romano was the first speaker to take the microphone at a June 10 meeting of 800 women here.

She explained the need to free women from sole responsibility for housework and child care so that they may be part of "economic, social, political, and cultural life." The creation of child-care facilities "should become a central task of the revolutionary government," Romano continued. She said this should be included in the constitution to ensure women's equality.

The single most discussed issue at the meeting was abortion, which is presently illegal in Nicaragua. Other issues were violence against women, how to eliminate prostitution, discrimination against women in the current divorce laws, the fight for equal rights on the job, and the role of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in the defense of women's rights.

The majority of women at the town meeting favored the legalization of abortion. They disagreed with the position of the Catholic church hierarchy and capitalist parties here that abortion is murder.

Lilian Torres, a gynecologist, got a big round of applause when she said that those parties that claim to be for the "right to life" are really "standard-bearers for a policy of

death" because they back the U.S.-financed war against Nicaragua.

Many speakers favored three choices for women — sexual education, family planning, and legalized abortion.

A few women favored birth control but felt that abortion "would become a vice," as one woman put it. "As a revolutionary, as a Christian," she argued, "I say we must not promote death in the mother's womb."

Maria Felix Salgado, a worker at the HILANICSA textile plant, said she thought abortion "would lead to prostitution." Aura Matute, another speaker, asked, "How can we join with the [U.S.] aggressor by destroying our children before they are born?"

But the majority of women clearly felt that abortion is not immoral and should not be considered a crime. They applauded a woman who said, "I even resorted to abortion. It didn't work, but I did try it. When you find out you're pregnant, the guy says, 'Who knows whose it is, honey?' and you've got to deal with it alone. I really don't see why a child that is not wanted should be born."

Magda Enríquez explained that "what we are talking about is simply the right that I as a woman have to decide if I do or do not want to have a child."

Speaking on rape and wife-beating,

many women called for the re-education of men and for changing those laws that limit women's ability to prosecute men for these crimes.

"Even though we are defending the revolution at the war fronts," Christian Santos López said, "we are mistreated in our homes." If a woman is beaten by her spouse in the home, López continued, "there is no punishment. And that must be corrected. There should be re-education because our revolution is about re-educating our people."

Women also spoke about their rights as workers, demanding enforcement of laws guaranteeing equal pay for equal work, equal job training opportunities, and better maternity leave provisions.

Though the majority of the participants in the Managua meeting were urban women, peasant women also raised some proposals. They demanded that more land be distributed to poor peasants and that the constitution spell out the right of women to own land.

On the inequalities of housework, Maira Zúñiga explained that for women who work outside the home, housework constitutes "a double workday" imposed by society. She demanded that "housework should be considered useful and a duty for all family members and not just women."

Nicaragua insists U.S. obey World Court

Ortega urges U.S. audiences to demand halt to 'contra' war

BY HARRY RING

Nicaragua is continuing to press its drive to get Washington to comply with the World Court order that it end its backing to the *contra* war against Nicaragua.

On July 31 a big majority of the UN Security Council called on the United States to abide by the World Court decision.

The June World Court ruling found that the U.S.-sponsored counterrevolutionary war against Nicaragua violates that country's sovereignty and international law.

The Security Council resolution was vetoed by a lone vote, that of the U.S. delegate.

Britain, France, and Thailand abstained. Voting in favor were Australia, Bulgaria, China, Congo, Denmark, Ghana, Madagascar, Soviet Union, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

Debate on the UN resolution opened with a presentation by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who urged the body to support the World Court finding.

The decision of the World Court, juridical arm of the United Nations, came June 27 after two years of deliberation and extensive testimony establishing the scope of the illegal U.S. war. Knowing full well how untenable its legal position is, Washington refused to participate in the proceedings.

While the court's decision cannot be legally enforced, it has further strengthened

Nicaraguan efforts to mobilize U.S. and world opinion against the dirty, illegal *contra* war.

The court found that covert U.S. military backing of the *contras* began in 1981. In 1984 Congress voted for "humanitarian" aid to the *contras*. The court found the "humanitarian" claim a fraud, observing that genuine humanitarian aid is administered to all those who need it, while this was dispensed exclusively to the *contras* and their dependents.

The court determined that the *contra* force has been "so dependent on the United States that it could not conduct its crucial or most significant military and paramilitary activities without the multifaceted support of the United States."

"This finding," the ruling declared, "is fundamental in the present case."

Or, to put it more directly, the *contras* are not "freedom fighters," but hired mercenaries being used to wage the illegal war against Nicaragua — "a clear breach of the principle of nonintervention."

The World Court also castigated Washington for its mining of Nicaraguan ports and waters, declaring it "an unlawful use of force."

The court called upon Washington to cease and desist this illegal aggression and to make reparations to Nicaragua for the heavy toll it has caused in lives and property.

In pressing for support to the court's de-



Daniel Ortega addresses more than 1,000 people, who gathered at college campus church in Denver on less than a day's notice. He also spoke before enthusiastic audiences in Chicago and New York.

cision, Ortega did not limit himself to arguing the issue at the UN Security Council.

He also spoke before significant audiences in New York, Denver, and Chicago and received extensive media coverage as well.

In New York, he addressed two large, enthusiastic church audiences.

Ortega was invited to Denver to address 1,000 participants in the convention of the National Bar Association. His speech to the Black attorneys was interrupted 20 times by cheers and applause. Earlier the association adopted a resolution scoring the congressional appropriation of \$100 million to fund the "illegal quest" of the *contras* to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

Militant correspondent Sara Gates also reported that on a day's notice 1,000 people turned out at St. Cajetan's Church to hear the Nicaraguan leader. Despite disruption by a couple of dozen *contra* supporters, Ortega made a well-received presentation.

At the conclusion of his speech, Ortega

took a poll of the audience: "How many of you are opposed to a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua?" The overwhelming majority of the audience responded by raising their hands and giving a standing ovation.

In Chicago he participated in a dinner meeting with the press and members of Congress and addressed a packed meeting of several thousand at Operation PUSH.

PUSH leader Jesse Jackson warned that if the \$100 million appropriated by Congress does get to the *contras* "it will constitute a de facto declaration of war on Nicaragua."

Ortega pressed his call for U.S. compliance with the World Court ruling and outlined other proposals to help bring peace to Central America.

As he wound up his week-long U.S. visit, a State Department official grumbled, "We did not know he was going to conduct a public relations campaign against U.S. foreign policy while he was here. It is unprecedented in diplomatic intercourse for a head of state to do something like this."

Nicaraguan New Song Festival celebrates liberation struggles



Militant/Harvey McArthur
Brazilian jazz artist Thiago de Mello

BY RUTH NEBBIA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "I came here because I support the just struggle of the Nicaraguan people to build a new and abundant society for all Nicaraguans," Puerto Rican singer Roy Brown told the *Militant*.

"The fight for the independence of Puerto Rico is the same as the fight of the Nicaraguan people against U.S. aggression," Brown continued. "I know that there is a lack of communication between the Nicaraguans and the Puerto Ricans; I came here so that the Nicaraguan people will learn about Puerto Rico through my music."

Roy Brown is one of many international musicians who came to Nicaragua for the New Song Festival, held here July 12 to 15. Other international participants included Santiago Feliu and his band from Cuba, the Chilean duo Victor and Alejandra, the Guatemalan band Kim Galat, the Salvadoran Banda Tepehuani, and Brazilian jazz artist Thiago de Mello from the United States.

Many of the songs played were dedicated to and described the struggles of the people of Central and South America. Victor and Alejandra dedicated a song to the children in El Salvador who were orphaned by army attacks on their villages. A representative from Kim Galat told the audience that Nicaragua is an example to Latin America. He said the U.S. government's \$100 million aid to the mercenaries cannot silence the voice of a sovereign people.

Luis Mejía Godoy and his group Mancotal; the groups Puelo, Igñi-Tawanka, and Praxis; and singers Angel Ortega and Mario Montenegro were among the Nicaraguan participants. Luis Mejía Godoy addressed a song to the U.S. government. In spite of the *contra* attacks, the song explained, life in Nicaragua is improving.

Randall Watson, trombone player for Praxis, told the *Militant* that before the revolution there were no Nicaraguan jazz groups. Praxis was formed five years ago, and today there are others. Igñi-Tawanka, another jazz group, toured the United States from July 22 to August 6, performing in Seattle and several cities in California.

Thiago de Mello led a tour of U.S. artists to Nicaragua in late June. The tour was sponsored by Ventana, a U.S. artists' group in solidarity with Nicaragua. It takes its name from the cultural magazine *Ventana*, a weekly supplement to the Sandinista daily *Barricada*.

