

Canadian protesters blast U.S. contra war

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

OTTAWA, Canada — Opponents of Washington's contra war in Nicaragua came together here for one of the largest and broadest antiwar demonstrations held in Canada in recent years. Particularly significant was their stress on the Canadian government's complicity with U.S. military intervention in Central America.

The April 5 protest, which took place as U.S. President Ronald Reagan arrived here for his summit meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, also called on Ottawa and Washington to break all ties with South Africa's apartheid regime and condemned the closing of Canada's borders to political refugees from Latin America and elsewhere. In addition, the participants demanded immediate measures against acid rain pollution and protested a proposed Canadian-U.S. trade agreement.

Only hours before, thousands of other demonstrators greeted Reagan and Mulroney on Parliament Hill. They protested both governments' failure to act against acid rain as well as the proposed trade agreement. This action was organized by the three main trade union federations and a farmers' organization in Quebec.

Altogether, each demonstration mobilized about 5,000 people in opposition to Ottawa's and Washington's policies against working people.

Youthful demonstrators

"U.S. out of Central America" and "Viva Nicaragua" were two of the more popular slogans among the sea of colorful



Militant/Martin Koppel

Marchers in Ottawa protested Canadian complicity with Washington's war

placards and banners in the antiwar rally. Thousands of youthful demonstrators came from all over French-speaking Quebec and the English-speaking province of Ontario.

Activists were here from numerous El Salvador and Nicaragua solidarity groups and anti-apartheid organizations. Also present were contingents from the Coali-

tion Against Acid Rain, Carleton University Students' Association, Against Cruise Testing, Congress of Canadian Women, Communist Party of Canada, Revolutionary Workers League, and many other groups.

The antiwar action had the backing of

Continued on Page 13

Contras kidnap Nicaraguan workers

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — U.S.-sponsored mercenaries kidnapped 50 Nicaraguans near the Atlantic Coast town of Puerto Cabezas on March 28. The kidnap victims include 30 workers from the PROFONICSA forestry project and a government delegate from a nearby village. The contra mercenaries also destroyed three pickups and another truck.

In response, 150 pastors met in Puerto

Cabezas and issued a call demanding that the 50 victims be returned. They also demanded the return of 11 Miskito members of the region's autonomy commission kidnapped by Honduran troops in January. They were taking supplies to Miskito communities along the Rio Coco bordering Honduras when captured.

An April 5 press release by the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported that contra mercenaries carried out 33 terrorist attacks

across the country in March — 11 more than in February — killing 41 civilians, wounding 25, and kidnapping 64. During the same period, the Nicaraguan army engaged the contras in 426 confrontations, killing 425 mercenaries, while 117 Nicaraguan soldiers died. This is an increase in fighting since February, when 358 contras were killed in 330 confrontations.

The increased contra attacks come at a time when the U.S. government is stepping up war exercises in Honduras and in the Caribbean sea near Nicaragua, including the "Solid Shield" exercises, which will involve 50,000 troops in late April.

At a March 28 rally celebrating the end of the coffee harvest, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega warned the thousands of farmers and farm workers gathered there of the threat posed by these maneuvers. These exercises create "all the technical, tactical,

Continued on Page 13

Big April 25 march predicted

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A national news conference here on April 7 announced that tens of thousands of people will march on Washington, D.C., and San Francisco on April 25 in a major antiwar, anti-apartheid demonstration. The call for a National Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa was issued last December by more than 50 national trade union and religious leaders.

David Reed of the Coalition for a New Foreign Policy chaired the news conference. He reported that coalitions in some 200 cities are organizing people for the April 25 actions on both coasts and that some 1,000 buses are reserved and filling up for the D.C. march.

National Organization for Women President Eleanor Smeal said, "The country is going through a new period where we're going to go back to the streets. Political leaders have not been leading and there is a bubbling up of discontent in communities everywhere in this land about foreign and military policies. I feel very strongly that

this march will be a tremendous success."

Smeal referred to the revelations aired on the CBS evening news and the program "West 57th Street" on April 6 that directly connected the CIA and the U.S. government to large-scale drug smuggling as part of the contra war against Nicaragua. "This will help fuel the April 25 mobilization. People are outraged and shocked and demanding these policies change."

Yvonne Delk, executive director of the Office of Church In Society of the United Church of Christ, spoke for the major religious organizations and denominations that are supporting and building the April 25 demonstrations. "In Angola and Nicaragua the U.S. government has paid terrorists to blow up clinics. We are marching April 25 because we know what's wrong and what's right."

Actor Ed Asner urged a big turnout for April 25. "The damage that has already been done to other countries by the policies of the Reagan administration and the Congress is unthinkable and immoral: over

Continued on Page 2

Cuban Communist youth meet in Havana

BY RENA CACOULOS
AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

HAVANA, Cuba — "In today's world and tomorrow's world, to be a revolutionary is to be a communist. And that will become more and more true."

These were the words of Cuban President Fidel Castro, speaking to the closing session of the Fifth Congress of the Union of Young Communists (UJC), held at the Karl Marx Theater here in Havana on April 5.

"This was truly a congress of young communists," said Castro, "a congress of conscious, activist, and optimistic youth."

"By the year 2000" was the slogan and theme of the gathering.

Some 1,500 elected delegates, representing more than 600,000 members of the UJC, participated in the five-day congress.

Also present were 170 guests from 133 youth organizations in 84 countries. Among the international guests were leaders of the Sandinista Youth (JS-19) from Nicaragua and of the African National Congress Youth Section from South Africa, as well as representatives of the young people of Namibia, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Chile.

The congress also marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of the UJC.

In his speech to the closing session, Castro emphasized the importance of the discussions and decisions of the UJC congress, not only for Cuban youth, but for the entire country.

A central theme of the congress was the participation of Cuban youth in strengthening the revolution: raising production, improving education, reinforcing defense of the country, and deepening Cuba's commitment to international solidarity.

The main questions discussed and debated concerned problems of agricultural and industrial production, education, medical care, military service, and the challenge of incorporating more and more young people into positions of responsibility and leadership at all levels of Cuban society.

Throughout the speech, Castro repeatedly stressed that socialism cannot be built by relying on economic planning and expecting that mechanisms set up to regulate the economy will solve all problems.

"Socialism cannot be built without revolutionary work and political work," he said, and the UJC plays an indispensable role in educating youth. This is not a question of "cramming them with slogans and revolutionary ideas," Castro said, but of setting an example in practice.

"We speak of preparing ourselves for the year 2000," Castro said. He appealed to

Continued on Page 5

Calif. labor body backs anti-FBI suit

BY FRED FELDMAN

The executive board of the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council of California's Santa Clara County voted March 16 to endorse the Political Rights Defense Fund. The PRDF has helped to finance and publicize the suit against government spying and disruption brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

The Central Labor Council, which represents union members in the San Jose area, heard a report from Greg Nelson on the current stage of the suit — the fight to bar the government from using illegally ob-

tained FBI files on the SWP and YSA. Nelson, a member of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), is one of the PRDF's designated spokespersons in the labor movement.

Chris Horner, a PRDF spokesperson who belongs to the International Union of Electronic Workers, told the Militant about gains in the Seattle area.

"Workers at the Boeing plant here, which is organized by the IAM, have signed up several new PRDF endorsers among coworkers," he said. "One donated

Continued on Page 8

Update on how April 25 is shaping up

A recent mailing from the National Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa gives a picture of how April 25 is shaping up.

The Washington, D.C., office has mailed out over 20,000 posters; T-shirts and buttons are available.

Speakers in Washington on April 25 will include: Jesse Jackson; National Organization for Women President Eleanor Smeal; American Federation of Government Employees President Kenneth Blaylock; National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees President Henry Nicholas; Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York; Bishop Thomas Gumbleton from Detroit; George Parris, Federation of Southern Cooperatives; and William Means, American Indian Movement.

Entertainers will include the Bread and Puppet Theater; Peter, Paul, and Mary; and Holly Near.

Volunteers are needed on April 25 to help with marshaling, button and T-shirt sales, and other tasks. Volunteers can check in near the corner of 16th St. and Constitution Avenue.

For those who want to stay overnight in D.C., housing will be available on a first come, first serve basis from Friday, April 24 through Monday night, April 27. Most will be floor space provided

by local churches and other organizations.

Demonstration organizers advise participants using this housing to bring sleeping bags and blankets, as well as enough money to make a small contribution to the facility you stay at. They also have a list of local hotels with reasonable rates.

The schedule for the weekend in Washington is:

Saturday, April 25 9:30 a.m.-12 noon: assembly and rallies on the Ellipse (behind the White House at Constitution Avenue between 15th and 17th streets). March steps off at noon. Final rally at Capitol West Steps from 2-5 p.m.

Sunday, April 26 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.: nonviolence training for Monday's civil disobedience; check in at the Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Avenue NE. At 6:30 that evening, an Interfaith worship service will be conducted at the First Congregational United Church of Christ on 10th and G streets NW.

Monday, April 27 All day: non-violent civil disobedience at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. At 8:30 a.m., briefing for lobbying on Capitol Hill. Meet at Church of the Brethren, 222 E. Capitol Street. Lobbying begins 11:30.

The address and phone number of the Washington, D.C., and San Francisco offices are:

- The National Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa, 712 G St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003; (202) 547-0061.
- Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice, 255 Ninth St., San

Francisco, Calif. 94103; (415) 626-8053.

Philadelphia: students, labor mobilize

BY HALKET ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — An impressive list of local sponsors has been assembled here for April 25. The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; and other unions have reserved buses for their members.

Other labor supporters include the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 47; and American Postal Workers Union.

The University of Pennsylvania had a week of antiwar teach-ins. Students at Temple University organized a rally and teach-in on Watergate and contragate. There have also been antiwar activities at Swarthmore, Haverford, Villanova, Bryn Mawr, and other colleges and universities.

Maine shipbuilders endorse

The March issue of *Harpoon*, the monthly newspaper of Local 6 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, featured a front-page article announcing the local's endorsement of April 25 and reprinting the call for the action.

Faculty members buy antiwar ad in 'Times'

The April 6 *New York Times* carried a full-page ad, signed by well over 1,000 college faculty members, calling for an end to the U.S. war against Nicaragua.

"Congress should
• Stop the war against Nicaragua"

"• Halt all funding of the Contras and all programs for the training, direction, and support of the Contra forces"

"• End maneuvers in Central America by U.S. troops, reservists, and National Guard"

"• End the military build-up for a direct invasion of Nicaragua," the ad demanded.

Signers urged readers to join the April 25 actions in Washington and San Francisco. The ad was sponsored by the Faculty for Human Rights in El Salvador and Central America.

St. Louis UAW sponsors dance to raise funds

BY BILL HENRY

ST. LOUIS — The Community Action Program (CAP) Council of United Auto Workers Local 325 sponsored a dance on March 28 at the union hall to raise money to send students and unemployed workers to Washington. Over a hundred antiwar activists and union members attended.

The city CAP Council also en-

dorsed the march and donated \$1,100 to pay the fare for 20 UAW members.

Students call nat'l meeting for April 26

On Sunday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Student Subcommittee of the National Steering Committee for the action is organizing a national student gathering in Washington.

Baltimore unions push April 25

BY CHARLIE ROSENBERG

BALTIMORE — Twenty union members are participating in the labor task force of the Baltimore coalition. They have distributed thousands of copies of a special flyer aimed at trade unionists and a letter encouraging unions in the area to come to Washington on April 25.

Signers of the letter are: Michael Zucker, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union international representative; Donald Kelner, United Steelworkers of America Local 2609 president; David Foster, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 92 director; and Robert Moore, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees District 1199-E president.

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Walter Reuther (right) with George Meany

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Big march predicted

Continued from front page

65,000 civilian deaths in El Salvador since 1979; over 29,000 in Nicaragua. I mean doctors, teachers, workers, children — the victims of the Salvadoran military and the contras."

Tom Swan, president of the United States Student Association, pointed to the growing student protests against CIA recruitment on campuses and predicted students would be the largest contingent at the protests.

Other speakers included Bernard Demczuk, political director of the American Federation of Government Employees; Sylvia Rosales, executive director, Central America Refugee Center; and Gay McDougall, executive director, Southern Africa Affairs, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law.



Militant/Mark Friedman
Rally of 4,000 in Detroit March 29 against U.S.-backed contra war.

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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. We provide first-hand coverage of events in other countries, such as Cuba, Burkina Faso, and the Philippines. In addition, regular on-the-scene reports come from our Nicaragua Bureau.

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Union support for April 25 grows

Locals across the country build antiwar, anti-apartheid demonstrations

BY MARGARET JAYKO

Union locals across the country are actively building the national antiwar and anti-apartheid actions that will take place in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco on April 25. What's happening in northern California and New York are good examples.

The initial call for April 25 was signed by national presidents of 19 unions, including the United Auto Workers; International Union of Electronic Workers; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; International Association of Machinists; and United Food and Commercial Workers.

The Coalition of Labor Union Women National Executive Board recently added its name to the endorser list, urging women trade unionists to turn out on April 25.

Kathy Lafferty, a coalition staff member who has been working out of the San Francisco Central Labor Council office, described the response she has been getting to her phone calls to unions that support the action.

"Contingents are forming representing machinists' lodges, teachers, service employees, communications workers, engineers and scientists, garment workers, molders, office workers, craft workers, and the list goes on," she said.

"Locals have been responsible for sending out thousands of leaflets to their mem-



Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of UAW District 65, speaking at New York news conference April 3. Robinson urged large turnout.

berships, and in many cases local union members have been designated as mobilization organizers for their union," Lafferty said.

She also reported that several Northern California labor councils are supporting the action.

Machinists set up union committees

Local 1781 of the International Associa-

tion of Machinists (IAM), which represents 10,000 mechanics and ramp service and kitchen workers at United Airlines, has voted to support the action and allocate up to \$3,000 to build it among union members. A union committee has been established to get leaflets up around the facility, sell buttons and T-shirts, and fill a special train that will take demonstrators from the union headquarters in Burlingame to San

Francisco.

IAM Local 565 at the Westinghouse plant in Sunnyvale, California, has an official union committee of half a dozen workers who are organizing leaflet distribution, banner painting, and sales of train tickets.

An article urging participation in the march appeared on the front page of the newsletter of IAM Local 2225, which organizes machinists at Lockheed in Sunnyvale.

Members of District 115 of the IAM at Airco in the East Bay area, who have been fighting the company's attempt to shut down their plant, have been buying demonstration T-shirts and buttons and are planning to march as a contingent.

Both locals of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union in Northern California have endorsed the demonstration and are planning to participate. Local 1-5, which organizes workers at the Shell, Tosco, and Chevron refineries, has discussed the march at several union meetings and ran an article on it in its newsletter.

The District Council of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, representing all five locals in Northern California, was an early endorser of the action, and several locals are organizing members' participation.

United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2244 at the NUMMI plant in Fremont has endorsed the demonstration and ordered placards for its contingent.

Two of the co-chairs of the Western States mobilization are Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Central Labor Council, and Al Lannon, president of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 6.

On the other end of the country, some 150 union activists participated in a rally in Manhattan on April 3 to build momentum for the April 25 action in Washington. It was held at the headquarters of Local 1199 of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees.

Marion Porro, president of the New York Public Library Guild of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, reported that her union had filled 50 buses for the action.

'U.S. trying to destroy Nicaragua'

Porro also spoke about her recent visit to Nicaragua. Despite the U.S.-run war, the Nicaraguan people continue to make progress in education, including in building a library system. They are trying, she said, "to build . . . the U.S. government is trying to destroy."

Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of UAW District 65 and one of the co-chairs of the New York Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa, took up the attacks on the march by top AFL-CIO officials. (See article elsewhere on page.)

The reactionary political positions and actions of these officials, said Robinson, are not in the interests of working people. "Our jobs, our security, the future of our children are all tied up with the struggle for freedom" by working people around the world. He called on those at the rally to "do all we must do to get the biggest turnout in Washington."

On April 3, Robinson joined Florida Negrón, chairperson of the City University of New York Student Senate; U.S. Rep. Major Owens; three city council members; and others at a news conference on the steps of City Hall to urge a large turnout on April 25.

This article is based on reports from Matilde Zimmermann, Andrea González, and Michael Baumann.

AFL-CIO president attacks actions

BY NORTON SANDLER

Growing support in the unions for the April 25 antiwar and anti-apartheid demonstrations has precipitated an attack on the actions from AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland.

On March 23 Kirkland, in response to "numerous inquiries from state and local central labor bodies," sent a letter prohibiting AFL-CIO state and local affiliates from endorsing the April 25 demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco. Those actions will demand an end to the U.S. war in Central America and to Washington's support to South African apartheid.

Kirkland says the AFL-CIO is withholding its support because "the rallies will call for a cut-off of U.S. aid to the democratically elected governments of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala" and because they "will feature speakers who are not committed to genuine trade union rights." He especially objects to speakers who support the guerrillas in El Salvador or who are representatives of the Nicaraguan government.

An article in the March 28 *AFL-CIO News* repeats the threats against AFL-CIO state and local affiliates who endorse the demonstrations.

Labor backing for April 25

But Lane Kirkland has a problem. Nineteen national union presidents have endorsed the actions. Several central labor councils in the San Francisco Bay Area have endorsed. So has the New Jersey Industrial Union Council and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Antiwar and anti-apartheid activists in unions around the country are utilizing these endorsements to publicize the actions through union structures and to help organize buses to get to the demonstrations.

Since Kirkland's directive was issued, the executive board of the Baltimore council voted to rescind the April 25 endorsement approved at the previous month's full council meeting. But, because of the opposition to the executive board's action, they did not put a motion to rescind to a vote at the next full council meeting.

Kirkland's edict has also sparked considerable discussion in West Coast labor councils and in other AFL-CIO bodies.

Trying to take a little distance from the White House, Kirkland's letter says neither the Reagan administration nor the organizers of the April 25 rallies address "the real needs of the people of Central America."

But that is not the case. The call for the

Washington, D.C., action addresses very real needs of the people of Central America. "In Central America," the call explains, "our government is:

- Escalating its terrorism and war against the people and government of Nicaragua through CIA-directed Contra forces.

- Providing massive economic and military aid to a government in El Salvador that is bombing its own people, repressing the church and human rights workers, and protecting those guilty of gross violations of human rights.

- Transforming impoverished Honduras into a gigantic military base for use by U.S., Contra, and other foreign forces.

- Granting military aid to the Guatemalan army that is responsible for widespread massacres, the use of strategic hamlets for population control, and the highest rate of disappearances in the Western Hemisphere."

Nicaragua and El Salvador

The biggest need of the Nicaraguan people today is the right to live in peace. But nowhere does Kirkland express support for letting Nicaragua live in peace and determine its own affairs.

Thousands of Nicaraguans have died in the contra war. And the contras continue to conduct their terrorist raids financed by the U.S. government.

And which of the speakers does Kirkland think are not committed to "genuine trade union rights"? Does he mean those who will explain to the demonstrators that prior to the Nicaraguan revolution there were 133 trade unions in the entire country with a membership of 27,000? Today, under the leadership of the popularly backed Sandinista government, there are nearly 1,100 unions with a membership of 228,000. Moreover, gains have been registered by the country's farmers and by women; and steps have been taken to uproot racial inequality for the country's Black and Indian peoples of the Atlantic Coast.

Or does Kirkland object to those speakers who will describe the substantial trade union mobilizations in El Salvador that have demanded the José Napoleón Duarte government implement sweeping economic and political changes and end the U.S.-backed war?

By supporters of "genuine trade union rights" Kirkland is more likely talking about the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD). This is the outfit that sets up unions that collaborate with the

CIA and the right-wing governments of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala in helping to suppress workers and peasants who are fighting against Washington's domination of the region.

Wide spectrum of views

Participants in the April 25 actions will hold a wide spectrum of views on Central America, and on the character of the Nicaragua government and the liberation struggle in El Salvador. What will bring them out to demonstrate that day will be a conviction that Washington's war on Central America and U.S. backing for apartheid in South Africa must both come to an end.

That sentiment has been deepened by recent revelations about how the White House, National Security Council, CIA, and the Pentagon have collaborated behind the backs of the U.S. people to carry out the contra war.

Kirkland's position on April 25 is consistent with the AFL-CIO bureaucracy's decades-long anticommunist crusade.

The trade union officials were outspoken supporters of the Vietnam War. Organized trade union participation in the massive movement against that war was minimal.

The movement against the Vietnam War grew because millions decided that the Vietnamese people had the right to determine their own future free from U.S. intervention. That same question is posed today in Central America.

The tiny handful of wealthy U.S. ruling families and their lieutenants in the labor movement are confronted with a different situation than they were during the Vietnam War. Over the past decade, the rulers' harsh attacks on wages and working conditions, coupled with cuts in social services and with farm foreclosures, have helped convince many workers and farmers that they have little to gain from a war in Central America.

Kirkland's slanders against the Sandinistas, the Salvadoran guerrillas, and supporters of the April 25 action does not have the impact it would have had even a few years ago.

In fact, many working people would welcome the opportunity to learn more about and to discuss the Nicaraguan revolution and the freedom struggle in El Salvador.

Building a massive movement against war in Central America is directly in the interests of U.S. working people. If the U.S. rulers can be forced to retreat in Central America as they were in Vietnam, it will strengthen struggles for changes in social and economic policies here at home.

Labor news in the Militant

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

Philippine peasants fight for some land

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON
AND SAM MANUEL

LAGUNA, Philippines — Lying just to the south of Manila in what is known as the Southern Tagalog region, Laguna is the second most industrialized part of the Philippines after the capital region itself. It is also a major producer of copra, the dried flesh of the coconut. Rice and sugarcane is also grown.

The copra is produced by farm laborers and sharecroppers working on large coconut haciendas. Because former President Ferdinand Marcos' 1972 "land reform" was confined to rice and corn lands, this region was less affected by the reform than the Central Luzon "rice bowl." Big landlords like the Laurels, Enriles, Cojuangcos, and Ocampos remain prominent.

Under the *kasama* (sharecropping) system, many coconut farmers have to give as much as two-thirds of their crop to the landlord each harvest. The farmers are often prohibited from growing other crops for their own consumption or sale.

Farm laborers generally receive \$1.40 a day, or 80 percent of the legal minimum agricultural wage. Because of these starvation wages and the irregular character of their employment, many farm workers earn extra money fishing, or by working in one of the large factories throughout the province.

This is what we learned when we visited the office of Kasama-TK in Barangay Sala. Kasama-TK is the Southern Tagalog affiliate of the Peasant Movement of the Philippines (KMP). Most of their members, we were told, are farm workers and the poorest sharecroppers.

Kasama-TK has been growing since the overthrow of Marcos. Laguna has not been highly militarized, we were told, enabling the peasants to organize relatively freely.

Kasama-TK's activities have focused on land distribution and rent reductions, directed in the first instance against the local landlords, but also directed to the national government. Where dialogue with the landowners makes no progress, the peasants may boycott planting or harvesting.

Another form of direct action that is catching on is land occupations by landless tillers. The KMP reported that nationally, its members were occupying 50,000 acres as of February.

We visited one such occupation by the families of Barrio Mamplasan in neighboring Binan. At Mamplasan we spoke with Iser Rodriguez, Teodoro Ocampo, and other officers of SUMAMA, the barrio chapter of Kasama-TK.

Mamplasan is surrounded by a 320-acre sugar plantation owned by the Independent Realty Corp. However, for the past six months, 50 acres in the immediate vicinity of the village have been planted in rice and

vegetables, or are providing home lots for some of Mamplasan's landless families.

Rodriguez outlined the history of their struggle for the land. Their families had come to the district in the 1920s to till the land. His parents had cultivated rice on the hacienda under the *kasama* system until the early 1970s. Under this system, the harvest was divided 50-50 with the landlord, after production expenses had been deducted.

In 1964, however, the hacienda was taken over by a company associated with Jose Yao Campos, which later changed its name to Independent Realty Corp. (IRC). Campos is a known frontman for Ferdinand Marcos.

With the 1972 promulgation of Marcos' land reform law the hacienda's sharecroppers became eligible to become mortgage-holding owners or leasehold tenants of the land they tilled. However, the IRC pressured them into surrendering their tenancy rights for a nominal sum, under threat of eviction for inability to keep up payments on their land.

Then, to escape any further application of the land reform law, the hacienda was converted into a sugar plantation.

Initially, the former tenants were kept on the hacienda as farm laborers, earning between 35 and 45 cents a day for the men, and less than 3 cents for the women. But eventually they were displaced by even cheaper labor from other barrios.

Thus, Rodriguez's generation had grown up working as laborers on other haciendas, while continuing to live in the middle of the IRC land. Hunger was a problem for many of the villagers, especially for those who did not own a home lot large enough to plant a garden.

A new situation opened up with the overthrow of Marcos in February 1986. Corazon Aquino established a Presidential Commission for Good Government (PCGG) charged with uncovering the ill-gotten gains of Marcos and his top cronies and returning them to their rightful owners. The PCGG sequestered the IRC land that April.

However, the people of Mamplasan soon realized that the new management had no intention of turning the hacienda back over to them. So after the sugarcane was harvested in July, the villagers made their



Militant/Russell Johnson
Teodoro Ocampo and Iser Rodriguez,
peasant leaders in Mamplasan.

move. Forty of them attempted to occupy the land and begin to farm it. But they were almost immediately driven off again by IRC goons and military personnel.

The villagers met to draw a balance sheet of this experience. On August 16 they founded SUMAMA, Mamplasan's first peasant organization, as a chapter of Kasama-TK. With the help of Kasama-TK, they were able to organize a more successful occupation September 6, barricade the roads into the village, and begin to farm about 40 acres.

Rodriguez and Ocampo showed us around the occupied land, which had been mostly transformed into flourishing rice fields. The 109 Mamplasan families were farming the land cooperatively, using seeds and fertilizers loaned by friends and irrigation pumps and plowing equipment commandeered from the IRC.

Many of the families had planted individual home gardens to supply vegetables. We experienced the improved diet this meant as we were plied with copious quantities of watermelon and rice pudding.

Nevertheless, they explained, the land they were tilling was insufficient to meet all their needs. In fact, they estimated they

needed at least two to three acres for each of the 109 families in the village if they were to make ends meet.

With this in mind, they were planning to occupy the entire hacienda on March 10, with the help of other Kasama-TK supporters in the district.

Our guides also showed us around the extension to the village being built on more than six acres of IRC land. Here there were also gardens and experimental fish ponds to supplement the people's diet.

They called the extension Mendiola Village in commemoration of the January 22 massacre outside the presidential palace. More than 60 SUMAMA members had gone to Manila in support of the KMP's campaign for land reform. Rodriguez had been part of the team marshaling the front of the demonstration when the military opened fire at point blank range, but had managed to escape unhurt. However, they said, six peasants from Laguna province had been killed.

Why did they think the massacre had occurred? Because most government officials are landlords who do not want to give up their land, they replied. Since June, the KMP had approached the government officials four times for a dialogue and each time they had refused. Only after the Mendiola massacre did they finally agree to talk.

And what about the February 2 plebiscite on the new constitution? The village had voted 60-40 in favor of the constitution, they estimated. Rodriguez had voted no because he said it offered nothing to farmers, especially the poor. It meant that the government's land reform would be determined by the new congress, which he said would be a landlord's congress because only they could afford the millions of pesos it would cost to run in the election.

Whether the government implemented land reform or not, the villagers were determined to continue to till the land. They were no longer afraid of being attacked by the military. They were angry. It was cultivate the land or starve.

"Better to die with a cause than starve to death," Rodriguez said, expressing a mood and a determination that had manifested itself to us throughout the Philippine countryside.

Miners hit whitewash of Wilberg disaster

BY FRANK PAVELKO
AND DAVE HURST

PRICE, Utah — The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has issued a report of preliminary findings from its investigation of the Dec. 19, 1984, fire at the Wilberg mine near here. The fire claimed the lives of 18 United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) members and nine officials of Emery Mining Corp.

The fire was caused by an improperly maintained, examined, and installed electric air compressor," the report concludes.

"Inadequacies in escapeways, alternate travel routes, evacuation and self-rescuer training, and delayed evacuation contributed to the loss of life."

Miners who work in the Wilberg and Cottonwood mines and belong to UMWA Local 2176 generally think that MSHA is trying to cover up its role in the disaster. MSHA granted a variance that allowed the company to continue mining the section where the accident occurred even though the return air escapeway was shut down by a cave-in.

Joe Main, UMWA international safety director, called the preliminary report a "whitewash."

UMWA International Public Relations Director Joe Corcoran told the *Militant*, "Regardless of which specific machine started this fire, the main problems are the company's attitude and MSHA approving mining plans that do not allow for adequate ventilation and adequate escapeways."

Along with the report, 34 citations were issued to Utah Power & Light Co. and to Emery Mining Corp., the former operator of the UP & L mines. There were seven violations concerning the air compressor. It wasn't shown on the mine map, the on-off switch and high-temperature shutoff were shorted out so that the machine would run without regard to them; and it contained combustible fluid, but it neither had a fire-suppressant system nor was it housed in a fireproof structure.

Other citations included: no map of escape routes posted in the 5th Right section; the lack of two distinct escapeways in the sections because the large holes in some of the concrete stoppings between the escape-

ways allowed air to pass between them.

The mine was also cited for not having an evacuation plan in case of ventilation-fan shutdown, nor any plan for fire fighting or escape from a fire.

Due to budget cuts, MSHA has fewer inspectors. Mining regulations have been rewritten to suit the owners, and fines have been lowered. Inspectors are pressed to make fewer citations. In March, the Utah state legislature slashed the authority of state mine inspectors to make on-site inspections.

There may be further exploration of MSHA's role in the Wilberg disaster when congressional hearings open in late April. The UMWA wants to raise questions about mines that have only two tunnels to a working area, which was in force in the 5th Right section where the 27 people were trapped. All two-entry mining was ordered stopped nationally in the aftermath of the Wilberg fire, but MSHA can still modify plans for multiple-entry systems and allow two-entry mining to resume.

Three coal mines in Utah, including Wilberg, have MSHA approval for two-entry mining. Kaiser Steel Corp.'s plan for two-entry mining at its Sunnyside, Utah, mine, which had been approved earlier by MSHA, was rejected under UMWA pressure. Kaiser has shut the mine down.

Although miners think that safety conditions at Wilberg have improved somewhat since the disaster, there have been three fires at UP & L's Deer Creek mine in the past two years. Since all were extinguished within 30 minutes, they did not have to be reported to MSHA.

Frank Pavelko belongs to UMWA Local 2176 and works in the Wilberg mine. Dave Hurst belongs to UMWA Local 1769 and is laid off from the Deer Creek mine.

Socialists host active workers conference

The Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance have been hosting active workers conferences in March and April. The final conference of seven will take place April 11-12 in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Members and friends of the SWP and YSA and supporters of the *Militant* will discuss U.S. and international politics.

The conference will feature a public talk by an SWP leader and two

reports: "The Crisis In World Communism" and "Organizing the Revolutionary Party."

Participants will discuss the SWP and YSA lawsuit against the FBI and Attorney General Meese and the campaign to increase the circulation of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

For information on the time and location of the conference below, contact the SWP and YSA. See directory on page 12.