De Mello was invited to stay after his tour and participate in the festival. He wrote two songs for the event, inspired by what he had seen during the tour. One song is about a mask that was worn by a child dancing in Masaya. The other describes the town of Teotecacinte and captures the rhythm of a local band.

In an interview published in the June 12 *Ventana*, de Mello said he saw "a notable increase in the quality and spontaneity" of Nicaraguan music since his first visit in 1984. He also discussed other music festivals he had attended. De Mello described the peasant music festivals in particular as "a very moving experience. With their hands, calloused by hard work, they produced very Nicaraguan rhythms and melodies, very pure and delightful."

De Mello told the *Militant* that U.S. musicians are organizing to aid Nicaragua. *Allegro*, the newspaper of American Federation of Musicians Local 802 in New York, called on musicians to donate items such as music paper, sheet music, and instruments. "We also ask that music stores give discounts to Nicaraguan musicians buying materials in the United States," he added.

Both de Mello and Brown called on people in the United States to express their solidarity with Nicaragua. They urged participation in material aid campaigns and work brigades. Brown also called on Puerto Ricans not to join the U.S. army.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? The assault on women's rights

How has the growing participation of women in the labor force changed their view of themselves and their potential? How has it affected the attitudes of men toward women?

Why do the employers, media, government, and schools and churches promote "the feminine mystique" and glorify the family?

These are some of the questions that are taken up in the introduction by Mary-Alice Waters to the book *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*. The August issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* runs the first half of this introduction. The second half will appear in the September issue.

The book Waters introduces includes articles from a lively debate in the pages of the *Militant* in 1954 over the relation of "beauty aids" and fashions to the exploitation of women.

Waters places this discussion in its historical context, reviewing the gains made by women since World War II, especially their incorporation into industrial union jobs.

"Three decades later," Waters notes, "many women recognize that most of the questions discussed here — and the social pressures they reflect — are still with us."

Perspectiva Mundial is the Spanish-language socialist maga-



zine that every month 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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Swedish aftermath to Chernobyl nuclear accident

Interview with antinuclear leader

Björn Ericksson has been a leader of the Swedish antinuclear and environmental movements since the early 1970s and president of the Swedish Environmental Federation (Miljö Förbundet) for the past three years. He was a featured speaker at the educational camp sponsored by the Socialist Party July 7 to 13 near Amal, Sweden. This interview was conducted for the *Militant* by Elizabeth Stone, who attended the camp.

Question. How serious was the radioactive fallout in Sweden after the Chernobyl disaster?

Answer. The wind happened to blow in our direction from the Ukraine. The first rainfalls from the clouds that were over the Chernobyl plant at the time of the accident came down on parts of Sweden and Finland. This created "hot spots" where radioactivity was worse than anywhere outside the Ukraine — and even worse than Kiev.

We in the antinuclear movement did not have enough expertise to measure the radioactivity. We had to rely on government figures, and it was very difficult to assess the seriousness from their explanation. They kept saying there was nothing to be afraid of, that we didn't need to evacuate. But in Kiev they evacuated the school kids. And we had levels higher than Kiev, so we thought that maybe the school children should have been evacuated here also.

There was not enough information given to us by the government, and some of the information was contradictory. In this respect, the situation was very similar to Three Mile Island. The government tried to calm down reactions to the fallout, saying it was below allowable limits. But we know the radioactivity was unusually high, and we also know there is no level of radiation that is harmless.

Q. What measures were taken to protect the public?

A. The government took certain precautions, for example telling people not to let the cows out to pasture and not to let the children play in pools left after the rains. But it was difficult for people to see why they should exercise these precautions if, as the government said, there was little danger.

Of course, if you look only at the risk facing each individual, the danger was low. But when considering the population as a whole, we know there will be more leukemia and cancer in the coming years as a result of Chernobyl. The number of potential cancers is being debated — it could be anywhere from around 20 to thousands. I tend to think the higher figure is probable. The government tries to minimize the number because when people realize that significantly more cancer will result from

such an accident, they have a better understanding of the danger of nuclear power.

Q. How was Chernobyl covered in the Swedish media?

A. The main theme in the media at first was that the Soviets should inform us better about what's going on. The media also blamed the accident on the communist system, saying that in a "free and democratic" society the people would be protected from such disasters.

Later on it came out that in March there was an accident at a British reactor with a small leak of radioactivity. Yet no information had been given the British public about this. After this came out, the Swedish media talked less about the lack of information from the Soviet Union.

The Soviets were slow in giving information but at least as far as their information went, it was accurate. The Swedish press, on the other hand, carried stories which they picked up from the U.S. media, which were totally inaccurate. They reported 2,000 deaths at the reactor site. We also heard that the U.S. reported evacuations in Sweden. There were no such evacuations, although there probably should have been.

The Swedish media also said such a disaster couldn't happen here. They reported claims by the Swedish nuclear industry that Soviet graphite reactors are inherently more unsafe than light water reactors. They failed to point out that there are a lot of graphite reactors in Europe and some in the United States as well.

Not many Swedish people were fooled by the idea that Swedish reactors are safe. After the accident you would often hear people say, "We've seen the capitalist reactors blow up, we've seen the socialist reactors blow up, and we don't want to see any 'mixed economy' reactors blow up." [Sweden is a capitalist country, but the nuclear power plants are owned by the government.]

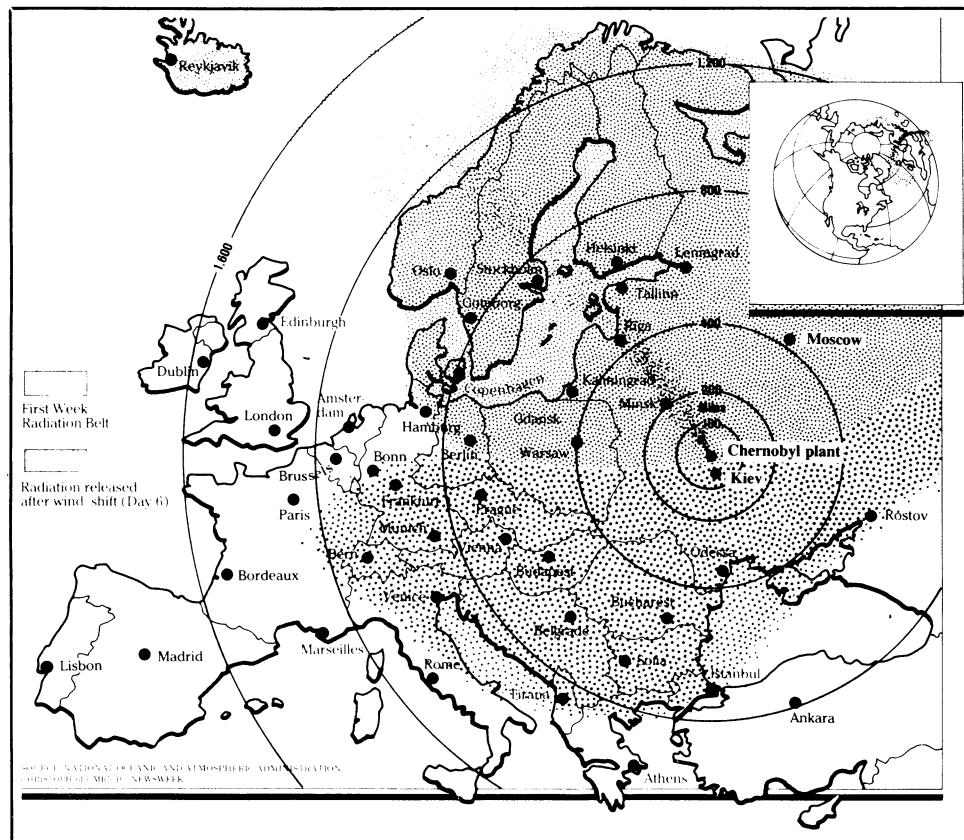
Many people also know that the Swedish government has taken a big risk by constructing a nuclear power plant at Barsebäck, which is a big population center. The Barsebäck plant is only 12 miles away from Copenhagen, Denmark, and 11 miles from Malmö, the third-largest city in Sweden.

The majority of people in Sweden are fearful about nuclear power, and the Chernobyl disaster has deepened the opposition to it. Six years ago we had a national referendum showing that 77 percent were against prolonged use of nuclear power. Half accepted using the already operating plants and those almost completed until they are exhausted. Thirty-nine percent wanted a quicker phasing out of nuclear power.

After Chernobyl, the number of Swedes who understand the need for immediate closing down of all nuclear reactors has increased. We had big rallies in May where people demanded that a program be formulated to end Swedish nuclear power. In Stockholm the demonstration attracted 11,000 people, and there were rallies in many other cities and small towns. Some of these towns had never had antinuclear protests before. The total number of those demonstrating in Sweden was something like 40,000.

After Chernobyl more people also began to raise questions about how the economy can be transformed to end nuclear power. They are asking, "How expensive would electricity be without nuclear power?" and "What other sources of energy do we have?"

I believe the antinuclear movement needs to explain more clearly in the media how we can make the transition to non-nuclear energy. In Sweden 45 percent of energy comes from nuclear power, 50 percent from hydro-power, and 5 percent comes from oil, coal, and wood refuse.



Radioactive mists from Chernobyl spread across most of Europe

There is a 30 percent excess capacity, most of it in oil. We advocate solving the problem by using oil, coal, and wood. In doing this, we say the cleanest oil and coal should be burned, and we also call for the use of scrubbers to clear the exhaust from oil and coal.

We think the antinuclear movement in all Europe should join together to campaign for the immediate cessation of production of nuclear energy. We should rely on our non-nuclear capacities and work together to share energy resources.

We do not take the position that you need to deindustrialize in order to end nuclear power or to solve all the problems in the environment. Such a position is not progressive, and it splits the environmentalists from the masses of people.

Q. What activities are being projected by the antinuclear movement today?

A. Plans are being made for a rally at Barsebäck on August 9. Nuclear opponents will travel from all parts of Denmark and Sweden for this protest. At the rally we will present the hundreds of thousands of signatures we have gathered in favor of closing down the Barsebäck plant. Many of these signatures have been gathered in Denmark.

People are also taking initiatives at their workplaces and in various communities to assemble information on how electricity can be used more effectively. There is a big waste of energy in Sweden. We use double the energy per person than in continental Europe. By getting working people to explain how energy can be saved in the industries where they work we can demonstrate one way of making the transition to non-nuclear power.

We need to organize working people and the union movement to take up the issue of nuclear power. At the time of the referen-

dum we were quite successful in getting unions involved. Workers helped collect signatures in the plants. This was a big thing at some factories such as Volvo in Göteborg.

When antinuclear sentiment began to grow among workers in Sweden at the time of the referendum, the Social Democratic Party, which is the party most workers vote for, had to make shifts in its position on nuclear power. Up until then the Social Democrats had been the main promoters of nuclear power. It was their project. But when sentiment began to change, they had to wash off some of this pronuclear image, although they continued to support nuclear energy.

Right now there is not a lot of union involvement in the antinuclear movement. We hope that in reaction to Chernobyl this will again begin to change. The Social Democratic youth are mobilizing to take part in the Barsebäck rally, and we would also like to get the unions more involved.

We also need more coordinated European actions against nuclear power. After Chernobyl there were big antinuclear demonstrations throughout Europe. In Rome there was a rally of from 50,000 to 100,000 people against the new Italian nuclear program. At present there are some counter-conferences being organized at sites in Europe where representatives of the nuclear power industry are meeting.

We need more such activities. In France and Belgium more than 60 percent of energy comes from nuclear power. In Europe as a whole, nuclear energy accounts for only 22 percent. It's much easier to argue for changing that 22 percent on a European scale than it is to argue for changing the 60 percent of energy created in one country. Solving the problem will mean sharing energy and deepening the struggle on a European and international level.

Norwegian reindeer, Welsh lambs hit by radioactive cloud

Seven weeks after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union, radiation levels 80 times above normal were detected in wild reindeer in Norway. According to the *Guardian*, a daily newspaper published in London, the discovery was announced by Norwegian health authorities on June 19.

"Reindeer feed on lichen, which takes its nourishment from the atmosphere rather than the ground," Ole Harbitz at the Norwegian Health Council explained. "There is, therefore, a much higher concentration of radioactive material in their diet," he added, than in domestic livestock.

The following day the British Ministry of Agriculture banned the slaughter or movement of sheep in Cumbria in northern England and North Wales because of the buildup of radiation levels in lambs in the wake of the accident at the Soviet nuclear power plant.

Monitoring of radiation levels in Britain since Chernobyl found eight sheep and

eight lambs, in a sample of 100, with more than what officials consider to be acceptable levels of the radioactive elements cesium 134 and 137. Traces of radioactive strontium and iodine were also found. Most of the cases were in Cumbria and North Wales, which had the heaviest rainfall on the weekend of May 2 and 3 when the contaminated rain cloud from Chernobyl was passing over Britain.

The environmental and antinuclear activist group Greenpeace accused the government of failing to warn farmers earlier about the dangers caused by Chernobyl.

Agriculture Minister Michael Jopling's response was that levels of radiation involved were still at the lowest end of the safe level scale. He insisted that it was still perfectly safe to eat lamb, and there was no reason to be concerned about any other meat or dairy products.

But once the limited ban was imposed, the British appetite for lamb dropped to "ascetic levels," according to a *New York Times* reporter in Wales.



Radiation check in Sweden

The egalitarian society — In Bal Harbour, Fla., it's not only the top dogs who get treated well. The four-legged variety, with the right owners, do okay too. Like, there's



Harry Ring

Coco's Sidewalk Cafe, exclusively for pooches. Main courses include rare roast beef, turkey, or ground beef: \$5.75. Bottled water, with an orange twist: \$2.25.

Makes ya proud — "Hospital Probed to See if Aliens Got Kidneys First" — news headline.

Difference of opinion — With youngsters, Garbage Pail Kid stickers are a runaway hit — like Undead Jed, Glandular Angela, and Snotty Sam (Uncle S. picking his nose.) Some Dallas-area adults are petitioning against them. "To me, they are anti-American, antifamily and antiauthority," har-rumphed one. "It goes along with punk rock and other things I don't agree with," adds another.

Maybe Ron and Nancy will drop by — The Philippines government will auction off the contents of the Marcos town house in

New York, including rooms of 16th century furniture, three Steinway grand pianos, and, yes, several pairs of Imelda's hardly worn shoes.

For sure — Quarex Industries, a New York food wholesaler and retailer, has been repeatedly found to distribute "moldy, slimy" meat infested with roaches, flies, etc. Fined modestly but repeatedly, it mainly neglects payment. A state official says he's disturbed by all this, but can't just shut them down. "We don't live in Russia," he explains.

Took his job serious — An ex-cop who worked as an undercover

narc agent is suing the city of Spokane for \$2 million, charging he got hooked as the result of his work.

Bon appetit! — Describing the pollution toll for New Jersey's fishing industry, one boat captain told of fishing boats avoiding the area of a waste treatment plant because the fish there were showing signs of fin rot. "Fish were coming up with no tails — literally," he said.

Saves time for moneymaking too — Sharper Image offers a "lifelike, manmade imitation" of a ficus plant that's "immeasurably more practical . . . won't drop its

leaves overnight, or turn yellow as you watch in horror. . . ." \$30. Or several varieties of cactus-type creations. These "wonderful phonies" feature no-jab needles. \$23.

Adds to the scenic charm — The air force obtained a 10-acre site at Florida's Dickinson State Park for a space launch tracking station. Sitting unobtrusively will be a main building of 18,000 square feet and a dish antenna 80 feet in diameter and 110 feet tall.

Thought for the week — "There are practical reasons to be first in space. It's a good investment." — The Boeing Co.

—CALENDAR—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

The 1985-86 Hormel Meatpackers' Strike in Austin, Minnesota. Speakers: Darryl Turner, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 422 and Young Socialist Alliance; Albert Carson, International Molders Union Local 255; and Andrea Baron, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sun., Aug. 24, 6:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Why Proposition 64 Is an Attack on Working

People's Rights. Speakers: Kevin Jones, member Socialist Workers Party; others to be announced. Sat., Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Drugs, Crime, and the Community. Panel discussion will include Rev. William Ray, chairman Stop the Killing Coalition; Jay Knickerson, member Board of Governors, American Civil Liberties Union; Ken Morgan, member National Black Independent Political Party and

Baltimore Anti-apartheid Coalition; and Reba Williams-Dixon, Socialist Workers candidate for 7th Congressional District. Sat., Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Labor's Turning Point: Minneapolis Teamsters Strike of 1934. Film by John de Graaf depicts upheaval created by strike of Local 574 of International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Speaker and discussion to follow. Sat., Aug. 23, 7 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2.

Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Why We Need a Revolution in the United States. A report back from the Socialist Educational and Activists Conference. Speakers: Jeanne Porter, member Young Socialist Alliance; Sandi Sherman, member Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Hormel workers continue fight, hail new union

Continued from Page 3

Everyone applauded when Huinker reported that an Austin meatpacker had spoken to the convention immediately after AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland. Describing the platform, Huinker said, "Up there were the presidents of the Japanese, Italian, and Canadian postal workers unions; Mine Workers' union President Richard Trumka; and P-9 member Buck Heegard."