April 11-12

Host city
Morgantown, W. Va.
Participating
Charleston, W. Va.
Pittsburgh

Reports:
"The Crisis In World
Communism"
Jack Barnes, SWP
national secretary

"Organizing the
Revolutionary Party"
John Gaige, SWP
national trade
union director

U.S. Labor at the Crossroads

Hear Mac Warren, National Committee SWP

Sat., April 11, 8 p.m., The Chestnut Square, 2nd floor,
467 Chestnut St., Morgantown, W. Va.

Nicaragua demands highest standards of conduct from soldiers, police

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

"I gave myself leaves to go drinking and partying," Sublieutenant Roberto Membreño of the Sandinista People's Army explained. For this transgression he is serving a year in prison at the Mario González Sánchez prison farm in Nicaragua.

"But through good conduct, I've won the honor of wearing the olive-green uniform once more," he continued. "My goal is to set an example in the Sandinista army."

Membreño is one of some 1,000 soldiers and police sentenced to prison during the first half of 1986 for breaking civilian or military laws.

Readers may remember an article by Harvey McArthur in the February 13 *Militant* that explained the goal of Nicaragua's prison system — the reeducation of every inmate with the goal of rejoining society as a productive member. Inmates are treated like fellow human beings, with respect.

The corollary to that is the highest possible standards of behavior are demanded of police and soldiers. Crimes committed by those whose duty is to protect the rights of citizens and defend the new society militarily are considered the worst possible offenses.

So although abuses by the police and soldiers are infrequent, they are prosecuted to the full extent of the law when they do occur.

In the United States it's a battle even to get charges brought against police, much less have them prosecuted and imprisoned for abusing their powers or carrying out violence against citizens.

'We have nothing to hide'

In Nicaragua, the revolutionary government, far from covering up such crimes, publicizes them widely. The Sandinista daily *Barricada* recently ran a front-page article, by Vilma Areas, explaining how the military prison system works for army and Ministry of the Interior offenders. The Ministry of the Interior (MINT) is made up of the police and various state security forces, including prison guards.

"We have nothing to hide," Alvaro Ramírez, head of the military review board, told Areas. No one is afraid to come forward with a complaint. Not only does the board urge citizens to accuse MINT and army members who abuse their authority, he explained, it seeks to educate the public about the kinds of offenses that should be brought before the board.

Every day time is set aside at the headquarters of the regional military review boards to attend to the public. Citizens can also accuse an offender before his superior or at the nearest police headquarters.

"There can be absolute certainty," Ramírez said, "that when a case is presented of a crime committed by the military, it will be investigated and punished."

He also explained that the board will "not allow someone who's innocent to be

punished."

In the first six months of 1986 a total of 1,131 military personnel and police were sentenced. Of these, 826 were from the Sandinista People's Army, with 20 percent being officers. From the MINT, 305 were sentenced — 5 percent of them officers.

The crimes committed included 88 murders, 131 assaults, 13 cases of vehicular manslaughter, and 14 cases of rape. Those who have committed these kinds of offenses go directly to civilian penitentiaries. They can be sentenced for up to 30 years, the maximum in Nicaragua, depending on the crime. *

Minimum-security prison farms

The bulk of the offenses and sentences are not this serious, however. Prisoners serve between six months and three years in one of two minimum-security prison farms for police and military on the outskirts of Managua.

Ricardo Espinoza, a soldier in the Sandinista army, was sentenced to six months at the Mario González Sánchez prison farm for violating the prohibition on unauthorized shooting of firearms.

"I was drunk and although I knew about the decree, I committed the crime and this punishment is helping me learn my lesson," he told *Barricada*.

The army and the MINT carry out an ongoing educational campaign about the injuries to civilians that can result from undisciplined use of weapons — something that happens especially during holidays.

U.S. youth hear Sandinista army vets

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — "We have come to tell American youth not to become victims of the criminal propaganda of the U.S. government. Not to pay attention to the lies. Nicaragua wants peace, and we would prefer that young people come to our country to build schools and hospitals, not to fight us as enemies," said Eberto Navarez.

Navarez, 19, and Rafael García, 26, are veterans of the Sandinista army in Nicaragua's battle against the U.S.-backed contras. They are touring the United States through April 25, the date of demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco against the contra war and apartheid in South Africa.

"One of the purposes of our tour is to build the April 25 demonstrations, because the only thing that will have an effect on Reagan is U.S. public opinion," said Navarez.

Navarez's and García's tour is being sponsored by the National Nicaragua Solidarity Network and a number of other groups, including Vietnam veterans' organizations.

They have shared the platform with Bill Gandall, an ex-marine who participated in the U.S. invasion of Nicaragua in 1977 and is now an opponent of the U.S. contra war against that country.

"We have learned a lot during our tour," García told the *Militant*. "For example, that in the U.S., thousands of Vietnam veterans have committed suicide or have become drug addicts or alcoholics. Once they left the service they found themselves with no educational opportunities and no future."

"Things are very different in Nicaragua," he explained. "There we haven't had one single case of suicide among our veterans, not even for war traumas or psychosis. Because even though the war is very hard and combat is very rough, it is clear to us that our war is a just war, that we are fighting to defend what is ours, what we have conquered, and what nobody will be able to take away from us," he added.

Navarez grew up in a peasant family. He



Militant/Roberto Kopeck
Nicaraguan soldiers at rally. Crimes committed by soldiers and police are considered worst possible offenses, with those convicted being prosecuted to full extent of the law.

In addition to improper use of arms, other offenses include abuse of authority, negligence in serving the community, failure to carry out duties, and improper use of military vehicles. Violence against subordinates, divulging military secrets, damaging military goods, and misconduct, betrayal, and cowardice are also severely punished.

As with civilians convicted of crimes, the goal of imprisonment is reintegration into society. This includes returning to former duties. "We try to show the *compañeros* correct behavior through persuasion, through appealing to their understanding of the law and goals of the revolution," explained Ramírez.

Prisoners participate in intensive therapy. The program begins with a 10-day period of interviews with a psychologist, with whom the inmates discuss their

crimes. A physical examination determines the state of their health.

The next step is intensive political and military retraining, which the prisoners organize, including daily lectures. Voluntary work programs are also part of reintegration.

When a prisoner has progressed to the "stage of trust," the article in *Barricada* explains, they gain provisional freedom. They can then work outside the prison and are permitted to put their uniform back on.

This is a very high honor, one that they will forfeit if they become less disciplined. It means that they are entrusted with defending the freedom that tens of thousands of Nicaraguans have fought and died for, and continue to sacrifice their lives for, in the U.S.-organized war against their country.

served as a volunteer in the army for two years, alternating between periods of being in school and on active duty.

He later worked with the Revolutionary Organization of Disabled Veterans, where he helped young vets reintegrate themselves into society. Today he directs a veteran's radio program.

García, whose father drives a taxi cab, said he was raised in a very conservative family. "At the beginning, I had to fight my family to become involved in the revolution. But as time went on, they saw the changes taking place in the country and have come to accept things," he told the *Militant*. "Both my sisters have volunteered for the armed forces. One of them even became a platoon commander, and the other is a soldier."

This is the first trip to the United States

for these two young revolutionaries. "We have seen some things that we simply cannot understand and just cannot be explained," said García. "Like, how is it possible that Reagan is investing so much money and so many people in the contra war, while so many Americans are living in the subway and train stations, or on park benches, or have to search the trash to find food?"

They will be in the Boston area April 11-15; in New Hampshire April 16-17; and in Maine April 18-19. From there they will visit Providence, Rhode Island; New Bedford, Massachusetts; and Norwalk, Connecticut. Beginning April 23 they will be in Washington, D.C. The tour will culminate with their participation in the April 25 demonstration there. For more information on the tour, contact: New England Central America Network at (617) 491-4205.

Cuban Communist youth hold meeting

Continued from front page

young people "to think ahead, not to think about immediate consumption, but about economic development and the improvement of the world you will be living in."

Castro blasted the most recent attempts of the U.S. government to brand Cuba as a violator of human rights.

Cuba is a country where since the revolution, no one has ever "disappeared" and where there has never been one case of torture, he said. "What angers us most is the insult to our people [the U.S. slander] implies, because our people have been educated in revolutionary struggle and carried out the revolution on the basis of the firmest respect for human dignity and integrity."

"It is shameful cynicism to point the finger of guilt at a country whose sons and daughters have not hesitated to shed their own blood and sacrifice their own lives to aid the cause of independence and liberation of other countries."

Castro referred to the immense pressure the U.S. government brought to bear on

dozens of countries at the recent meeting in Geneva of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Despite the campaign, Washington failed to win adoption of a slanderous resolution condemning Cuba for human rights violations. The only Latin American country to yield to the U.S. pressure was Costa Rica, Castro noted.

What imperialism doesn't understand, Castro explained to the applauding and cheering delegates, is that a volcano is erupting in this hemisphere. There have been tremendous changes in the last 28 years. Imperialism is running into the resistance and rebellion of Latin America. "Today, we are the moral avengers of the oppressed of the world," he declared.

The perspective for the youth of Cuba was well captured by Castro's challenge to them when he stated, "The strength of our revolution and its future will depend on the degree to which new generations are capable of maintaining a truly revolutionary consciousness."

Nicaragua pamphlet to be ready April 25

The popular pamphlet *Nicaragua: An Introduction to the Sandinista Revolution* is being rushed back into print in time for the April 25 antiwar and anti-apartheid demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

Arnold Weissberg wrote the pamphlet when he was a correspondent for the Nicaragua Bureau of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. Published by Pathfinder Press, the pamphlet sold out quickly and has been out of print.

The new edition, with a brief 1987 preface, will appear under the title *Nicaragua: An Introduction to the Sandinista Revolution — The Opening Years*.

Expanding sales to more workers in Ohio plants

**BY NED MEASEL
AND MOHAMMED OLIVER**
CLEVELAND — During the past year supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* here have carried out regular sales at several plant gates. We've been

with workers in industrial unions — whether or not any of us worked at the plants. LTV is the main basic-steel mill in the city. Plant-gate sales have been essential to our being able to have political discussions with

are an aid to discussions. *Militant* supporters are having there with coworkers on the shop floor and in their union. In addition to regular sales at these plants, we took advantage of special opportunities to meet industrial workers involved in struggles at other plants. The most recent example is our effort to get the socialist press into the hands of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union members at two meat-packing plants located some 70 miles from Cleveland, in Canton and Massillon, Ohio.

These meat-packers are locked in a battle with their employers, who are trying to bust their unions at the Superior Brand and Sugardale plants through a campaign involving massive layoffs and the shifting of production work to a nonunion plant. Teams of a couple of *Militant* and *PM* supporters have been selling anywhere from eight to 20 pa-

pers at plant-gate sales at these packinghouses, and it's clear that some workers have gotten to know and like the socialist publications. Recently, *Militant* supporters here discussed how to maintain and extend our plant-gate sales. Although we've managed to carry out various regular sales during the last year, participation in sales has fallen dramatically.

We decided to maintain sales at the LTV mill, the Chrysler stamping plant in Twinsburg, and the GE-45th Street plant. *Militant* supporters who work at Twinsburg and at the Bailey Controls plant suggested that we expand plant-gate sales to include the Ford Brookpark engine plant and the Chevy-Parma transmission plant. They felt such an expansion would help us broaden our discussions with UAW members and improve our knowledge and understanding of the auto industry in this area. We also decided to regularize

sales at the Sugardale meat-packing plant in Canton. Additionally, we plan to have consistent plant-gate sales at Dalton and Lion's knitting mills, two plants organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU).

Such an array of plant-gate sales will allow *Militant* supporters here to broaden our political discussions with members of the UAW, IUE, USWA, ILGWU, and UFCW.

Our discussions on how to organize this ambitious effort have just begun. It's clear now, however, that much leadership attention will have to be paid to this work. The active workers conference held in Chicago April 4 and 5 greatly aided our thinking in carrying out this work and inspired us to continue our campaign toward 100 percent participation of *Militant* supporters in regular plant-gate sales.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

selling the *Militant* and *PM* on a regular basis to members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) at LTV, members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) at the Chrysler stamping plant in Twinsburg, and to members of the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) at a General Electric plant.

We felt it was important to maintain these sales so that we could have political discussions

workers there, who are facing major attacks on their wages and working conditions.

In the Twinsburg stamping plant we've established a layer of *Militant* and *PM* readers, as shown by the fact that our weekly sales team sells anywhere from five to 15 papers at the Chrysler gate.

A number of *Militant* and *PM* supporters work at the GE-45th Street plant, where we've had regular sales. The GE plant-gate sales

Target week set in drive to win 8,500 new readers



Militant supporter discusses articles in paper with member of United Auto Workers Local 594 on picket duty in January during strike in Pontiac, Michigan.

BY JIM WHITE

Based on the response from supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* in over 50 cities, we have set a national goal of 8,500 subscriptions for our spring drive, which runs through June 6. We want to win 6,700 readers to the *Militant* and another 1,800 to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

We have also set the week leading up to, and including, the April 25 national anti-war, anti-apartheid marches in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., as a special target week. Supporters of the two papers in every city should begin planning now to make a maximum effort that week.

We will have big opportunities at planning meetings, building actions, send-off rallies, on the buses, at the marches, and on the way home to talk to thousands of activists about the papers. We want to organize to take advantage of every possible opportunity.

Next week, we will be able to provide more details about what will happen the day of the march on both coasts. However, now is the time to make plans and order special bundles for the week before the action. To order, call the *Militant* Business Office at (212) 929-3486.

The response to April 25 is a major

reason why we have already received some 1,200 subscriptions since the drive began. That's what Andrew Pulley reports. He is leading a special four-person team in the coalfields of southwestern Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and southeastern Ohio.

They sold 15 subscriptions in their first four days, despite what he describes as "rain, snow, and all-around miserable weather — the worst of the year."

Working in and around Indiana, Pennsylvania, the team sold nine copies of the *Militant* at two mine portals, 20 single issues and two subscriptions at a shopping mall, and sold other subscriptions door to door.

At Indiana University of Pennsylvania, team member Mark Weddleton presented a slideshow on his recent trip to Nicaragua. Thirty-five students attended, and several stayed after for a meeting of the Young Socialist Alliance. The YSA is working with others on campus to get the maximum number of people to the march in Washington on April 25.

Pulley's team will be on the road in West Virginia and Ohio for another week. Meanwhile, three more teams are now out in southern West Virginia, Iowa, and Nebraska. We'll hear from them next week.

In other areas of the country, supporters of the *Militant* are making plans to get out beyond their cities. In Dallas, members of the Young Socialist Alliance decided to take responsibility for a portion of the overall goal there. They report they will be organizing regional teams to Lubbock, Texas, and Shreveport, Louisiana. In both places young people are helping organize campus events and plant-gate sales.

If you are interested in helping us win 8,500 readers this spring and you live in one of the cities listed on the scoreboard, you can get involved by calling the number of the city nearest you listed in the directory on page 12. If not, send in the coupon below, and we will rush you a bundle of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* in time for our target week.

☐ I would like to order a bundle of _____ *Militants* and _____ *PMs*.
☐ I would like to take a subscription goal of _____ *Militants* and _____ *PMs*.
Name _____
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Mail to: *Militant* Business Office, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Or phone: (212) 929-3486.