Lorraine Redig from the Minnesota Farmers' Union told the rally that big business is trying to divide workers and farmers and drive the United States into war. She encouraged workers to participate in the United Farmer-Rancher Congress that will be held in St. Louis September 11-13.

Support for NAMP

Among those attending the rally were NAMP members who have been taking their message to other packinghouse workers. Bob Blowers, who recently went on a team to the Oscar Mayer plant in Davenport, Iowa, told the *Militant* that the meatpackers there had refused to work overtime in order to help workers locked out by Oscar Mayer in Chicago during contract negotiations. UFCW officials told them to work the overtime; otherwise the officials would "get in trouble."

The Davenport meatpackers' contract expires September 1. "They're sick of the

UFCW," Blowers said. "If Austin wins the new union, they'll follow suit."

Boomer Scott, a member of UFCW Local P-6, told the *Militant* that there is widespread support for the new union where he works at Farmstead Foods in nearby Albert Lea, Minnesota. The workers there took a concession contract last year. He said, "As soon as we can, we'll be in the new union. We don't want the UFCW negotiating another contract for us."

Another NAMP team went to the John Morrell plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Austin workers had also been there a year ago when the Morrell workers went on strike, but the strikers were pressured by UFCW officials not to talk to the workers from P-9.

Tom Winkels, who was on the NAMP team, told this reporter, "A hundred of the most militant strikers never got their jobs back, and the others were forced to take a big wage cut. It's had an impact on them. Last year we were the bad guys. Now they want us. We didn't have enough leaflets."

Pressure from Hormel

The Austin workers are facing stepped-up pressure from Hormel, top UFCW officials, and the government. Officials from both Hormel and the UFCW claim a contract will be signed by September 1.

Claiming that their eligibility expired after one year off the job, Minnesota state officials have cut off the Austin workers' unemployment benefits. Most received only eight weeks of payments.

The battle over who will represent Hormel workers also continues. When the election is held there will be three positions to vote for: NAMP, UFCW, or no union.

Company foremen are campaigning in the plant for a "no union" vote. UFCW organizers tell workers that they will not be able to vote unless they sign UFCW membership cards. The UFCW falsely claims that NAMP will immediately call another strike if it wins the recertification election. The UFCW is offering to pay \$40 weekly post-strike benefits if the workers will abandon the boycott and the NAMP organizing drive.

NAMP organizers are continuing to leaflet the plant and hold discussions with workers inside.

No date for the union representation election has been set. The National Labor Relations Board recently postponed the election until charges of unfair labor practices filed by the company, UFCW, and NAMP are resolved.

Jim Guyette, suspended president of Local P-9, expressed the fighting spirit and solidarity of the August 17 rally. "We are a union not of words, but of deeds," he said. "If this war has to continue, it has to until

everyone gets their jobs back."

Guyette saluted those in Austin, across the country, and internationally who have supported the struggle begun by the Austin meatpackers. He closed by stating, "We haven't betrayed ourselves or our fellow trade unionists, and we're not going to do that. The North American Meat Packers Union is just the beginning of the beginning. This will be over only when we lay to rest the corporate greed that affects all of us."

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Drought-stricken farmers demand gov't aid

BY STUART CROME

SILER CITY, N.C. — Crop and livestock losses are climbing daily across the drought-stricken Southeast. The estimated costs from the drought so far are staggering.

State officials in Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, and Delaware have asked for federal disaster aid. Forty-one counties in North Carolina have already been declared agricultural disaster areas.

The drought and this summer's triple-digit temperatures have wiped out many crops and livestock feed. As a result of shortages, farmers are paying from \$130 to \$140 for a ton of hay that normally costs \$80.

When President Reagan recently visited Columbia, South Carolina, to speak at a campaign event, an Air Force plane flew in hay donated by Midwestern farmers in time for Reagan to claim credit. "I want you to know that our administration stands ready to help," he said.

Despite such promises, the Reagan administration has been slow to provide relief.

The Greensboro *News and Record* reported on July 25 that North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham criticized the so-called relief efforts announced by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng.

"I am outraged," Graham said. "The measures he announced today fall far short of the assistance we need. With the billions of dollars being spent today, it does seem that some small portion could be channeled to our drought-stricken farmers."

Lyng had announced that a special task force would help speed federal aid to farmers. He announced no new initiatives or financial aid, but said existing programs will be "tailored to help farmers recover from drought losses to crops and livestock."

Graham responded that counting on existing programs, "such as haying and grazing of diverted acres, when those acres have been devastated by drought, are a joke. . . . Emergency loans are not the answer when our farmers are debt-heavy now."

For many weeks, farmers have been lining up at the Carolina Stockyards here to auction off the cattle they can no longer feed.

Rich Stuart, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in North Carolina, along with several campaign supporters, talked to a number of farmers selling their cattle at the stockyards. Stuart called for the federal government to provide emergency aid with no strings attached. "I propose using the \$100 million being given to Nicaraguan *contras* by the U.S. government as the first payment in aid to the farmers," Stuart said.

Todd Hunicutt, a livestock farmer from Albemarle, North Carolina, added that simply increasing the loans to farmers was not the answer. "Even at a 1 percent interest rate, you're still just getting deeper into debt," he said.

One farmer who sold about half his cattle said his younger animals were sold for normal prices. But the grown cattle, he said, which normally sell for about \$450 a head, were sold for about \$220.

Despite the big donations of hay from fellow farmers in many states, the most needy have had problems getting it. "The government should pay for transporting the hay. If you have to transport hay brought in, it could cost you more than you'll get in profits from sales," Larry Hitchcock, a farmer from Julian, North Carolina, said.

Migrant farm workers have also been hit hard by the drought. They have few opportunities for work and must go elsewhere for jobs. Stuart called for emergency compensation for these farm workers.



Whole crops and many livestock have been wiped out in drought. Federal government offers "relief" in form of loans that will drive farmers deeper into debt.

Ohio farmers' tractorcade demands end to foreclosure

BY JOE CALLAHAN

TOLEDO, Ohio — Late last month about 60 farmers and family members drove their tractors to the Ashland office of the Production Credit Association to demand that the PCA stop foreclosures on two family farms. The demonstration was organized by the Family Farm Movement (FFM).

Ashland city officials refused to provide the tractorcade with an escort through city traffic. So farmers decided to go through town without stopping for lights, "like a funeral procession" as one of them put it.

One farmer drove a dump truck filled with dirt with a sign saying, "You want my land, here it is."

When farmers reached the PCA office, marching up to it with an FFM banner saying, "Negotiate don't liquidate," PCA lawyer Ken Nordstrom was waiting outside with another official and several sheriff's deputies. At first he announced that FFM members would not be allowed to come inside and participate in discussions between the PCA representatives and farmers the PCA is trying to force off their farms.

Dailey then responded that they had a right to ask the FFM members to come

with them to discuss their financial affairs and asked the farmers if that's what they wanted. The answer was a loud "yes." Faced with a large group of determined farmers, the PCA lawyer backed down and agreed that FFM representatives could come in too.

The discussion between the Kochenderfers, one of the families threatened with foreclosure, and the PCA resulted in an agreement that all legal action would be delayed.

Rick Kochenderfer explained that his 1,200-acre farm had been in the family for four generations — 95 years. He added that recently he had paid the PCA \$50,000 of the \$80,000 that he owed it. But the PCA had turned around and demanded immediate payment of the other \$30,000 or it would foreclose the whole farm, lock, stock, and barrel.

In the case of the Troxels, the other family the PCA is trying to foreclose, the loan agency refused to budge on its plan to hold a sheriff's sale.

At a meeting the night before the tractorcade, the FFM discussed plans to attend the United Farmer and Rancher Congress sponsored by Farm Aid, September 11-13 in St. Louis.

Detroit, Philadelphia city workers end strikes, approve contracts

BY TIM CRAINE

DETROIT — City employees returned to work August 4 following a 19-day strike, the longest in Detroit's history. The strikers included 7,000 members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) District Council 25, as well as city bus drivers and sanitation workers who honored their picket lines.

The new three-year contract was approved by a 60 percent margin, with only slightly more than 2,000 members voting. A week earlier AFSCME members had rejected by 3 to 1 their leaders' recommendation to accept a similar contract.

AFSCME members won a 5 percent wage increase in the first year and a 3 percent increase in the second year. In addition they will receive a \$500 lump-sum bonus the first year, a \$200 lump sum the second year, and a payment of between \$400 and \$800 the third year. The media promoted the package as a "13.6 percent increase," but in reality the lump-sum payments don't count since they are not folded into the base rate of pay. Thus AFSCME will begin bargaining in 1989 with a salary base only 8 percent above the pre-strike level.

In spite of the weakness of this contract, many AFSCME members viewed it as an improvement over the one rejected the previous week. In that contract, third-year wages were tied to the city's "financial health." Workers could have lost as much as 2 percent of their pay as a result.

The approved agreement restores some of the concessions workers were forced to give up in 1981. The improvements affect sick leave, vacation pay, longevity bonuses, and transfer rights.

The strike remained solid for the duration. At one point Teamster union officials ordered their members to cross the picket line to get the garbage trucks moving again. All but 20 of the 700 sanitation workers, however, rejected this betrayal and stayed out.

The unity and determination of city workers was accompanied by greater understanding of the antilabor role of Democratic Mayor Coleman Young, who has

presided over the slashing of city services and the elimination of 25 percent of the AFSCME work force over the past nine years. Young had recently given himself a 44 percent raise while offering only 2 percent to city workers.

BY HALKET ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — Members of District Council 33 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees voted here August 3 to accept a contract.

The pact provides a 10 percent wage increase over two years and a 32 percent increase in the city government's monthly contribution to the health care plan.

The union did not win its demand to bar contracting out city work to private firms and agreed to a two-year pact instead of the one-year agreement it had sought. The union also agreed to municipal officials' demand for a city government audit of the union's health care fund.

District Council 33 began a 20-day strike July 1 after Mayor Wilson Goode's administration refused to pay a \$48 million debt owed to the union's health and welfare fund. This issue was not resolved by the contract. The city now claims to owe only \$15.9 million.

Many hospitals and doctors have been requiring workers covered by the health plan to pay before being treated because of the plan's inadequacy and financial uncertainty. This stems from the government's refusal to meet its obligations.

The 2,500 sanitation workers initially defied a court order to return to work, but ended their strike July 19. Some cited the lack of solidarity from other unions as the reason for this decision.

"I had no choice. I felt as though we were left out in the cold," said one sanitation worker.

Other striking city employees returned to work July 21. City government and union negotiators announced agreement on the tentative contract the next day.

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

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Appeal trials of Freedom Riders taking place in Hinds County Court House in Jackson, Mississippi, two a day, five days a week, began August 22 and are scheduled to continue through mid-January next year. At least 297 Negro and white persons have been arrested attempting to integrate Jackson transportation facilities since the first Freedom Riders reached the city last May 24. Some have paid fines, some are out on bail and some are still in jail.

The Congress of Racial Equality has announced that all appeal trials will be by jury, requiring about 2,400 jurors for the trials already set, and that five of the cases will be tested all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Some of the effects of the Freedom Riders' historic efforts were seen the night before [August 13], when 175 riders were guests at a rally in a church in the Negro community in Jackson. Said Rev. G.R. Haughton, one of the hosts, "They said we wouldn't integrate in Jackson," but "there has been a great change in the attitude of the people. They are rallying to the cause." He reported that a white policeman, patrolling the block that night, remarked after watching the crowd of Negroes and whites enter the church: "We might as well give up. . . . We can't win this battle."

While the Freedom Riders have inspired increased integration efforts throughout the South, racists and particularly the police,

have far from given up opposing them with violence. Police attacks on integrationists have occurred recently in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, and North Carolina.

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25c

August 27, 1976

Two months after the first massive Black uprising erupted in South Africa, Black youths have launched a new wave of protests against the racist white minority regime.

In face of government bullets and tear gas, tens of thousands of young Black militants poured out into the streets of Soweto and other Black townships to express their hatred for the apartheid regime and to demand the release of all political prisoners.

There were student boycotts and sporadic protests throughout the period after the June rebellions. The unrest took a sharp turn upward on August 4 when about 20,000 Blacks in Soweto tried to march from that Black city to the center of nearby Johannesburg. They planned to rally outside the central police headquarters to press their demands for the release of the arrested student leaders.

The protesters carried signs reading, "Release our brothers" and "We are born free but everywhere we are in chains."

Before they reached the police barricades that had been erected on the outskirts of Soweto, however, the demonstrators were fired on by the police.

When the tear gas and gunfire subsided, three more Black youths lay dead.

Keep the ban on 'homework'

Working hand in glove with the employers, the Reagan administration is driving ahead with removing the 43-year-old ban on "homework." Labor Secretary William Brock is expected to announce any day now that the restrictions on the manufacturing of clothing and jewelry and other forms of work in homes will be lifted.

The billionaire families who rule the United States are trying to give a pretty face to their drive to reimpose this archaic, antiunion practice on a wide scale.

"Technological change pulled 18th-century cottage industry workers into factories. Now technology may push white-collar workers from their offices to computer terminals back in the cottages," wrote the editors of the *New York Times* in support of homework. The problems with homework, the *Times* contends, "hardly justify restraints on whom business employs, or where."

Homework was outlawed in the early 1940s. The impetus to get rid of that form of super-exploitation grew out of the militant strike battles of the 1930s. Those struggles by millions of working people to organize basic industry also led to an expansion of democratic and job-related rights.

"Low wages, unregulated hours, poor working conditions, and child labor are familiar aspects of this system of production," said a 1930 Labor Department report criticizing homework.

A main target of the bosses' homework drive will be unionized garment workers, who already toil under miserable conditions and generally for paltry wages.

"The garment workers' union, for example, realizes

that home-based workers are competition," said the *Wall Street Journal*.

"If cottage industries flourish, unionized garment and apparel makers will come under pressure to lower their labor costs either by seeking wage concessions from the garment unions or by going to nonunion shops," the *Journal* cheered.

Justice, the newspaper of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, estimates that there are 929,000 garment workers in the United States today. A large majority of them are women. Many are recent immigrants to this country. And the number of unionized garment workers is shrinking.

Homework has been increasing in the garment industry for many years.

Workers are forced to augment their starvation wages by bringing sewing home for other members of their family.

The bosses try to keep the wages of women and immigrants at the bottom of the pay scale.

The expansion of homework is an attack on the living standard and rights of all working people.

The wages system is built from the bottom up, not the top down. Wage-lowering schemes such as homework, part-time work, child labor, and workfare are used by the employers as a battering ram to weaken the unions and lower the wages and expectations of the entire working class.

It is in the interest of all working people to oppose the attempts by the profit-hungry capitalists to legalize and expand homework and these other odious practices.

Oct. 25 actions to get out truth

Continued from front page

is expected to move swiftly to the White House for the president's signature.

Congressional endorsement of open military aid is a big victory for Reagan, who has been stumping hard to beef up U.S. assistance to the contras. Congress had voted against direct military aid in 1984 following the CIA's mining of Nicaraguan harbors and the exposé of a CIA training manual that urged sabotage and murder of civilians. Since then the only officially recognized U.S. aid to the contras has been \$27 million of "humanitarian assistance" administered through a special office of the State Department.

Before the Senate vote, the Reagan administration had seized on the House approval to accelerate its dirty war against Nicaragua.

The congressional approval has also given the contras a huge morale boost. And it has emboldened them to step up their terror campaign against the Nicaraguan people. They have particularly singled out civilian targets for attack, including peasant cooperatives, construction projects, schools, clinics, and international volunteers.

The contras have been unable to capture and hold any territory inside Nicaragua, after nearly five years of armed aggression from camps in neighboring Honduras and Costa Rica. But they continue to attempt to terrorize and demoralize the population by killing, mutilating, and raping civilians and pillaging farms and villages. Moreover, the economic damage has been particularly severe. The Nicaraguan government has been forced to devote 50 percent of its budget to military defense, and the country's working people have made many sacrifices, including in blood, to defend their revolution.

The Pentagon has dubbed these military operations as "low-intensity war." And many armchair strategists have accepted this framework and have been pontificating in various newspapers and magazines about the merits and demerits of this kind of warfare.

This notion of low-intensity war has even found an echo among some opponents of U.S. intervention in Nicaragua and has unfortunately sapped their confidence about the prospects for building a protest movement in the United States against the war. They feel that Washington can continue to sustain its low-key war for a long time at a level that will not provoke people in the United States to mobilize against it.

As this grinding war drags on week after week and month after month, the feeling is that not much can be done to oppose it. At best, preparations can be readied for the day when U.S. combat forces may be dispatched to Nicaragua.

There are two fallacies in this "low-intensity war" schema. First, what looks like low-intensity conflict from far away is something altogether different for those living through this war, fighting and dying to defend their sovereignty.

It is not low-intensity war when 10,000 children have been orphaned, and 31,290 Nicaraguans have been killed or wounded in the war.