**Subscribe
to the Militant**

Spring Subscription Scoreboard

Area	Goals		Sold		% Sold
	<i>Militant</i>	<i>Perspectiva Mundial</i>	<i>Militant</i>	<i>Perspectiva Mundial</i>	
Stony Brook, N.Y.	10	—	4	—	40
Phoenix	80	80	27	31	36
Toledo, Ohio	100	5	34	2	34
Amherst, Mass.	10	0	2	1	30
Denver	100	15	30	4	30
Detroit	190	20	57	4	29
Baltimore	130	8	27	10	27
Austin, Minn.	80	10	21	1	24
Milwaukee	100	25	25	5	24
Atlanta	110	10	26	2	23
Pittsburgh	90	10	18	5	23
San Diego	85	55	23	8	22
Chicago	225	75	42	22	21
Miami	110	40	28	4	21
New York	500	250	105	48	20
Los Angeles	250	200	54	37	20
Des Moines, Iowa	100	10	18	4	20
Boston	240	60	40	16	19
Twin Cities, Minn.	200	15	35	2	17
Charleston, W.Va.	130	0	21	1	17
Capital Dist., N.Y.	110	12	16	2	15
Dallas	120	60	23	3	14
Philadelphia	150	50	19	9	14
Omaha, Neb.	100	15	13	2	13
Oakland, Calif.	150	50	20	6	13
Newark, N.J.	375	175	53	16	13
Annandale, N.Y.	70	10	10	0	13
Salt Lake City	100	30	13	3	12
Morgantown, W.Va.	75	5	8	1	11
Kansas City	120	20	14	1	11
San Francisco	100	60	6	11	11
St. Louis	250	12	24	3	10
Columbus, Ohio	25	5	1	2	10
New Orleans	90	10	10	0	10
Seattle	180	50	19	2	9
Greensboro, N.C.	115	10	9	2	9
Washington, D.C.	160	50	12	3	7
Cleveland	125	15	9	0	6
San Jose, Calif.	180	100	13	4	6
Portland, Ore.	125	25	6	1	5
Birmingham, Ala.	130	2	6	0	5
Ames, Iowa	5	—	0	—	0
Athens, Ohio	8	—	0	—	0
Clovis, Calif.	5	—	0	—	0
Edmond, Okla.	5	—	0	—	0
Honolulu, Hawaii	15	—	0	—	0
Lawrence, Kan.	20	—	0	—	0
Oberlin, Ohio	5	—	0	—	0
Price, Utah	45	2	0	0	0
Tucson, Ariz.	2	3	0	0	0
West Haven, Conn.	5	—	0	—	0
W. Palm Beach, Fla.	5	—	0	—	0
Cincinnati	*	*	11	2	—
Houston	*	*	22	3	—
Louisville, Ky.	*	*	7	2	—
Norfolk, Va.	*	*	7	0	—
Teams	—	—	14	1	—
Other	—	—	36	26	—
Totals	6,700	1,800	1,038	312	16
To be on schedule			1,045	281	16

*Goal not yet set.

Some untold facts in the Bumpurs killing

Interview with a key witness against N.Y. cop who shot elderly Black woman

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — A lot of people in this city are convinced it was a mockery of justice when the cop who killed Eleanor Bumpurs was let off. One of those who thinks so is Dr. Harold Osborne, a physician who was a key witness for the prosecution in the case.

Dr. Osborne was in charge of the emergency room at Lincoln Hospital the day Bumpurs was brought in, Oct. 29, 1984.

The 66-year-old Black woman had been shot when a team of cops broke into her city project apartment to evict her for owing rent. On Feb. 26, 1987, after a non-jury trial, a judge acquitted Stephen Sullivan, the cop who shot her.

A specialist in emergency medicine, Osborne is currently in charge of emergency service at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens. At the time of the Bumpurs slaying, he was director of the residency training program in emergency medicine at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx.

In a *Militant* interview, Osborne discussed the case.

He recalled the day Bumpurs was brought in. "We got a phone call to stand by, that they were bringing in a 66-year-old woman with a shotgun wound. I remember thinking, why would anyone want to shoot a 66-year-old woman with a shotgun?"

He added, "She was essentially dead on arrival."

"She had no signs of life — no pulse, no heartbeat, no blood pressure. Her breathing had stopped."

"But we didn't pronounce her [dead] at that time, and I took responsibility for that. We spent the next 45 minutes in a desperate but futile attempt to save her."

This was done, he explained, because her wounds had been recently inflicted and because the team that brought her in said she had recently shown signs of life.

In the hospital an important fact of the case emerged. Although it was only 26 blocks from Bumpurs' apartment to the hospital, it took almost an hour to get her there.

And, Osborne added, the ambulance was already on the scene when she was shot, automatically dispatched when the

police went in.

"The wounds were potentially survivable," Osborne emphasized. "But given the delay and blood loss, there was no way she could survive."

Osborne soon learned why the costly delay occurred.

"One of the ambulance emergency team came to me and said that when they went into the apartment she was lying on the floor groaning, obviously alive. She had blood pressure, a pulse."

"They asked the police officers to help them bring her out — she weighed 273 pounds."

"But they refused to help."

He angrily added, "This was a grievously wounded person, and still they didn't move to help her."

"I was very upset when they told me that," Osborne continued. "I told them to speak to the DA about it, and they did."

"But he chose not to make an issue of it," Osborne continued. "It never came up at the trial. To this day, most people don't know about it."

Discussing the immediate aftermath of the shooting, Osborne recalled that Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward had initially given misleading information about the two shots Sullivan had fired at Bumpurs, who was holding a kitchen knife.

Ward had asserted Sullivan had fired a second time because his first shot had missed.

But Dr. John Pearl, the city medical examiner who did the autopsy on Bumpurs, carefully counted the shotgun pellets and exit wounds. By doing this, Osborne said, he proved conclusively two shots had been fired.

Osborne's own examination had established, he testified in court, that the first shot ripped off two of her fingers and part of a third, making it anatomically impossible for her to continue holding the knife.

Gross tries to change report

When Pearl found she had been hit by both shots, Osborne said, the city's chief medical examiner, Dr. Elliott Gross, tried to get Pearl to change his report, which he refused to do.

Osborne's assertion that Gross tried to get Pearl to change his report is particularly relevant in that Gross is currently facing investigation for medical misconduct relating to autopsies performed on people who died in police custody or soon after.

Discussing the trial of Officer Sullivan, Osborne said it was apparent from the out-

set that the assistant district attorney assigned to the case was not bent on winning.

He pointed to specific things including a failure to prepare witnesses adequately and not bothering to bring in even one expert witness when the defense had five.

But, Osborne stressed, the main point is, "He essentially surrendered the case when he conceded the first shot fired at Mrs. Bumpurs was justified."

"Here you have five armed cops going into this apartment, knowing she was standing there with a knife, knowing she was deranged," Osborne said. "They could have left her alone. She wasn't threatening anyone, she wasn't a danger to anyone at that point. But, no. They broke down the door and entered the apartment."

"I would have questioned that first shot," he said. "I would have questioned the whole way they handled the case from the start."

Beginning, he said, with the outrageous decision to evict her for being behind in her rent.

(It even turns out it was but one month's rent, not the four months generally reported.)

'Everyone did their part'

Did he think there was a cover-up in the case?

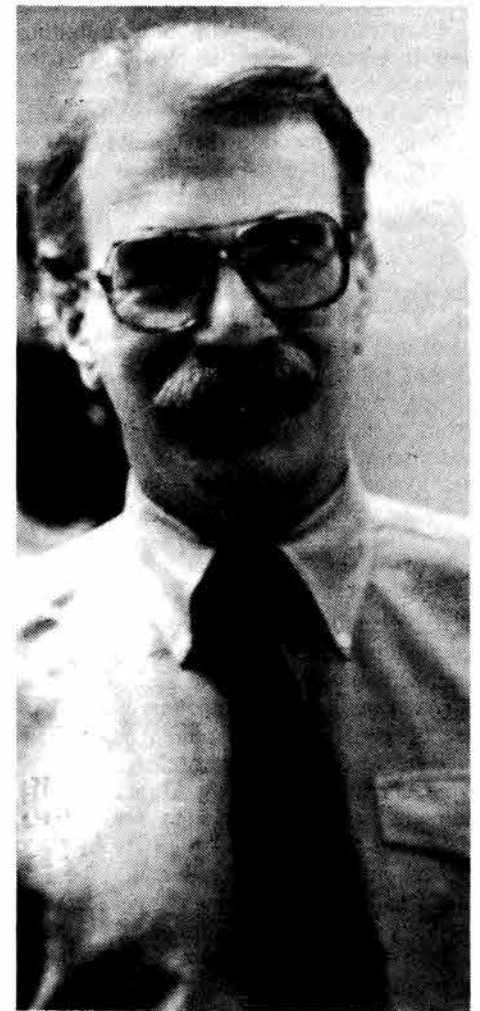
"I'm not really persuaded there was a conscious cover-up," he said. "Everybody sort of did their part. And, effectively, it was a cover-up because all parts of the system functioned harmoniously. . . . The hospital authorities didn't really want me to get involved. . . . Commissioner Ward sort of made the best scenario possible for the officer. . . . Elliott Gross encouraged the medical examiner to falsify his report. . . . Nobody told the assistant DA to throw the case, or not to try hard, but clearly he didn't get a message that it mattered that much. . . ."

"Everyone sort of did their job. I don't think anyone necessarily coordinated the cover-up."

Despite the outcome, Osborne feels it was good the Bumpurs case went to trial. If only by increasing public awareness, he said, such trials have a deterrent effect.

"I believe the reaction to Howard Beach wouldn't have been as strong and positive, and resulted in a special prosecutor, if it hadn't been for the Stewart case and the Bumpurs case," he said. Michael Stewart was a Black youth clubbed to death by transit cops.

One of the things Osborne learned from



Militant/Harry Ring
Dr. Harold Osborne, in charge of emergency room at hospital the day Bumpurs was brought in.

his experience is the amount of pressure that comes down on those who find themselves involved in such a case and take a stand.

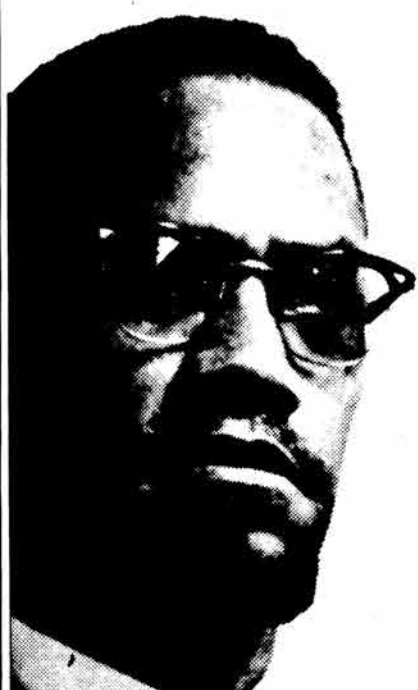
It's important, he stressed for others to support those who do come forward. "By support," he said, "I mean phone calls, letters, petitions, showing up regularly at the trial."

"And generally," he added, "people must come forward and participate. Minority people can't continue to be both the victims of the violence, and the ones who carry on the struggle against it. I think white people have to come forward and make this their cause as well."

Does he have any second thoughts about what he did?

"None whatever."

By Malcolm X



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U.S. lies about Cuba's AIDS fight

BY HARRY RING

"Radio Martí," which beams U.S. propaganda into Cuba, is trying to create an AIDS scare in that country. Without a shred of evidence, it claims that the Cuban government is covering up a massive spread of the deadly illness.

Cuba has reported one death so far from AIDS.

Operated by the U.S. Information Agency and employing Cuban exiles, "Radio Martí" aims to undermine Cuba's revolutionary government. As the AIDS smear illustrates, no tactic is too despicable for them.

According to the March 22 *Washington Post*, "Radio Martí" began broadcasting an "exhaustive" AIDS series in January 1986.

The station argues AIDS is being brought home by members of the Cuban armed forces serving in Angola and other African countries.

Proof? They point to the fact that Cuba is taking extensive measures to thwart the development of AIDS. This, they say, is evidence that the government is secretly struggling with a massive AIDS problem.

With that argument, they could just as easily claim Cuba is covering up a massive polio problem because it has an ongoing, islandwide vaccination program. By doing so, it has eliminated polio.

To bolster its claim, the station's manager, Ernesto Betancourt, told the *Post* that "Radio Martí has interviewed 73 people in

the last two years who came from Cuba and mentioned what they thought were AIDS cases there."

He cited one émigré doctor who said he saw "four, five, maybe six people" in 1978 and 1979 with what are now recognized as AIDS symptoms.

This was responded to by officials of the Pan American Health Organization. PAHO is the regional affiliate of the United Nations World Health Organization.

"I'd like to see the data. Otherwise it's just an opinion," said Dr. Ronald St. John, PAHO's AIDS control program director.

"There is no indication Cuba is under-reporting," the doctor said.

According to the health organization, Cuban soldiers returning from Africa are quarantined for 45 days, and a major blood donation campaign in Cuba has made it possible to send enough blood to Africa that Cuban soldiers can avoid using local blood banks.

Articles from the Cuban press appearing in the English-language *Granma Weekly Review* report some of the measures being taken within Cuba to cope with AIDS.

One detailed account appeared in the May 11, 1986, issue.

It said that in response to the international spread of the disease, Cuba set up a special commission in 1983 to deal with the problem.

Its members include specialists in immunology and other relevant fields, as well

as blood bank and pharmaceutical personnel.

Since 1983, no blood derivatives have been imported into Cuba. Within the country, all blood donations are screened to ensure the illness will not be transmitted that way.

A hospital network reports to the commission any case of Kaposi's sarcoma, a skin cancer often associated with AIDS. Unexplained cases of immune deficiency are also reported.

The supplies necessary for diagnosing the presence of AIDS antibodies, which indicate the person could develop AIDS, have been acquired and are in use.

An educational program has been developed, aimed particularly at those who travel, work, or study in countries where AIDS is believed to exist.

The report said tests revealed people who tested positive for the presence of antibodies to the AIDS virus, "but none of them had shown clinical symptoms of the disease," apart from the one person who died.

The August 3 *Granma Weekly Review* carried a detailed question-and-answer article on how AIDS is and is not transmitted. A few weeks later it featured a similar article on AIDS and children.

Commenting on Cuba's program for dealing with AIDS, Dr. St. John, the PAHO AIDS control program director, said it was "damn smart. . . . It should be standard procedure."

Secret affidavit: a gov't frame-up that failed

BY FRED FELDMAN

Are the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance threats to national security? If lawyers for the U.S. Justice Department in a court battle unfolding now in a federal court in New York City are to be believed, the answer is yes.

This is the core of their argument against a proposed injunction that would bar the government from using millions of files obtained in decades of illegal spying on the SWP and YSA.

The battle for an injunction stems from the victory won last August by the SWP and YSA in their suit against the government and its spy agencies. Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that the decades-long FBI campaign of spying and disruption against these organizations had been illegal and unconstitutional, and that they were entitled to money damages. He agreed to consider the scope of an injunction barring the use of the illegally obtained files.

'Self-preservation at risk'

In a memorandum to Griesa opposing an injunction, government attorneys suggest that the threat posed by the SWP and YSA is so serious that an injunction against the use of the files would put "the Nation's vital interest of self-preservation at risk."

Affidavits submitted by officials of government agencies sought to bolster this claim. All strike a single chord: the defense of "national security" requires that the political and other activities of members of the SWP and YSA, and of those associated with them, must be subjected to thorough government surveillance.

The government's claim that the SWP must be spied on and harassed because it threatens "national security" has been repeatedly exposed as a fraud. The assertion was discredited by the exposure of a 40-year FBI campaign of surveillance and disruption that had failed to turn up evidence of a single illegal act committed or contemplated by the socialists.

It was discredited again in the New York courtroom when the SWP and YSA suit against government spy agencies went to trial in 1981. Then government attorneys desperately and unsuccessfully tried to trump up proof of SWP and YSA crimes in order to justify those of the FBI.

The government's defense team in the 1981 trial promised Judge Griesa that it would show "loads of illegal acts" by the SWP and YSA.