The second error is to think that low-intensity war is a

Pentagon strategy. It is not. Rather, it reflects what Washington has been able to get away with in conducting the war up until now. There is nothing the Reagan administration would like to do more than to jack up the intensity of the war.

But it is the strength of the workers and farmers of Nicaragua, above all, that has prevented the U.S. rulers from making the war even more intensive than it has been. Contributing to this is the solidarity of working people and other fighters for social justice around the world.

Recognizing this should help underline the importance of organizing opposition to U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. Central to this effort is getting out the truth about the aggression against Nicaragua.

Facts can win new supporters for the struggle to halt U.S.-organized attacks on Nicaragua. Many people, when they learn the accurate casualty figures; the number of schools, hospitals, and homes destroyed; the huge economic costs; and the social gains working people have made and are defending with their lives, will be convinced to join the antiwar fight.

One of the most important facts is that the Nicaraguan people want peace; they do not want war. They simply want the right to be able to coexist alongside the other countries of the Americas and of the world.

The Nicaraguan government has not interfered in the affairs of any other country in the world, including its nearest neighbors. It has not demanded the right to have a say in what kind of government Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, or the United States should have.

The Reagan administration, however, has called upon the Nicaraguan people to give up their sovereignty before it will let them live in peace. Washington insists on the right to dictate what kind of government Nicaragua should have as it did for so many years during the Somoza dynasty.

The Reagan administration cannot accept the Nicaraguan people's refusal to give in to its demands. It has unambiguously declared that its goal is to overturn the most democratic government Nicaragua has ever had.

In a news conference on August 19 Reagan stated that the contras are trying to pressure the Sandinista government to knuckle under. But if they don't succeed, "if Nicaragua still won't see the light, or the Nicaraguan Government won't, then the only alternative is for the freedom fighters [contras] to have their way and take over."

This is Washington's goal: to overturn the Sandinista government. This is why it keeps the contras in the field and pushes for more funds to support them.

The call for nationally coordinated antiwar actions on October 25 by the Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice coalition — an umbrella formation of antiwar, anti-apartheid, labor, student, and religious groups — offers an opportunity to reach hundreds of thousands of people with the truth about the war.

Especially important will be taking the campaign to organize these protests into the unions in order to discuss the issues and involve unionists in the actions.

A full-scale effort is needed to make these protests as successful as possible.

How industrial unions were built: 'men from nowhere'

BY NORTON SANDLER

How were industrial unions formed in this country? Popular mythology pushed by the trade union bureaucracy credits the organization of basic industry in the 1930s to either former Mine Workers leader John L. Lewis or U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, or both.

But it wasn't John L. Lewis or FDR who organized basic industry. The vast auto, steel, meatpacking, and electric plants became union shops through the tireless efforts of an army of working people. Some historians have referred to these workers as "the men from nowhere."

The bureaucrats who headed the American Federation of Labor (AFL) pandered to a narrow group of craft workers whom they viewed as their dues base. The AFL tops were hostile to the unskilled and semiskilled mil-

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

lions who worked under harsh nonunion conditions in basic industry in the 1920s and early 1930s. The refusal of many AFL craft unions to admit Blacks as members also helped to reinforce the Jim Crow system of segregation.

On the eve of the great Wall Street crash of 1929, AFL President William Green said, "It is sufficient to say that labor is progressing at a greater speed than for any year in the past."

Green was wrong. The unions had been shrinking throughout the 1920s. The AFL had lost a million members between 1920 and 1929.

Under the impact of the Great Depression, things got worse. Millions were thrown out of work. The employers slashed wages.

As the depression bottomed out, workers tried to regain lost ground. Several marches of the unemployed were held in 1932.

At the beginning of 1933, a substantial strike wave began. It was at this point that Roosevelt pushed through the National Industrial Recovery Act, which provided for the right to collective bargaining.

Unions like the United Mine Workers of America and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union took advantage of this piece of New Deal legislation to sign up thousands of members. But this did not signal a prolabor policy by the government as many now claim. Roosevelt used the courts, the cops, and troops to attack the 1933 strikes.

Most strikes of that year were defeated. An exception was the strike by meatpackers at the Austin, Minnesota, Hormel plant. They received national attention after their sit-down strike resulted in winning union recognition and a pay increase.

The impetus for the next stages of the struggle came from workers in AFL unions.

In Minneapolis, Teamsters struck three times between February and August, 1934, to win union recognition. The workers were organized democratically, allowing the full power of the ranks to bear on the struggle.

In the spring of 1934, workers at the Toledo Electric Auto-Lite plant, with help from the unemployed, stood up to the police and the National Guard to win a union contract.

The struggle by San Francisco longshoremen in July escalated into a citywide general strike after the cops killed two workers.

These struggles were carried forward in spite of the obstacles placed in their way by reactionary AFL officials. The battles of 1934, where socialists and communists emerged as leaders, served to inspire workers across the country.

In his biography of John L. Lewis, Saul Alinsky wrote, "Lewis could read the revolutionary handwriting on the walls of American industry. He knew that the workers were seething and aching to be organized so they could strike back."

At first Lewis and the other AFL officials who had committed themselves to seeing basic industry organized tried to keep the struggles within the confines of the AFL.

They established the Committee for Industrial Organization in 1935 as part of the AFL.

Green responded by charging them with dual-unionism and suspended several unions from the federation. This led to the separation of the CIO from the AFL in 1936.

The narrow craft form of organization was torn asunder by events themselves. Workers clamored to be organized so that all production workers would be in the same union regardless of whether they worked on the assembly line or in the tool room.

Industry after industry succumbed to militant strike action, including sit-downs in the plants.

The creation of CIO unions in auto, steel, electrical, and many other industries were the products of the struggles of men and women from nowhere.

Arkansas strikers say, 'Tough times don't last'

BY PAT SMITH

Twelve members of our union, United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 898, recently went to Camden, Arkansas, to show support for our sister local in the fifth week of its strike.

This was not the first time that members of our local

UNION TALK

who work at the LTV Vought Aerospace and Defense plant in Grand Prairie, Texas, near Dallas, have gone to Camden to show solidarity with UAW Local 2216 there.

Our local played an important role in the organizing drive leading up to the vote last October, which established the union at the Camden Multiple Launch Rocket Systems plant.

The purpose of this visit was to boost the morale of the striking unionists and find out what help they needed.

Our first stop was at the United Paperworkers International union hall. The paperworkers have donated space to Local 2216 to help them organize the strike.

This solidarity is important. Camden is a small town, and we were told that there are only five unions in the area.

The strikers told us that the United Way and other

charities are refusing to help them because of threats from Vought. A number of the workers had T-shirts on that said, "Tough times don't last, tough people do, how tough are you?"

Despite the difficulties of organizing a strike in a "right to work" state, unionists were optimistic about the outcome.

Of the 800 employed at the plant, 650 are still on strike. Seventy-five workers who at first crossed the picket lines later joined the strike.

Next we talked to workers at the strike headquarters in a shack near the plant. They explained that the strike is over unsafe working conditions and low wages.

Many strikers pointed out that the first safety provisions at the plant came only after the union election vote last October. Safety is a big concern since they work with dangerous explosives at temperatures over 100 degrees.

There was an explosion in the plant in March. Fortunately no one was injured. The workers fear that without strong safety regulations in force, however, there will be more explosions.

The temporary workers hired by the company are being paid minimum wage and are working with dangerous explosives without having been trained.

LTV is trying to convince the Camden workers that they should receive less money than workers in Dallas

since the cost of living is supposedly less in a small town. The strikers say this simply isn't true.

Machine operators with five to eight years in the plant whom we met are making \$6 to \$7 an hour. LTV is offering only a 3 percent wage increase.

The company is demanding that workers punch out half an hour early if they want to talk to their union steward. LTV is also attempting to get rid of arbitration and union dues check-off and eliminate lost time for union business.

The company is trying to do away with the membership's right to bid on jobs and wants to be able to assign the workers to any shift regardless of seniority.

The company is also trying to impose a woefully inadequate health insurance plan.

We walked the picket line with Local 2216 members in 100-degree heat. The high temperature, however, didn't dampen the strikers' spirits. They told us some unions and businesses in the area have been donating sodas, food, and money. They told us about a telephone truck driver who talked to workers on the picket line and later drove away. The next day he returned and handed over a \$200 donation from his union local.

Our local leadership has been keeping the membership informed about the strike and plans to continue its solidarity activities.

LETTERS

Support Local P-9

What if the most profitable meat-packer cut wages of its employees for no reason? That happened on Oct. 8, 1984.

What if that same company forced that then-starved work force out on strike? That happened on Aug. 16, 1985.

What if that local's International undermined its effort to fund itself? That began in November 1985.

What if a Democratic Farmer-Labor governor, by request of the company, sent 800 National Guards to escort scabs into the plant? That happened on Jan. 20, 1986.

What if that local's International would not sanction roving pickets to fight back as promised? That happened at the same time the Guards came to Austin, Minnesota.

What if that local's overwhelming decision to keep fighting met with an unprecedented trusteeship? That happened May 7, 1986.

What if all avenues within that International are blocked to the rank and file for the right of self-determining?

What if that International openly dispersed its constituents from its union hall in an all-out effort to destroy their struggle?

Many supporters have joined hands along the way in P-9's struggle.

Hormel strikers need your urgent response again.

The strength of solidarity is in your hands. Please ask the person working next to you, on either side or both, friends in the break room, and neighbors to give a dollar to strikers and mail it with yours every payday, starting now, to Hormel Rank-and-File Fightback, P.O. Box 903, Austin, Minn. 55912.

With your help, we will have a victory party soon.

Cecil Cain
Austin, Minnesota

Antiabortion clinics

"Problem pregnancy clinics" was the subject of a recent edition of the TV news show "W. 57th St." These "clinics" are an outgrowth of the "right to life" anti-abortion crusade. They are actually antiabortion propaganda centers that deliberately use misleading names and deceptive advertising to lure pregnant women.

Women report that in response to telephone inquiries, "clinic" representatives lie, claiming they provide abortion services. The fake clinics are located in buildings where legitimate abortion

clinics have their offices. Sometimes they station an "usher" outside the building to steer women en route to the abortion clinic to the "problem pregnancy clinic" instead.

When she arrives, the woman is greeted by a receptionist, who takes a medical history. She is given a pregnancy test and then left alone to view a slide show depicting dead babies and six-month-old fetuses in trashcans.

Following this "show," a "counselor" harangues the woman about her medical history and previously terminated pregnancies and attempts to badger her into agreeing to bear a child. Women report that they resort to lying — promising to bring the pregnancy to term — in order to be able to leave the "clinic."

According to "W. 57th St.," there are about 100 such "clinics" across the United States. "Right to life" spokespeople claim they expect to double that number soon.

Several women in Texas have joined together in a class-action suit against these "bait and switch" antiabortion fronts. Supporting the Texas suit and mobilizing abortion rights supporters to escort pregnant women seeking abortions to real abortion clinics will help shut down these grisly "right to lie" hucksters.

T.L.S.
Charleston, West Virginia

Hunger

Hurray for your editorial on hunger!

That Harvard University study you noted occasioned a network broadcast here that was aired nationally on the evening news.

CBS interviewed old, invalid, and unemployed people who reported trying to find help and being met with insults, indignities, and outright ridicule by state and federal workers in food programs and welfare projects.

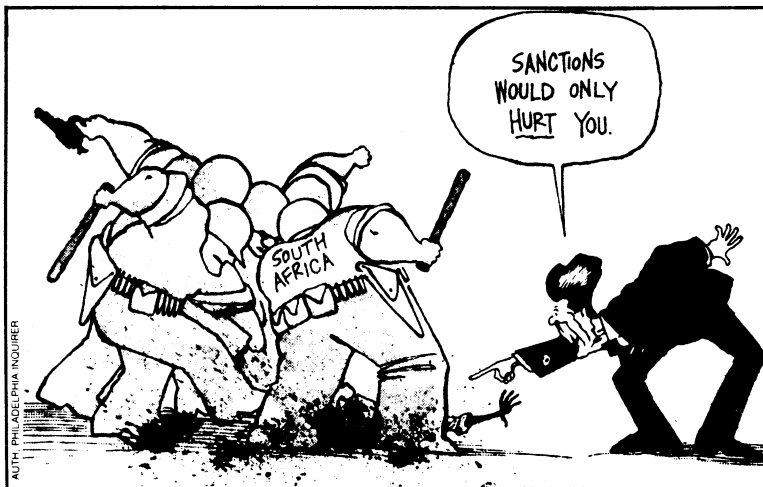
The Ozarks have some of the "hungriest" counties in the United States. Our representative in the 7th Congressional District, Gene Taylor, like Reagan, denies this is true in spite of facts presented by Harvard University and others. Somehow this denial doesn't surprise me.

Jack Bresée
Fordland, Missouri

LaRouche coverage

I liked your article on LaRouche in the August 1 *Militant* very much. For accuracy, details, and analysis, it's the best I've ever seen.

Richard Winger
San Francisco, California



Postal workers back P-9

I write this letter to augment your excellent coverage of the support for Minnesota meatpackers won at the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) convention.

NALC President Vincent Sombroto traveled across the country and came to realize that support for the meatpackers' struggle was widespread and deep and any attempt to crush it outright at the convention would be unpopular.

A move was made to force the meatpackers' table out of the convention. Many delegates were mobilized for a showdown, and the NALC officers backed down and agreed to allow us official space for the whole convention. By the end of the week, the table dominated the corridors, with T-shirts, literature, discussions, and even a tape blaring "Solidarity Forever."

Suspended P-9 President Jim Guyette was at the convention in the gallery, where a steady stream of delegates went up to hear the Austin story and discuss the struggle against concessions.

Later that day, Jim was able to address the Hispanic caucus, along with César Chávez. The meatpackers' struggle met great support there, and another \$100 was collected. Significantly, NALC National Executive Vice-president Tony Huerta also spoke and came out in defense of the fighting meatpackers and in support of the Hormel boycott.

For too long we have let our leaders focus our attention exclusively on "postal concerns," a policy that has isolated us not only from the rest of the labor movement, but also from oppressed communities in the urban and rural areas. The inspiring example of the rank-and-file meatpackers of Austin winning support nationwide will help us start to do the same for our contract fight next year.

I want to thank the *Militant* for its consistently excellent coverage

of the Austin struggle. A year ago I didn't know P-9 from B-52. Now I'm a P-9er to the marrow of my bones. Keep up the good work.

Bill Rayson
NALC delegate
Miami, Florida

Oregon lumber mills

Since 1973 I've worked in the lumber mills here in Bend, Oregon. Most mills here are nonunion. Conditions in the union mills aren't looking too good right now, so we in the nonunion mills don't have any hope of anything better, only worse.

The rich mill owners tell us we'll have to take cuts in pay and lose benefits to keep our jobs. Some mills here in Bend are now hiring skilled lumber cutters at \$3.75 to \$4.00 an hour. That's what they paid eight to 10 years ago! On those wages you pay half your paycheck on rent alone here.

You always have the threat of layoffs hanging over your head, and they always keep the pressure on to increase production — even to the extent of short-counting loads of lumber cuts to keep the pressure on the cutters to work faster to meet the owners' quotas.

The owners (and their bootlicker foremen) keep the workers too afraid of losing their jobs to even think of standing up to challenge them in defense of their rights. Especially if you're injured on the job.

J.R.
Bend, Oregon

'The Struggle Is My Life'

I am a prisoner at San Quentin prison and would like to say thank you for keeping us updated on the South African struggle.

I would like to learn more about the struggle there, so I would like to request the book by Nelson Mandela titled *The Struggle Is My Life*.

It would be well-received and greatly appreciated. In solidarity,
A prisoner
San Quentin, California

Heroic Estelí

We spent six weeks in June and July in Estelí and got a glimpse of how this city in northern Nicaragua earned the name *Estelí heroico* (heroic Estelí) during the Nicaraguan revolution.

One night the lights went out. At first we thought it was a temporary power failure. But they didn't come back on, and the word soon spread: U.S.-backed *contras* had sabotaged the main power lines to the region.

We talked with Antonia Ramos and her son, who had just finished two years' service in the army fighting to defend Nicaragua against the mercenaries. They live in a working-class neighborhood called Omar Torrijos.

We talked about what the attack meant for the people of Estelí. Their drinking water supply depends on electric pumps — so there would be no fresh water. Water from the river would have to be used, posing a health risk. Adult education and literacy school would be canceled for lack of light.

Ramos told us they thought there was a real danger of direct contra attack on Estelí now that the lights were out.

The Sandinista Defense Committees, organized on a neighborhood level, immediately began preparing the barrios to defend themselves. Walking home that night, we saw that special defense and vigilance teams had been organized, which kept watch for saboteurs and terrorists, backing up the militias and Sandinista Police. People in the barrios set up bonfires in the streets to break the blackout.

The courage and determination of the people of Estelí were inspiring. After 60 hours of hardship, Nicaraguan work crews were able to repair the damage, and water and electricity were restored.