On Feb. 23, 1981, the government submitted an affidavit by FBI agent Charles Mandigo, which it said would detail crimes committed by the SWP and YSA. But the document proved to be a tissue of fabrications, errors, and unsupported innuendos about alleged acts which, as Mandigo vaguely stated "have or may have" been illegal. The SWP and YSA lawyers had no



FBI agent Charles Mandigo on stand in 1981 trial of suit brought by Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against government police agencies. Mandigo's claims about SWP and YSA "illegal acts" were demolished in courtroom.

difficulty in shredding the Mandigo affidavit's arguments in open court.

This outcome added to the growing body of evidence that the socialists had committed no crime, except for advocating ideas that the FBI would like to unconstitutionally suppress.

Secret affidavit

The government lawyers now played what they hoped might be a trump card. Unable to come up with evidence that could stand the light of day, they announced they had evidence of crimes but that the proof was a "state secret." Revealing it in open court would expose the "source" and thus endanger "national security."

They offered to provide Griesa with an affidavit containing the evidence, providing that he alone read it. The socialists and their lawyers were to be barred from seeing it, much less responding to it.

This was a totalitarian frame-up technique. Under totalitarian regimes, one can be accused, tried, convicted, and sentenced without ever knowing what one is supposed to have done or what the evidence was.

Such proceedings are barred by the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which guarantees accused persons the right to "be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation" and "to be confronted with the witnesses against him."

Judge Griesa's initial response was to refuse to read the affidavit. He agreed to do

so, however, upon the urging of the SWP and YSA lawyers. The socialists counted on their thorough and frank testimony about their views and activities to puncture claims made by the affidavit, even though the socialists were barred from knowing what they were.

Judge Griesa read the affidavit. And nothing more was heard of it.

In August 1986 he issued his decision. It includes not one word on the government's prize exhibit.

But Griesa did reach conclusions about the totality of the evidence presented at the trial.

"The FBI conducted an intensive investigation of the SWP for over 30 years," he

declared. "There was not one single prosecution of any member of the SWP or YSA for any terrorist or revolutionary act of any kind. No evidence was introduced at the trial that any SWP or YSA member ever carried on such activities...."

"In the case of the SWP... there is no evidence that any FBI informant ever reported an instance of planned or actual espionage, violence, terrorism, or efforts to subvert the governmental structure of the United States. Over the course of approximately 30 years, there is no indication that any informant ever observed any violation of federal law or gave information leading to a single arrest for a federal law violation...."

"The FBI had accumulated evidence of a variety of lawful political pursuits by the SWP, but no evidence of sabotage or violence or anything else of that nature.... These disruption activities were directed at the kind of political activities that the SWP had a constitutional right to carry out."

These were Griesa's findings, after reading all the evidence, including the secret affidavit, submitted by government attorneys to show the criminal nature of the SWP and YSA.

The 'national security' lie

The fact is that the secret affidavit contained no evidence of crimes at all. In this it was like the Mandigo affidavit and the mountains of FBI "state secrets" that had already been forced into the open before and during the trial. In fact, the secret affidavit was further evidence of the government's use of frame-up techniques to portray the exercise of basic constitutional rights as a threat to "national security."

The trial showed that government surveillance operations, including the use of FBI files against government employees and others, has nothing to do with protecting "national security." And everything to do with harassing union activists and silencing opponents of unjust wars and other reactionary government policies.

Suit against FBI gains backing

Continued from front page

\$50 toward the \$90,000 fund drive. Another gave \$5."

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1105, which organizes 8,000 retail clerks and other workers in the Seattle area, endorsed the PRDF. So did International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 37.

Bill Cate, head of the Greater Seattle Church Council, and Tomas Villanueva, recently reelected president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State, are

new sponsors. The UFWWS is now involved in a strike against wage cuts demanded by Pyramid Orchards in Yakima Valley. Another new endorser is Bob Barnes, who chairs the Seattle Labor Committee on Central America.

Interest in the fight against government spying was heightened in the Seattle area by the revelation that the FBI was keeping a file on Catholic Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen. Hunthausen was targeted for surveillance because of his participation in protests against nuclear weapons.

The national office of the PRDF is mailing a letter to more than 8,000 people describing the current stage of the court fight. The letter from Executive Director John Studer appeals for support to the PRDF's campaign to win thousands of new endorsers and to raise \$90,000 by June 15 in order to finance and widely publicize this battle.

"The battle — which pits the Bill of Rights against the self-proclaimed 'right' of government police to target, spy on, and victimize political activists solely because of their ideas — will be decided by the concern and action of all supporters of democratic rights," declared Studer.

He points out that the position taken by the Justice Department, under the direction of Attorney General Edwin Meese, "puts special emphasis on the need to spy on unionists as justification for continued access to the FBI's illegally obtained files."

As Meese's lawyers present it, two categories of workers are targeted for intense surveillance. The first is made up of government employees and workers in plants that have Pentagon contracts. Undocumented and other supposedly "illegal" immigrants make up the second category.

"The stakes in this fight," writes Studer, "are high for unionists, opponents of government policy in Central America and southern Africa, Black and women's rights fighters, farmer activists, and all supporters of political rights. At issue is whether their ideas or activities can make them targets of similar government spying and disruption."

Join the fight for democratic rights . . .

Help the Political Rights Defense Fund protect the Bill of Rights. Support the suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against government spying.

- **Contribute to the \$90,000 fund**
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☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:
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☐ Send me _____ copies of the federal judge's decision against FBI spying and harassment (\$1 each).

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Organization _____

Signature _____

Send to: Political Rights Defense Fund, P.O. Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003

How Filipinos celebrated the anniversary of Marcos' downfall



Militant/Russell Johnson

Crowd gathers in front of Camp Aguinaldo, Manila, in reenactment of the events of Feb. 16-25, 1986, when millions mobilized in action here that brought down dictatorship.

BY SAM MANUEL
AND RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — One and a half million people gathered on the Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (or the Edsa, as it is more commonly known) here February 25 to celebrate the first anniversary of the fall of the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. On that date last year, Marcos, along with many of his top business and military cronies fled the country aboard a U.S. Air Force jet. He is now living in Hawaii.

Marcos had ruled the Philippines, with U.S. government backing, for more than 19 years, 14 of them through the imposition of martial law. Under this tyranny the conditions of the working people grew increasingly intolerable, as the landlords and multinationals employed the military and private armed goons to drive the peasants off the land and break up workers' efforts to establish their own unions.

More and more of the land was converted into plantations growing export crops such as sugar cane, coconuts, pineapples, palm oil, and bananas, reducing a majority of the peasants to landless laborers. Export processing zones were established where big foreign corporations could hire displaced peasants for starvation wages that were lower than anywhere else in Southeast Asia.

By the end of the Marcos era, a majority of Filipinos were unemployed or chronically underemployed. Malnutrition was widespread, especially in the countryside.

Marcos was a staunch ally of U.S. imperialism in the region. He allowed Washington to maintain giant military bases in the Philippines, and sent Filipino soldiers to fight with U.S. forces in Vietnam.

Opposition of millions

Popular hatred of Marcos exploded into an opposition movement of millions after the dictator had his main political rival, former senator Benigno Aquino, gunned down at Manila International Airport in August 1983.

Under the pressure of mounting protests, Marcos was forced to make the concession of calling a presidential election. The election became the focus of the anti-dictatorship movement when Aquino's widow, Corazon, decided to contest it. Nevertheless, Marcos had himself declared the winner in the Feb. 7, 1986, voting, which was marked by widespread fraud and violence.

But millions refused to let Marcos steal the election. On February 16, some 2 million people rallied here in the capital to protest the fraud and demand that the dictator step down. Sensing the end of the regime, a group of soldiers led by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and then Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos defected from Marcos.

The regime attempted to send tanks and marines to retake camps Aguinaldo and Crame where the "rebel soldiers" took refuge. They were blocked by a human barricade of millions who gathered along the Edsa in front of the camps.

The split in the armed forces continued to deepen, further isolating the dictator. On February 25 Corazon Aquino declared herself president of the Philippines, and Marcos fled.

This year's Edsa celebration was to be a reenactment of the events leading to the fall

of Marcos. The festivities began with a march of soldiers from Camp Aguinaldo led by now armed forces Chief of Staff Ramos, symbolizing his and Enrile's break from Marcos.

Ramos was met at Camp Crame by a contingent of civilians led by Agapito "Butz" Aquino, the brother of Benigno and a former film star turned politician. Air Force Chief Maj. Gen. Antonio Sotelo led the landing of five helicopter gunships at Crame, reenacting his defection last February.

As the throng proceeded to the main assembly area other helicopters dropped yellow confetti from the air. Yellow ribbons and clothing became the symbol of the opposition forces that coalesced around Corazon Aquino.

Enrile's absence

Enrile was invited to participate in the celebration but chose not to. He had been removed as defense minister in the Aquino government last November after officers close to him were linked to several attempts to overthrow Aquino, and in the wake of massive protests over the torture and murder of trade union leader Rolando Olalia.

Concerning his absence, Enrile told the *Manila Chronicle*, "What anniversary? Our anniversary was on February 22. That was the day we started the revolt. We celebrated on that day." He added, "I have no bitterness, resentment or ill feeling towards anyone including the former President Marcos."

A pitiful gathering of a few hundred Marcos supporters here also marked what they called "a day of mourning and celebration." One of the organizers of the rally, Rafael Herrera, explained, "February 25 is a day of mourning because it was the day Marcos was taken to Hawaii, and also of celebration because it was the day we proclaimed him as our president."

The government had been preparing the Edsa celebration for months with advertisements appearing on television and radio and in the newspapers. During the final buildup to February 25, nightly programs came on television. These included video footage and commentary on the February revolt, as well as talk shows featuring members of the government. Aquino and Ramos reminisced on their personal roles in Marcos' ouster.

For the day itself big name international singers, like Peter, Paul, and Mary, were flown from the United States to the Philippines to join Filipino artists at Edsa in celebrating the "peaceful revolution." Japanese firms donated the wherewithal for a huge fireworks display.

The atmosphere was certainly festive when we joined the huge crowd gathered outside Camp Crame that afternoon. Yellow ribbons and T-shirts were everywhere, many inscribed with "Yes for Cory," referring to the February 2 plebiscite on the new constitution and the continuation of the presidency. The soldiers were festive too. Some had yellow ribbons tied to the ArmaLite rifles or stout clubs they were holding.

'New' Armed Forces of the Philippines

Some of the more expensively dressed rallyists were handing out food packages to

the soldiers symbolizing the way the population of Manila fed the military rebels inside Crame last February. But this also symbolized a central aspect of the anniversary celebrations that was being promoted by the government, which was to glamorize and broaden support for the re-named "New" Armed Forces of the Philippines. The military is widely hated by the Philippine people because of its role as butchers of workers and peasants.

The massive turnout for the rally also served to drive home to anti-Aquino factions within the military that the mainstream of the landlord-capitalist rulers and their imperialist backers are determined to stabilize their rule behind Aquino's personal popularity.

This has become clearer as the Aquino regime has turned more sharply to the right in the last several months, dumping or silencing its more left-wing or liberal elements. The government has increasingly demonstrated its inability to offer more than platitudes in face of the mass poverty and superexploitation of the Filipino toilers.

Resisting agrarian reform

Above all, the government has resisted implementing any meaningful agrarian reform that would put the land in the hands of the tillers, the central demand of the vast majority of Filipinos. During her presidential election campaign, Aquino made this an issue. She even promised to set an example by distributing her own family's 15,000-acre estate in Central Luzon to landless peasants.

In the same manner she has reneged on her 1986 May Day promises to raise workers' wages and codify basic labor rights.

This was reflected in the theatrics of the Edsa celebration. The speeches of the keynote government speakers were all equally empty. Many references were made to the "miracle" of Marcos' overthrow. Vice-president Salvador Laurel, for example, attributed it to the convergence of "people power" with "divine power."

Adding a warning note, the liberal *Manila Chronicle* editorialized the following day: "Yesterday's manifestation at Edsa was both a celebration and a rewriting of history. . . . It was a combination of bread and circuses, another triumph of a testimonial to President Aquino's personal magnetism. . . . But it was also an occasion for a mass escape back to a mystical, romantic, not too distant past — an escape from the reality that somehow, after the triumph of the revolution, life is not much better than it was before February last year. . . ."

"But Mrs. Aquino might be misinterpreting People Power if she and her supporters — especially those who hold great faith in miracles — believe that its aspirations will be fulfilled by an endless chain of Divine Intervention. . . ."

"Never in the history of this country has there been a mass mobilization of people towards political participation as in Edsa last year, and this mobilization still has a momentum."

General Ramos issued his own warning in a speech to Manila Rotarians February

26. He criticized what he called an "illusion" held by some sections of the government that President Aquino's popularity alone could turn back the deepening struggles of the workers and peasants. Ramos called for stepped-up military action against "the insurgency," combined with "a well-publicized action" that would make government promises of social reform "appear sufficiently attractive and attainable."

Warning that military action would be "expensive in terms of lives and logistics," and "would inconvenience" the civilian population, he called on the government to be prepared to pay the price for cutting "the communists" off from their mass base.

In fact, given the inability of the Aquino government to implement meaningful social reforms, it has already had to increasingly rely on the army and private landlord militias from the Marcos era to confront the expanding struggles of workers and peasants, and at least tacitly endorse the course being implemented by the military high command.

Massacres

On January 22 Aquino's soldiers gunned down farmers marching on the presidential palace demanding land reform, killing 19 and wounding hundreds on the Mendiola Bridge. On January 31 dozens of workers were hurt and two killed when the military shot up a mass union picket in the Bataan Export Processing Zone.

One of the most brutal incidents occurred on February 10 of this year in the municipality of Lupao. Seventeen peasants were herded together and mowed down with automatic weapons by soldiers after one of their officers was killed in an encounter with New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas nearby. The youngest victim was two years old, the oldest, 82.

Even as Aquino spoke to the huge crowd at the Edsa celebration, her soldiers were attempting to massacre farmers from Dumalneg in the province of Ilocos Norte. The March 2 *Malaya* quoted survivors explaining that they were dragged by soldiers to freshly dug graves along a river bank and thrown in. Some managed to escape when the soldiers were momentarily distracted, but at least two were confirmed slain and seven others missing. The victims were Ypayao tribespeople living near a town where NPA guerrillas had conducted a successful raid on the military four days previously.

As we walked down the Edsa a group of young women were handing out a leaflet signed by several religious organizations. It said, "Our tears have not stopped flowing from the tragedy of the Mendiola massacre last January 22. . . . It is now a month since then and again, there are more widows, orphans, and heartbroken Filipinos as a result of the wanton killing at the Bataan Export Processing Zone; San Simon, Pampanga; and Lupao, Nueva Ecija. . . ."

"We urge the Cory Aquino government to take responsibility for the speedy administration of justice — not to rely on probe body after probe body — for we believe that 'Justice delayed is justice denied.'"

So far such appeals have fallen on deaf ears. To date not a single military perpetrator of these crimes has been prosecuted by the Aquino regime.

'We must protest the war in Central America'

Speech by leader of National Union of Mineworkers of Britain

Following is the speech given by Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) of Great Britain, to the Labour Movement Conference on Peace, Self-Determination, and Reconstruction in Central America. The conference, sponsored by the British Labour Party and various unions, was held February 28 in London.

It is a great privilege for me — on behalf of the National Union of Mineworkers — to share a platform with the representatives of the working-class organizations of El Salvador and Nicaragua, whose contributions you have heard this morning.

I say "a privilege" because we in the NUM hold in the highest regard the sacrifices and achievements of the workers' movement in Central America. To those throughout the world involved in the struggle to better the conditions of working people — the fight for social justice and for peace, and for the achievement of socialism and the right to determine their own destiny — the struggle of the workers' movement of Central America is truly an inspiration.

In El Salvador, in spite of the most bloody repression, the workers' movement has displayed the most remarkable bravery and selflessness in organizing resistance to the exploitation and oppression that the Salvadoran people face. In a country where trade union activity and attempts to defend the interests of the working class are criminalized and met with kidnappings, torture, or murder at the hands of the death squads, the workers' movement is unbroken and continuing its struggle against poverty and the subjugation their country faces.

Shining example

In Nicaragua the situation is even more remarkable, providing perhaps the most shining example in the world today of what an organized, unified, and confident working class can achieve.

Armed with the slogan, "No sellout, no surrender," and a leadership to match, the working class and the Nicaraguan people have thrown off the Somoza dictatorship and advanced against the most ruthless imperialist force on earth to open the door to a socialist future.

The Sandinista revolution — in spite of everything that has been thrown at it — has kept the needs and aspirations of the working people in Nicaragua on its daily

agenda: for democracy, for health care, for education, for workers' rights, and for women's rights. Indeed, the Nicaraguan revolution to date has turned around the aims of this conference, for self-determination, for reconstruction, and for peace.

Only those bent on exploitation, destruction, and war can oppose it. Those who do are being exposed — by the contragate crisis that is now racking Washington — as liars, charlatans, and hypocrites who, in the name of democracy, have illegally funded mercenary bands to unleash terror on Nicaraguan citizens.

The corruption and double-dealing which has lain behind Reagan's "freedom crusade" is now being more widely exposed as it flounders. For those who remember Cuba, Vietnam, Grenada, Libya, and countless other interventions, this is true to form as the treatment meted out to people trying to liberate themselves.

That treatment, of bombs, covert wars, or economic strangulation is now being meted out in Central America — all in the name of freedom and democracy. And yet South Africa has never received it — the most undemocratic country in the world. Pinochet's dictatorship in Chile has never received it. Marcos' government in the Philippines and Duvalier's in Haiti never received it. Nor, for that matter, did the Somoza dictatorship. Instead, the United States, with Britain, has propagated this network of brutality.

Now, the "blood money" financing the contra mercenaries contrives to show who the real international terrorists are. Not workers fighting for their rights, or peoples for their liberation, but those who exploit and who will go to any lengths to save their freedom to exploit. But in spite of the war against them, and a tremendous cost to themselves, the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador have not submitted.

Confident of victory

Like the people of Vietnam, to whose example they often refer, they are confident of their victory, providing they can rely on the support of their allies around the world. It is organizing that support that is the work of this conference today.

It is a job which in Britain involves special responsibilities because of the role played by the Thatcher government in preserving Reagan from political isolation internationally by offering Britain's moral and material support.

When they hear that Britain regularly vetoes EEC [European Economic Commu-

nity] aid to Nicaragua and trains Salvadoran officers, the people of Central America could be forgiven for believing that the British people were in support of the war against them. It is precisely for that reason that we must protest against the war in Central America and provide support to the liberation and workers' movements so that they know that we stand firm with them.

Just as Thatcher, on behalf of the British ruling class, backs Reagan, we have to recognize that an attack on the Nicaraguan and El Salvadoran people is also an attack on us, because we are also determined to defend the interests of the working class.

In the NUM we have good reason to appreciate the meaning of the idea of solidarity. Throughout our strike of 1984-85 our union was sustained by the efforts of contributions of other workers, here in Britain and throughout the world, in moral and material terms, who understood that that strike was their struggle too. We are equally well suited to comment on the consequences when that solidarity is *not* forthcoming, and how it weakens the advancement of the working class.

The support we received internationally for our strike was unprecedented and magnificent, and I can say that the message of support we received from the Nicaraguan miners was one of the most cherished we received.

As a union committed to workers' internationalism and to socialism, the NUM is an affiliate of the El Salvador and Nicaraguan solidarity campaigns and has made donations to the Nicaraguan medical aid campaigns and the "container appeals" for Nicaragua — as well as responding to requests for donations to the earthquake appeal in El Salvador. It has also provided assistance to the Nicaraguan miners at the El Limón gold mine in terms of material aid and safety expertise.

Central America delegations

We have raised the issue of Nicaragua in our press and met with many delegations from Central America, most recently with representatives of the FENASTRAS trade union federation of El Salvador, who consequently had a successful fund-raising tour of the Yorkshire coalfield. And hopefully the links that have been established there will be lasting ones. NUM members have also traveled on delegations to Central America. I would encourage all unions here present to consider taking similar action.

The NUM welcomes the comments in support of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua made by Neil Kinnock at the last Labour Party conference and looks forward to the fruition of those comments in terms of Labour Party policy in action, in or out of power.

The NUM has also raised the issue of Central America in the international arena.

Oakland: socialist candidate urges big turnout for antiwar protest

BY MARY LOU MONTAUK

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Socialist Workers candidate for Oakland City Council told supporters at a recent campaign rally here that building the April 25 antiwar demonstration in San Francisco was at the center of his campaign.

"The real measure of success of this campaign won't come on election day, April 21. More important to my campaign is turning people out for the April 25 demonstration against the U.S. war in Central America," said Don Mackle.

Mackle is running for the at-large city council seat. He is a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, the Young Socialist Alliance, and the Socialist Workers Party.

Condemning the current city administration for funding center city development and local professional sports teams rather than the needs of city residents, Mackle called for full funding for fire protection for the city, housing for the homeless, medical care for those in need, and no



Peter Heathfield, National Union of Mineworkers general secretary.

At the last conference of the International Miners' Organization, which delegates representing over 60 mining and energy unions attended, solidarity with Nicaragua was stated to be one of our most important tasks.

Hopefully, in the workshops this afternoon at this conference, all the unions present, including the NUM, will be able to work out ways to step up the action around Central America and provide the kind of solidarity that our comrades fighting in the front line deserve.

Let us take this opportunity at this conference to send a message back to the working-class organizations in Central America to the effect that the British labour movement rejects Margaret Thatcher's approach and is working to support the people, not the invaders, of Central America. Let us go away from this conference even more determined to protest against intervention in Central America, and make it clear to Reagan and Thatcher, as they lead their assault on working-class people at home and abroad, that we are uniting to stop them.

And we immediately have an opportunity to make sure that message goes out loud and clear now — by emptying our pockets for the collection, the proceeds of which will go towards relief for the earthquake victims in El Salvador and support for the Nicaragua container projects.

The need for material assistance to both these appeals is desperate, and I'm sure comrades here today will give generously. Thank you.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? Pan-African film festival

"We Africans are fighting to save our culture," said Philippe Sawadogo, general secretary of the Organizing Committee for the Pan-African Film Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) in Burkina Faso. This 10th festival celebrated African culture and discussed the need for more films inspired by the realities of the African peoples.

Participants represented more than 40 African countries and liberation movements. Filmmakers also came from the Philippines, Peru, the United States, France, South Korea, Argentina, Cuba, and other countries. More than 300,000 people were estimated to have taken part in the week's events.

The April issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* features an on-the-scene report on FESPACO. It also covers the latest developments in the fight against FBI spying.

Perspectiva Mundial is the Spanish-language socialist magazine 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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Angolan writer talks about language and education

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Angolan writer Gabriela Antunes. She is the author of about a dozen children's books and is a member of the Angolan Writers' Union. She was interviewed by Nigerian journalist and filmmaker Tam Fiofori February 25, while attending the 10th Pan-African Film Festival of Ouagadougou, held in the West African country of Burkina Faso. Fiofori made this portion of the interview available to the *Militant*.

Fiofori. In Nigeria, we now have as many as 33 television stations. There's the feeling among people in education that Nigerian children are no longer fascinated by books, that they want to acquire knowledge visually, through television and so on. Do you have that problem in Angola?

Antunes. This doesn't happen in Angola. We are a rather big country, but with a small population, only 7 million people. Most of them are concentrated in the countryside, about 70 percent of the population.

There are only four provinces, with a total of about 2 million people who can have television at their disposal. But many of them don't have a television set. So the problem is not like in Europe, America, Japan, or, perhaps, Nigeria.

The problem that Africa faces is that the majority of the population is still illiterate. They did not learn to read and write when they were children. That's why in Angola the government and the official institutions, as well as the Pioneers [youth] organization, tries to open reading rooms or small libraries, in which adults go with their children to read them a story.

We have lots of schools. We have a large population, about 3 million people, who are at school. But there are problems. Teachers have been produced very quickly; they are not professional teachers.

In the countryside the children sometimes must walk 5 or 10 kilometers to go to school. And when it is harvesting time, the parents say they must stay at home to help in the fields.

We also have problems of lack of materials and so on.

Fifty percent of our budget goes to the defense of the country.

You know that we have a war, a war we don't want. Often we are invaded by South African troops, by air, sea, or land. In one of the provinces, Kunene in the south, they have established themselves. The capital of Kunene has disappeared, many villages have disappeared. There are only South African troops there, sometimes with people from UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

Fiofori. On the issue of language: There is a theory that it is better to teach children in their indigenous language, before you start teaching them in the "colonial language." Could you comment?

Antunes. In Angola, the official language of the schools is Portuguese. The children are asked in Portuguese, and must answer and speak it more or less correctly.

But in the countryside, children learn the national language of the region first. So when they enter school, they have some difficulties with Portuguese. Sometimes teachers who are from that region and know the language as well, must teach in the two languages at the same time.

In the towns, the problem is quite different. The first language of children is Portuguese. And the majority of the population in the towns, about 80 percent, speak Portuguese.

We have a national institute of languages. Lexicons, dictionaries, and grammars are being produced. But only six of the major language branches are being studied, because we have few experts, linguists. And of those who speak the other languages, many have a low educational level.

In these studies, we have gotten help from the United Nations and from some people from other African countries.

The party [the governing People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola], has decided that in the future some of the principal national languages must be taught at school. But we have not yet decided how.



Gabriela Antunes: "The problem that Africa faces is that the majority of the population is still illiterate."

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

U.S. offers Kuwait naval 'protection'

In a move that could bring U.S. warships within the Iran-Iraq war zone of the Persian Gulf, White House officials announced March 23 that they were offering U.S. naval escorts to Kuwaiti ships in the region.

In seeking to justify the offer, U.S. officials have cited the alleged threat to oil supply lines and other merchant traffic from Iranian missiles and aircraft.

This claim brought a skeptical response from an editorial in the March 26 *New York Times*: "But Administration officials acknowledge that the Iranian

planes and artillery radar, U.S. officials revealed April 1. But, they added, it has continued to provide the Iraqi regime with U.S. intelligence data on Iranian deployments in the Iran-Iraq war.

Such data has been valuable in helping the Iraqi military forces slow down the recent Iranian advances and prepare more effective counterattacks.

The information, obtained with U.S. spy satellites, "is accurate and pretty responsive to [Iraqi] needs," one U.S. official commented.

Turkish police block trade union march

Three thousand Turkish trade unionists attempted to march on the parliament buildings in Ankara March 24 to protest the military government's economic austerity policies. But they were blocked by large concentrations of police, who attacked some of the demonstrators.

It was the first march of that type since the 1980 military coup.

The unionists did manage to rally outside the headquarters of Turk Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation), the only legal labor federation in the country.

Turk Is President Sevkettin Yilmaz told the crowd, "We have shown the true face of the government, which has obstructed our right to protest and demonstrate." The workers shouted slogans calling for a general strike.

During the two previous weeks, some 90,000 workers had walked off their jobs in different sectors of the economy.

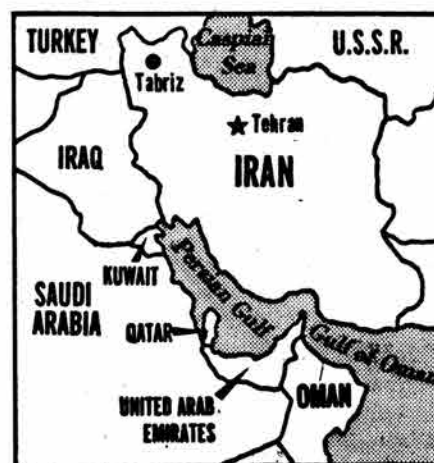
The military regime's austerity policies, in effect since 1980, have kept down the minimum wage at a time when the inflation rate has climbed to 50 percent. In addition, one out of every five Turkish workers is now unemployed.

Swiss poll limits political asylum

A referendum passed by Swiss voters April 5 approved proposals by the government to severely restrict the right of political refugees to enter the country and to obtain political asylum there.

Human rights groups, left-wing political parties, and other forces opposed to the measures charged that they were racist. Many of those seeking political asylum in Switzerland are from Zaire, Uganda, Sri Lanka, and Ethiopia.

The new measures give the government the power to indefinitely limit the admission of refugees and to intern those whose asylum applications have been rejected, pending deportation.



threat is slight, missiles notwithstanding. If anything, it is Iraq that wants to shut down Iranian shipping in the gulf, to strangle Teheran's oil-money line."

A U.S. State Department official hinted that other factors were involved in the decision. If the Kuwaiti government accepts U.S. naval escorts, he said, that would send a "signal" to other Arab governments in the region, at a time when they have expressed growing concern about a possible Iranian victory in the war with Iraq.

In a related move, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger on April 4 ordered the navy to increase its presence in the Persian Gulf. The aircraft carrier *Kitty Hawk* will be stationed there three months longer than planned, and a carrier battle group of six to eight warships will be operating in the region continuously, rather than part time, as now occurs.

A Pentagon spokesperson said this move was "in recognition of the Persian Gulf situation."

Iraq gets more U.S. spy data on Iran

Washington has turned down an Iraqi request for U.S.-built C-130 transport

Vanuatu emergency aid appeal

BY JOAN PHILLIPS

The New Zealand aid agency Corso has launched a special emergency appeal for Vanuatu in the wake of the devastation caused by Cyclone Uma.

The cyclone, which hit Vanuatu in early February, left 45 people dead and 15,000 homeless.

Port Vila, the capital, was declared a disaster area. More than 90 percent of the buildings in the town were severely damaged.

Millions of coconut trees were uprooted during the cyclone, and other crops were destroyed.

The cost of the damage is officially estimated to be \$280 million. Godwin Ligo, chairperson of the National Disaster Committee set up by the government of Vanuatu has stated that it may take the economy five years to fully recover.

The effects of the cyclone come on top of already existing economic problems.

Vanuatu won its independence from Britain and France in 1980. Seventy-five years of colonial rule had kept the country in a state of extreme economic backwardness and underdevelopment.

Despite this, it was able to take significant steps forward as a result of the economic policies implemented by the Vanuatu Party government, led by Prime Minister Walter Lini.

These included a major land reform and a program of economic diversification.

By 1985 Vanuatu had the fastest economic growth rate of any Pacific Island country.

In 1986, however, prices for copra and beef — Vanuatu's main exports — plum-

meted. The drop in the Australian dollar also meant significantly lower earnings from tourism.

The Lini government's foreign policy — particularly its defense of Vanuatu's right to be nonaligned and its support for independence struggles in the Pacific — has provoked a hostile response from imperialist powers in the region.

Both Britain and France have cut back their aid programs. Last October, France's secretary of state for the South Pacific, Gaston Flosse, warned that countries such as Vanuatu can't receive more money while they "are doing all they can to chase us out of the Pacific."

These economic problems have forced the Vanuatu government to take a number of measures to cut back spending.

The local currency was devalued by 14.1 percent in October last year. In December, Minister of Finance Kalpokor Kalsakau announced that the budget for 1987, taking the probable level of inflation into account, would be 10 percent smaller than the previous year's.

Cyclone Uma is the fourth cyclone to bring devastation to island countries in the South Pacific in the last two months. The Cook Islands, Fiji, the French territories of Wallis and Futuna, American Samoa, and the New Zealand-administered territory of Tokelau, have also been affected.

The New Zealand government has made a number of small cash grants in the wake of these cyclones. Both Vanuatu and Fiji, for example, were given \$100,000.