Tamar Rosenfeld
Hank Scheer
Cleveland, Ohio

Correction

In the August 8 issue of the *Militant* in the editorial on sanctions against South Africa, Kenneth Kaunda is misidentified. He is the president of Zambia.

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.

Pakistan regime arrests opponents

Demonstrations demand release of political prisoners

BY CATHERINE FRASER

Police violence against antigovernment demonstrators in Pakistan over the last week has left at least 16 people dead.

On August 18 at least 10 people were reported to have been killed during demonstrations in rural areas of southern Pakistan. Two days earlier, government troops were sent to the city of Tatta, 55 miles east of Karachi, after protesters had stormed a jail and police station, freeing several prisoners.

The police repression taking place in Pakistan today is the worst political violence to have occurred in that country since 1983, when 600 people died in antigovernment protests. It follows the arrest of hundreds of opposition political activists on August 13 — the first mass political crackdown in Pakistan since eight and a half years of martial law formally ended on December 30 last year.

The main target of the arrests was the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP), led by Benazir Bhutto. Bhutto had called a mass rally for August 14 — Pakistan's Independence Day — to express opposition to the regime of Gen. Mohammed Zia ul-Haq. This was banned by Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo, however, and Bhutto was prevented from entering the city of Lahore, where the rally was scheduled to take place.

Tear gas, clubs, and gunfire were used by the police to break up demonstrations that broke out August 14 in Lahore, Karachi (the largest city in Pakistan), and several other cities. Four people were killed in Lahore, and several hundred more throughout the country were injured.

Washington's close ties with the Zia regime made it a target of the demonstrators' anger. In Lahore, chants of "Death to the Americans" mingled with the slogans against the dictatorship.

Benazir Bhutto herself was arrested when she defied the government ban and addressed a rally of 10,000 in Karachi. The government has declared that she will be released after a month.

Civilian government

Over the past year and a half, the Zia regime has made some moves toward curbing the worst restrictions of military rule. Measures taken included the election of a National Assembly in February 1985 and the lifting of martial law in December.

Despite such formal moves toward the transfer of political power to a civilian government, Zia had no real intention of giving up his grip over Pakistan. Political parties were excluded from participation in the elections. (For this reason, the main opposition parties called for boycotting them.) Just before the new assembly met for the first time, he decreed sweeping changes in the 1973 constitution.

Despite Zia's clear intention to continue his rule under a civilian cover, the Pakistani people began using the opening that was available to press for a further extension of democratic rights.

On March 26 the first political general strike in eight years was reported in the Liyazi section of Karachi. Other workers began to organize unions. When Zia came to power in 1977, one of his first actions had been to ban all trade union and political activities under penalties of up to seven years' imprisonment and 10 lashes of the whip.

The Baluchis — the oppressed people of southwestern Pakistan — have also been organizing to demand their rights. Earlier this year, the Baluchi Unity Front was formed.

It is in the framework of this growing mass opposition movement that Bhutto has emerged as a major political challenge to Zia's continued rule. Since her return from exile on April 10, she has been at the center of antigovernment protests.

Hundreds of thousands have attended her public rallies. The largest of these, in Lahore, is estimated to have been attended by more than half a million people.

At this rally, Bhutto drew a parallel between the situation in Pakistan and the recent mass upsurges that overthrew dictators in Haiti and the Philippines. "Marcos is gone, the president of Haiti is gone, and now another dictator must go," she declared.

Opposition movement

The PPP, which Bhutto now leads, was the ruling party before General Zia's 1977 coup and remains the largest party in the country. Bhutto herself is the daughter of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was ousted by Zia. Bhutto was executed in 1979 for alleged conspiracy to murder the father of a political rival five years earlier.

Today the PPP is the largest component



Demonstrators in Lahore demand release of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto

of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), a coalition of 11 political parties. The MRD describes itself as a broad united front for the restoration of democratic rights and the release of political prisoners. It includes working-class and capitalist parties, as well as parties organized along religious lines.

The program Bhutto has put forward for getting rid of Zia focuses on the call for elections before the end of the year. In early August the MRD joined her in demanding that elections be scheduled by September 20. At present, they are not scheduled to take place until 1990.

Bhutto declared that a mass public protest campaign would be launched if the opposition's demands were not met. This planned escalation of the campaign against General Zia's regime was clearly an important factor in the government's recent crackdown.

U.S. aid

Last month, Mohammed Khan Junejo visited Washington to meet with President Reagan, who described him as the leader "of a constitutional government" and referred to Pakistan as "one of our country's closest partners."

Since the Afghan revolution of 1978 and the overthrow of the shah of Iran in 1979, the Zia regime is Washington's most important ally left in the region. Pakistan is now the fourth-largest recipient of U.S. aid. In July this year the Reagan administration announced that it would propose to Congress in 1987 that a \$4.02-billion aid package for 1988-93 be given to Pakistan.

This aid package is intended to replace the \$3.2-billion grant that expires next year. According to correspondent Steven Weisman, writing in the July 14 *New York Times*, most of this money was spent on purchasing 40 F-16 jet fighters for the air force.

Pakistan also plays a special role in the aid Washington supplies to counterrevolutionary Afghan guerrilla bands. Some two to three million Afghan refugees live in Pakistan, primarily in the North-West Frontier Province. Many of these refugees are controlled by the right-wing bands that receive arms from Washington channeled through the Zia regime.

The lifting of martial law was partially intended to provide some political cover for continuing Washington's aid to Pakistan. The Zia regime's latest moves, therefore, have caused concern in U.S. ruling circles.

Grenada murder trial serves as U.S. propaganda tool

BY ERNEST HARSCH

More than two years after the U.S. invasion of the tiny island of Grenada, the trial of those accused of murdering Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and other leaders of the Grenada revolution is now under way.

Starting in April, the prosecution took three months to present its case against the 18 defendants. In mid-July the defendants began to make statements in their defense.

This trial stems from events in October 1983. During that month, the workers' and farmers' government headed by Maurice Bishop was overthrown by a grouping within the governing New Jewel Movement (NJM). This counterrevolutionary coup was led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

On Oct. 19, 1983, a massive crowd freed Bishop from house arrest. But Coard's faction within the NJM sent troops and armored cars against the demonstrators, killing many of them. Bishop and several of his colleagues from the ousted revolutionary government were summarily executed. The population was terrorized.

This action opened the way for the U.S. invasion a week later, which brought the installation of a regime subservient to Washington.

Coard and 18 others were arrested by the occupation authorities. They were arraigned on October 1984 on charges of murdering Bishop. (One of them later turned state's evidence).

The U.S. rulers' aim in pressing the trial has not been to bring justice to the Grenadian people or to clarify what happened on Oct. 19, 1983. They are using it first and foremost as a propaganda tool to justify the U.S. invasion and to whip up anticommunist sentiments among the Grenadian people.

By falsely portraying Coard and his grouping as "hard-core Marxists," the U.S. authorities are seeking to identify those who hold communist and anti-imperialist views with Coard's brutal methods. In this way they hope to discredit the revolution and government that Bishop led.

Commenting on the trial in a March 1985 interview, Cuban President Fidel Castro affirmed that Washington does not

"have the right to keep that extremist group in prison or to try them, because no invading force has the right to run the courts and enforce the laws." (*Fidel Castro: Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*, Interview by Jeffrey M. Elliot and Mervyn M. Dymally, Pathfinder Press, New York)

The U.S.-installed Grenadian government, now headed by the New National Party, shares Washington's goals. In addition, it is trying to use the trial to deflect popular discontent over its economic and social policies.

The trial has likewise attracted rightist forces from throughout the Caribbean. The head of the prosecution team, Karl Hudson-Phillips, is a former government official and right-wing political figure from Trinidad.

The opening of the trial was delayed for many months. But during President Reagan's visit to Grenada in February, he pledged \$5.5 million in "aid to the judicial system." The trial promptly began two months later.

According to the sketchy news reports available, most prosecution witnesses tes-

tified about the events of Oct. 19, 1983. George Louison, a minister in the revolutionary government and currently a leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, testified about the Coard grouping's efforts within the NJM to prepare for Bishop's overthrow.

From the beginning, the trial has been marked by blatant irregularities. Although Grenadian law prohibits any reporting on trial proceedings until they are over, some of the evidence presented in the trial has been selectively published by the U.S.-financed *Grenadian Voice* and other publications.

Most of the trial is being conducted in the absence of all but a few of the defendants. Consultation with defense lawyers has been severely restricted. Some defendants have charged that they were beaten or otherwise mistreated in prison.

Such violations of civil liberties serve to strengthen the Grenadian regime's broader repressive policies. Harassment of trade unionists, arbitrary searches, police killings of unemployed youths, and intimidation of political activists have become common in Grenada since the U.S. invasion.