Considerably more than this is needed, however, to help these countries rebuild.

Loony tune dep't — "WASHINGTON — The Air Force is exploring the possibility of building several hundred small nuclear



Harry Ring

reactors that would generate electric power in a protracted nuclear war." — News item.

P.S. — In a protracted nuclear war, at least you wouldn't have to worry about whether those vest-

pocket reactors leak.

Probably some kind of communists — Three downtown store owners in Columbia, Missouri, refused to remove "Going Out of Business" signs from windows along Reagan's parade route there last month.

Pretty shrewd — The Pentagon asserts it suspects that the Soviet Union may deploy a laser weapon that could blind soldiers. One countermeasure being weighed, an expert confided, is to send soldiers into battle with a patch over one eye, so they'd be only half blinded.

Tough situation — The long-delayed federal regulation requiring toilet facilities for field hands is causing weeping and wailing — among farm employers. "It's really going to put a crimp in us," moaned a Georgia operator who uses 150 workers to harvest tomatoes and peppers. Sure, a portable toilet can rent for all of \$40 a month.

Ollie better check that out — "One of the things that's been wrong with too much of our education is that no kind of values of right and wrong are being taught in the education process." — President Reagan.

Checkout city — Business is

expected to more than double in the bar-code business. Now used to identify and price products, the thin black lines could also be used to identify people, a dealer notes. Like, on time cards, workplace ID badges, Social Security cards, and passports.

Forked again — The State Department decided some 75,000 pieces of silverware in its various embassies should be replaced. Half way through the project, the contract ran out and a new, presumably more costly one will have to be negotiated to insure matching knives and forks worldwide. The chap who organized the \$2.1 million deal was promoted to chief

purchasing agent.

Conversation piece — Neiman-Marcus has laid hands on some old-fashioned English telephone booths. Freshly repainted and 3 1/4 foot square, \$3,950. N-M suggests they'd be neat on the patio, or maybe as a changing room by the pool. Which sounds okay, but we were thinking of getting one for a spare bedroom.

Why they lost the revo — "Blini ... are heavy and served cold. ... The leg of lamb is dry ... the breast of duck ... is stringy." — From a review of the \$70 dinner at New York's St. Petersburg, a Russian eatery harking back to the pre-1917 days.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Is Racism on the Rise? Speaker: Greg Jackson, member of Young Socialist Alliance National Committee and International Association of Machinists District 720. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

The Nicaraguan Revolution Today. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, Nicaragua bureau director of the *Militant and Perspectiva Mundial*. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 11, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

FLORIDA

Miami

Report Back from Honduras and Nicaragua. Firsthand account of U.S. war in Central America. Translation to Spanish. Speaker: Bill Rayson, National Association of Letter Carriers. Fri., April 10, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Video: Sun City. Discussion to follow on how to fight apartheid in South Africa and racism in the United States. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 3640 Magazine St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 895-1961.

Crisis in the Third World: The Unpayable Debt. Speakers: to be announced. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 3640 Magazine St. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 895-1961.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Jobs Not War! Speakers: Mark Emanation, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor; Denise McInerney, SWP candidate for School Committee. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 11. Reception, 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 107 Brighton Ave. 2nd floor. Allston. Sponsor: Boston Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

No More Vietnam Wars. A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 107 Brighton Ave. 2nd floor. Allston. Do-

nation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Defending Political Prisoners. Speakers: African National Congress of South Africa representative Solly Simelane; representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization; representative of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee. Wed., April 15. Rallies at noon and 7 p.m. Wayne State University Student Union. Sponsor: November 29th Coalition. For more information call (313) 832-7853.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

End U.S. Intervention in Central America. End U.S. Support for South African Apartheid. Mobilize on April 25! Send-off rally for those going to the national antiwar, anti-apartheid march in Washington, D.C. Thur., April 23, 8 p.m. University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave. NE. For more information on bus transportation to Washington, call Central America Resource Center (612) 379-8799.

St. Paul

Film showing: El Norte. Introduced by Laura Flicker, Young Socialist Alliance and member United Steelworkers of America Local 2814. Sat., April 11, 7 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

No More Vietnam Wars (What Was the First One All About?) Speaker: Will Reissner, former staff writer for *Intercontinental Press*, member United Steelworkers of America Local 2814. Sat., April 18, 7 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 664-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Challenges Facing the Labor Movement Today. Speakers: Dolly Aron, Education officer for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 104; Dave Leach, member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2295; representative of United Auto Workers Local 691, locked out of Lincoln Engineering; Bill Henry, member UAW Local 325. Sat., April 11, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Boycott South Africa, Not Nicaragua! Hear Kevin Moeketsi Qhoboshiane, representative of the Youth Section of the African National Congress of South Africa; Roberto Fernández, vice-president of student body of medical school, León, Nicaragua. Translation to Spanish and English. Fri., April 10, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. (one block from Broad). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

Burkina Faso: Eyewitness Account of an African Revolution. Speaker: Ernest Harsch, staffwriter for *Militant* newspaper, recently returned from three weeks in West African country of Burkina. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Eyewitness: El Salvador Today. Slideshow and discussion. Speakers: Don Gurewitz, Socialist Workers Party, member International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Grand Nica Party: Celebrate the 7th Anniversary of Casa Nicaragua. Sat., April 11, 9 p.m. until. Brecht Forum, 151 W 19th St., 7th floor. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Casa Nicaragua. For more information call (212) 769-4293.

Defend the Right to Bail for Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and for All Working People. Bail Hearings for Filiberto Ojeda and Juan Segarra Palmer. Tues., April 14. Picket line, 9 a.m.; attend hearing, 10 a.m. 40 Foley Square. Sponsor: Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression. For more information call (212) 286-0924.

An Evening in Solidarity With the Puerto Rican and Palestinian Peoples. Speakers: Leonard Weinglass, constitutional attorney; Adrian Wing, United Nations representative of National Conference of Black Lawyers; and Juan Mari Bras. Also Sechaba Singers of African National Congress of South Africa; Llac-tamasi, Latin American New Song Movement; and Al-Watan, Palestinian Dance Group. Fri., April 17, 6:30 p.m. Community Center, 647 Columbus Ave. (between 91st and 92nd sts.) Tickets: \$5 (\$6 at door) Dinner, \$3. Child care

available. Sponsor: Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression and November 29 Committee for a Free Palestine. For more information call (212) 286-0924.

Burkina Faso: Eyewitness Account of the Revolution. Slideshow and discussion. Speaker: Ernest Harsch, staff writer for *Militant*, recently returned from three weeks in Burkina. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 17. Preforum dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

OHIO

Cleveland

Antiwar GIS: A Panel Discussion on Platoon. Speakers: Fred Jaimeson, Vietnam veteran and member of United Auto Workers Local 12; L.C. Hall, Vietnam veteran, counselor at Cleveland Treatment Center; Doc Deskins, Vietnam veteran; Kibwe Diarra, Vietnam-era veteran and Socialist Workers Party; Sat., April 11. Dinner, 6 p.m.; forum, 8 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2, dinner \$3. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

TEXAS

Dallas

FBI Spying Against the Antiwar Movement. Video of the congressional testimony of Frank Varelli, ex-FBI informer in Dallas Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES). Speakers: Jose Rinaldi, Dallas CISPES; Lea Sherman, Political Rights Defense Fund; Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 336 W Jefferson Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

The Wilberg Mine Disaster and the Fight for Mine Safety. Speakers: Frank Pavelko, Wilberg coal miner, member United Mine Workers of America Local 2176; Dave Hurst, 1986 Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D., laid-off member UMW at Deer Creek mine. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State St., 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

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Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923.

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

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

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

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

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

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 116 McFarland St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040. Morgantown: SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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

Marches in Canada hit U.S. war, acid rain

Continued from front page

several unions, including the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the Ontario leadership of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), and Local 298 of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) in Montreal. Various sections of Canada's labor party, the New Democratic Party, were also endorsers.

The lively crowd cheered as Morna Ballyntyne, the rally's chairperson, blasted U.S. intervention in Central America. "We are also fingering [Washington's] closest ally," she said. "Let it be clear that we vehemently oppose Canadian complicity with U.S. policy."

Canadian complicity with U.S.

Jean-Pierre Duchêneau of the Nicaragua Support Coalition in Quebec pointed out that "one proof of the camouflaged policy of support to President Reagan's policies is the sales of arms and planes by two Quebec-based companies to the contras."

Duchêneau added that the Canadian government refuses to establish an embassy in Nicaragua. He demanded that Ottawa send economic aid to war-ravaged Nicaragua.

Antiwar sentiment is continuing to grow among Canadians, said Allison Acker, representing the Central America Solidarity Network. "And that's why we're taking it to Washington, D.C., on April 25 in busloads," she said. A number of demonstrators told the *Militant* they intended to join the antiwar rally in the U.S. capital. The Canadian April 25 Coalition was circulating a leaflet to build the march. It described plans to send buses to Washington from Montreal and Toronto.

Guy Wright of Canadians Concerned about Southern Africa explained that "many people have a benign view of Canada's foreign policy." The fact is, he said, the Mulroney government continues to maintain ties to South Africa, refused last year to support a United Nations resolution calling for sanctions against Pretoria's puppet regime in Namibia, and uses economic aid as a weapon against nations in southern Africa that are in conflict with the apartheid regime.

"Canada must immediately implement total and mandatory sanctions against South Africa," he said.

Father Juan Iturriaga, a Chilean political refugee, spoke on behalf of SOS-Refugees. He described the fight against the Canadian government's escalating attacks



"Long live free Nicaragua" was one of the most popular slogans among youthful demonstrators.

on immigrants. In particular, he pointed out recent government actions that slam the door on refugees from Chile and Central America.

There was a significant number of Chileans, Salvadorans, and other Latin Americans at the demonstration.

Another well-received speaker was Malek Khouri, director of the Arab-Canadian Community Center. He spoke about the Palestinian freedom struggle and denounced Israeli support to the contras in Nicaragua and to the apartheid regime.

Rally against 'free trade' and acid rain

The other demonstration, held at the same site as the antiwar action, was sponsored by the Quebec Coalition Against Free Trade, which includes the Quebec Teachers' Federation, Confederation of National Trade Unions, Quebec Federation of Labor, and Union of Agricultural Producers.

The rally opposed the current negotiations for a "free trade" pact, which was a major focus of the Reagan-Mulroney summit. This agreement would eliminate tariffs and other trade barriers between Canada and the United States. It is strongly supported by both the Reagan and Mul-

rone administrations. The Canadian labor officialdom opposes it on the grounds that a major cause of unemployment is U.S. imports.

The other major focus of this rally was acid rain, also a subject of the summit meeting. Acid rain is pollution caused by sulfur dioxide, from coal-fired power stations and ore smelters, and by nitrogen oxide, mainly from vehicle exhaust fumes.

Acid rain from U.S. and Canadian sources has destroyed life in 14,000 lakes in eastern Canada, blighted 13 salmon-bearing rivers in Nova Scotia, and harmed more than 80 percent of Quebec's maple sugar industry.

Carrying a multitude of signs that demanded "Stop acid rain," demonstrators denounced the Reagan administration for

its refusal to take immediate action to cut down on toxic emissions. The White House has instead announced plans to spend \$2.5 billion for more "research" on acid rain over the next five years.

Many farmers were at the demonstration. They drove their tractors along the march route and carried maple branches to symbolize the devastation of this important product by acid rain.

Jacques Proulx, president of the Union of Agricultural Producers, said he spoke for 8,000 working farmers in Quebec who earn \$15,000 to \$20,000 in yearly income from maple syrup production, during the few weeks when the sap runs. "If we do nothing against the acid rain, in a short time our children won't even know that there was maple syrup," he said.

Quebec's minister of forests has said that with the current rate of acid rain destruction of maple trees, all maple sugar-processing plants may close within 15 years.

Contingents of workers from the ILGWU, ACTWU, the Canadian Auto Workers, and many other Quebec unions also marched.

One of the most visible and militant was a contingent of about 250 meat-packers from the Olympia processing plant near St.-Hyacinthe, in Quebec. They are members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions.

"We've been illegally locked out for the past six months," Michel Gaudoin, an Olympia worker, told the *Militant*. "Our demands are over working conditions, which are terrible." He said workers were forced to cut up 900 pork carcasses an hour and debone 350 beef carcasses a day. "We have 400 reported on-the-job accidents every year."

The largely young group of workers, both men and women, chanted slogans and sang "Solidarity Forever" in French as they marched behind a banner that read: "Olympia Workers' Union — after six months, we're still standing tall, fighting until victory."

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEETLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
April 15, 1977

(From a "Women in Revolt" column article by Willie Mae Reid entitled "Liberating Black women.")

"When we were brought here from Africa, we were enslaved because we are Black. How can you say women's liberation has meaning for Black women?" A young Black man asked me this after I gave a talk in New York recently on the women's movement.

His doubts about the participation of Black women in the women's liberation movement parallel the negative conclusions drawn by some of the Black media.

The *Bay State Banner*, a Boston Black weekly, recently ran a series of editorials rejecting the Equal Rights Amendment, abortion rights for teenage women, and the women's movement itself.

The national television show "Black Journal" featured Ntozake Shange, the Black poet who authored the play *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*. Moderator Tony Brown took Shange to task for her support to Black feminism.

This discussion is not new, and it's becoming more pronounced as Black women increase our involvement in the women's movement. As Shange admirably explained, the reality of Black women's everyday conditions is forcing us to speak honestly about our oppression as women.

Black women's bottom-of-the-barrel economic existence can give us the determination to struggle against our oppression.

Black women have no control over

whether we will be victimized as workers, as Blacks, or as women. Most of the time we are victimized all three ways by the same economic system.

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interests of the Working People
April 16, 1962 Price 10c

The report of two GI's killed and two others missing in action on April 8 in South Vietnam is a grim foretaste of the heavier casualties to come if the Kennedy administration persists in its dirty war to save the bankrupt regime of dictator Ngo Dinh Diem.

According to official admissions, 17 U.S. soldiers have died or disappeared in Vietnam since last December.

In reporting the latest four casualties — the first victims of direct combat with the Viet Cong guerrillas — U.S. authorities tried to cling to the threadbare sham that they were not combatants, but merely "advisers" to Diem's troops.

But as U.S. involvement deepens it will become impossible to cloak the real nature of what is going on there. In other countries, the facts are already being reported.

The March 16 issue of the British *New Statesman* carried this report from Saigon: "As the foreign ministers talked in Geneva, America was fighting an undeclared war in South Vietnam. Already American pilots are regularly engaged in bombing and strafing sorties against the Viet Cong."

Even more ominous: "The area of American involvement was greatly extended with the setting up last month of the U.S. Military Assistance Command under General Paul Harkins. In addition to the 4,500 armed American personnel in South Vietnam, he has a strategic reserve in Okinawa."

"Today," reports the *New Statesman*, "after the Americans have spent \$2 billion to fight communism, only three of the 35 provinces are considered 'safe' by the Diem administration."

Mo. farmers mark 1986 protest

BY KATHIE FITZGERALD

CHILLICOTHE, Mo. — Fifty farmers gathered here March 17 to mark the first anniversary of a five-month farm protest that drew national attention.

During that action some 200 farmers set up a tractor blockade around the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) office to protest a loan officer's refusal to process loans for family farmers. The protest continued until August 8 when the officer was relieved of his duties.

Over the five months, rallies here drew up to 10,000 people protesting foreclosures that are driving hundreds of thousands of working farmers off the land. Joining the farmers were unionists and Black community activists from the Kansas City area, as well as meat-packers from three states.

Roger Allison, director of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, told the *Militant* that the farmers' protest had "become a symbol of resistance for people from all segments of society. We had meat-packers come to Chillicothe, TWA flight attendants, and civil rights people — all come together."

"We took the farm crisis off the back burner," he added, "put it in front and made people realize that farm prices are made in Washington, D.C., and what we have now and had then is a government that protects corporate interests instead of consumers and citizens."

Addressing the March 17 gathering besides Allison were Kansas City minister and Black community leader Mac Charles Jones; Matt Snell, Kansas City United Auto Workers CAP Council president; Carol Smith of the Jewish Community Re-

lations Bureau; and Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The rally ended with a food distribution to several hundred area farmers.

Contra terrorists kidnap workers

Continued from front page

and operational military conditions" for a direct U.S. attack on Nicaragua, he said.

However, the U.S. government has not been able to create the political conditions for such a move because "Reagan does not have the support of the people of the United States [or] the U.S. Congress for such an adventure," Ortega noted. Nor does Reagan have much support internationally, he added.

But, stressed Ortega, Nicaraguans "cannot lower our guard. We must be ready to confront, resist, and defeat a military aggression should it happen."

On other news, the Sandinista daily *Barricada* reported March 28 that residents were returning to the northern town of Santo Tomás del Nance, near the Honduran border. Santo Tomás was evacuated March 9 after several days of mortar attacks by Honduran troops left four people dead and several wounded. Militias and reservists are helping the residents organize civil defense and rebuild bomb shelters.

A fence around North America

"No closed doors to refugees."
This was one of the demands made by Canadian protesters when President Ronald Reagan met in Ottawa with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. The demonstration was against U.S. aggression in Central America and Canadian complicity with it. (See story on front page.)

The opposition to victimization of refugees was particularly timely. Like Washington, the Canadian government is now engaged in a clampdown on immigrants and refugees.

In this country, enactment of the law making it illegal for an undocumented worker to hold a job has already resulted in firings of immigrants. One result has been increased attempts to go to Canada.

But this border too is being sealed off.
On February 20, Canada's immigration minister announced tough new regulations to stem the entry of refugees from such countries as El Salvador, Guatemala, and Chile.

Until now, émigrés from these countries could apply for refugee status in Canada. On applying, they were granted permits to look for a job and use the education system.

Such permits were granted to people from a list of countries judged to be repressive or war-torn.

But now that list has been scrapped, and as in the United States, refugees will face harsher tests for political asylum.

Some refugees have already been turned back at the Canadian border. Others have been compelled to sign a

document agreeing to return to the United States if their plea for asylum is denied. That, of course, could then mean being delivered back to the repressive regimes they fled.

As in this country, the Canadian government's push to close off the border has been accompanied by a mounting racist propaganda campaign against immigrants — blaming them for unemployment and other capitalist-created evils.

One case that has provoked particular protest has been the moves to deport Victor Regalado, a refugee from El Salvador.

Unions, political parties, church and civil liberties groups have protested the government finding that Regalado must leave Canada because he is, allegedly, a threat to the country's "national security."

The government has refused to specify why it has branded Regalado such a threat.

But the reason is well known: Regalado's political views.

He was a member of the Salvadoran Communist Party and is an avowed foe of the U.S.-imposed regime in his country.

Last year, despite the continuing murderous repression by the Salvadoran junta, the Canadian government ended a six-year moratorium on aid to that regime.

The reactionary Canadian drive against immigrants reinforces Washington's border policy and helps promote its aggression in Central America. It should be sharply opposed.

Privacy rights on the job

One of the daily battlefronts between workers and employers is the workers' right to privacy. With the support of the government, employers across the country are challenging this right.

Tests for drug and alcohol use are being required as a condition of employment at a growing number of workplaces.

Employers are carrying out searches of lockers, handbags, and other personal belongings. The pretexts include hunting for illegal drugs, allegedly stolen property, or even books and newspapers the employer doesn't approve of.

In some plants, workers are even subjected to body searches.

Government officials are urging on these attacks. In a speech at the University of Mississippi on March 19, Attorney General Edwin Meese pressed his call for wider drug testing.

"Now, employers, including governmental employers, have a legitimate right to impose conditions that assure fitness for duty," he insisted. The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, he claimed, protects only an individual's "expectation of privacy that society is prepared to consider reasonable."

"After all," argued Meese, "the framers of the Bill of Rights were careful to specify 'unreasonable search and seizures.'"

For Meese, who recently called on employers to step up surveillance of their employees both inside and outside the workplace, any search that seems reasonable to the employers or the cops becomes reasonable in law. He blithely ignored the standard of reasonableness set in the Fourth Amendment, which requires a search warrant issued on the basis of probable cause to believe that evi-

dence of a crime will be found.

The ongoing attack on workers' right to privacy is the context in which the Supreme Court issued an important ruling March 31.

By a 5-4 vote, the court declared that public employers have "wide latitude" to conduct searches of employees' offices, desks, and files without warrants in order to seek evidence of wrongdoing. The decision was restricted to those cases where the workplace search is carried out "by a supervisor rather than a law-enforcement official."

The go-ahead given such employer searches is a blow to workers' rights. The employers — public and private — use such searches to harass and frame up union activists and others.

As the April 1 *New York Times* noted, "The decision carved out a new exception to the ordinary rule that governmental searches be authorized by judicial warrants and supported by probable cause."

At the same time, the court unanimously rejected the Justice Department's claim that public employees have no right to privacy in the workplace and that the government has unlimited authority to carry out searches.

Writing for a plurality on the court, Justice Sandra O'Connor suggested that it might require a greater justification for employer searches of "a piece of closed personal luggage, a handbag or a briefcase that happens to be within the employer's business address."

This aspect of the decision may also provide ammunition for workers in private industry in the fight against arbitrary searches.

Unionists and others will continue to resist the employers' arrogant demand that workers surrender their democratic rights when they walk through the office doorway or the plant gate.

The pope's visit to Chile

Scenes of Pope John Paul II saying mass with tear gas drifting over his head symbolized his recent visit to Chile.

In the capital city of Santiago, cops used water cannons, guns, clubs, and tear gas against participants in the services.

In 1973 when the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet was installed with U.S. government backing, the justification offered was that it would forestall totalitarian rule by the Popular Unity government of President Salvador Allende, which had been legally elected. The police attacks on those who turned out for the pope is further confirmation of what a hideous lie that was.

Hospital officials said that two people from the main Santiago mass were treated for gunshot wounds, and at least 22 more for other injuries.

The government said 300 civilians and 109 cops were injured at three of the religious services.

Many Chileans did turn out for the pope. In Santiago, the crowd was estimated at a million.

Throughout his visit, the pope pressed his political line: reconciliation of conflicting social forces and unity of the entire Chilean people — torturers and their victims alike — and nonresistance to official violence.

In Santiago, he looked at the clouds of tear gas and in-

toned, "Love is stronger."

And, in an audience with Mapuche Indians, he listened to their account of bitter discrimination and oppression and counselled them not to leave the countryside for the city, even though their land has been stolen and there is little opportunity for livelihood.

To alleviate their plight, he called on the big landlords of Chile to mend their ways and help improve the lot of the Mapuches and other victims of landlord rule. He did not explain how landlords' hearts could be changed, but argued his approach should not be judged "utopian."

Many of the Chileans who responded to the visit of John Paul had a more realistic view. For them it was an opportunity to register their opposition to an oppressive regime and to protest the bitter economic situation they are suffering.

The president of the teachers' union, 1,000 of whose members have been fired since January due to cutbacks, explained why the union would be at the mass in Concepción.

"The pope cannot solve our problems, and we should not expect him to," he said. But through his visit we have an opportunity to make "others aware of the human problems that have poisoned the soul of this nation."

That was a lot more realistic than the pope's message.

How Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution

BY DOUG JENNESS

The U.S. Constitution, approved by a national convention on Sept. 17, 1787, and ratified by the 13 states the following year, did not include the Bill of Rights. This was added as the first 10 amendments and finally approved by the states in 1791.

Why was there a delay in getting these important

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

democratic rights incorporated into the Constitution and how was their adoption achieved?

To answer this it is necessary to know why the colonists declared their independence from British rule and waged a seven-year war to conquer it.

Under the British Crown, the colonists were oppressed by burdensome taxes and tariffs. Small farmers were victimized by rents and land policies that made it difficult for them to get land. Huge parcels of land were monopolized by British trade companies and the Crown.

The British-imposed regimes in each colony worked hand in hand with the church hierarchies to maintain British economic, social, and political domination.

The rights of colonists to speak out and organize against the conditions they faced were sharply restricted and repressed.

For working people in the colonies, who had been living under the British boot, the struggle for independence meant winning more social and political rights. It awakened a social movement with a range of demands.

A strong current for the abolition of slavery emerged, for example, which succeeded in getting slavery made illegal in the northern states. This also dealt a blow to other forms of servitude, such as indentured contracts, which legally bound a person to work for someone else for a certain period of time.

Eleven of the former colonies drew up new constitutions in the first years of the revolution, most of them incorporating a bill of rights.

When the Northwest Ordinance was approved a few years later to organize settlement of territories northwest of the Ohio River, it banned slavery, guaranteed democratic rights, and provided for public education.

During the war of independence and immediately afterward, the 13 states were governed by the Articles of Confederation. In this loosely joined group of states, the central government had limited powers, each state keeping the most important powers for itself.

There were many problems with this structure, which don't need to be enumerated here. But a delegated convention began meeting in Philadelphia in May 1787 to change the Articles of Confederation. Instead of doing this, however, the delegates drafted a new constitution with a different structure.

Representatives of the merchants and planters dominated the convention. Their goal was to establish a central government that would institutionalize and stabilize their rule. Codifying democratic rights for the people wasn't on their agenda.

Working farmers and artisans, who had been the backbone of the revolutionary army, had less political weight in the years after the war.

But in the months just before the constitutional convention met, thousands of farmers organized armed protests against high taxes and farm foreclosures. This struggle reached its peak in Massachusetts from August 1786 to June 1787 in what has become known as "Shays' Rebellion" after Daniel Shays, one of its central leaders.

To combat this struggle the state government adopted the Riot Acts, clamping down on democratic rights. This included suspending the right of habeas corpus, barring public meetings, and punishing offenders with whippings and the death penalty.

This experience convinced many working people that they needed guarantees of their rights from the new government.

When the constitutional convention submitted the Constitution to the state ratifying conventions without a bill of rights, a sharp debate ensued. The state convention in North Carolina flatly refused to ratify without a bill of rights.

In Virginia the delegates added a bill of rights to the motion they adopted ratifying the constitution.

Delegates in other states ratified it, but many of them only on the condition that a bill of rights would be added.

The upshot was that when the first session of the congress elected under the new constitution convened in September 1789, it approved 12 amendments, 10 of which were ratified by enough states to become law by December 1791.

The main lesson here is that the Bill of Rights wasn't a gift from the "founding fathers" but was taken by the U.S. people. And the defense and extension of those rights has continued to be the result of struggles by working people, not a gift from benevolent judges or the result of maneuvers by skillful lawyers.

In subsequent columns, we'll take up some examples that illustrate this.

What the UAW should demand in its next contract

BY ANDREW PULLEY

The United Auto Workers union (UAW) is beginning to discuss what demands it will raise when national contracts with both General Motors and Ford expire later this year.

The negotiations will take place in the context of deep

UNION TALK

attacks on the union.

Last November, GM, for example, announced plans to close 11 plants. That move will result in the elimination of 30,000 jobs.

Plants employing 4,500 union members have been targeted for extended layoffs, and thousands more workers are on temporary layoff.

The union is also under constant attack on the shop floor, as the bosses press to speed up the line, eliminate jobs, and combine job classifications.

As the billionaire owners of the auto companies try to maximize profits, many more auto workers will lose their jobs.

Workers in plants that produce auto parts are one sure target. GM's goal is to increase profits by having a greater percentage of parts built in nonunion shops, or in union shops with lower wage scales than those UAW members receive under the national GM contract. Some of GM's parts operation is also being moved to Mexico and other countries, where the company rakes in superprofits.

As GM's latest round of attacks began, little was heard from the UAW tops. Instead of organizing a fight for jobs, UAW President Owen Bieber lauded the benefits union officials negotiated in the last GM contract. This included job retraining programs and the Guaranteed Income Stream (GIS) program.

Under GIS, some workers with years of seniority can

receive 90 percent of their pay until another GM job becomes available. The catch here is that most GM workers never qualify for GIS to begin with. And those who do must take a job offered anywhere in the United States or risk losing all rights under the contract.

Instead of fighting for a jobs program in the interest of all working people, top UAW and AFL-CIO officers are pushing for the passage of reactionary, protectionist legislation.

GM's billionaire owners have no qualms about acting cold-bloodedly in their own interest as their recent plant closing decision demonstrates. Realizing that the auto companies are the enemy, not a friend or "teammate," is the starting point for figuring out how to defend ourselves and other working people in this country and around the world.

Unfortunately, the UAW tops don't see it that way. Many of them praise lump-sum bonuses and profit-sharing schemes. They also go along with attendance enforcement programs and phony job security plans such as GIS.

We should prepare for the coming negotiations by rejecting this approach. Our goal needs to be winning the maximum hourly pay raise along with other important demands. Mobilizing the full power of the union membership in a militant struggle against the company is the way we can get the most.

During the current three-year contract, GM has gotten away with just one wage raise over the life of the agreement. In the other two years, lump-sum bonuses were paid instead. The only increases in those years came through cost-of-living adjustments, but they did not keep up with inflation, and our weekly checks paid for less and less.

Since overtime pay, holiday pay, and other benefits are also based on the hourly rate, GM was able to rob its workers of millions and millions of additional dollars.

We will also begin the next round of negotiations at a lower base-pay rate and a weaker position because of the lump-sum bonuses.

Profit-sharing schemes should also be rejected. Here, too, we would be better off with wage increases. Last year, GM said its profits of \$2.9 million weren't sufficient enough to "share" anything with the workers. Meanwhile GM executives will divide up \$169 million, or \$40,000 each.

In addition, profit-sharing schemes help reinforce the illusion that workers and bosses have common interests.

We also need to get rid of GM's attendance policy. Under the current program, union members get victimized by having their holiday pay and other benefits cut if they miss work 20 percent of the time.

Instead of helping the company enforce the absentee program, we should be fighting to end the mandatory brutal overtime GM and the other auto companies demand.

There have been recent demonstrations organized by UAW locals to protest GM's plant closings, some as large as 2,500. Workers come to these protests because they want to fight for jobs. However several demands have been raised at these actions that echo the UAW tops' reactionary protectionist campaign, such as "Made in USA vs. hecho in Mexico."

Job security for auto workers and other working people can't just be negotiated in a union contract. Winning jobs will take a massive social struggle directed squarely at the government in Washington.

The UAW should join with other unions in championing and helping to lead the fight for a 30-hour workweek without a cut in pay.

Andrew Pulley is a member of UAW Local 5960. He is currently on layoff at GM's Lake Orion, Michigan, plant.

LETTERS

Sub for coal miner

My son Jeffery is a coal miner. He works in an underground mine located in southern Illinois.

Jeffery, on a recent visit to Santa Fe, picked up a copy of the *Militant* from our coffee table. He was very impressed with world event coverage and especially your coverage of unions.

He recently returned to work after a long layoff. I'm sending \$12 for a six-month subscription for Jeffery.

Keep up the good work.

J.B.
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Sales

Plant-gate sales of the *Militant* at the Sugardale packinghouse in Canton are going wonderfully. We've sold 20 papers the last two times we've been there.

One worker today told me how different the *Militant* is, and that it tells the truth. The workers are getting to know the paper and the salespeople.

This plant is one of four owned by Neil Genshaft in northwest Ohio. Of the four, the one in Salem is nonunion and the other three are organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers union. The March 20 *Militant* incorrectly indicated that two of the plants were unorganized.

Susan LaMont
Cleveland, Ohio

Blaming the victim

A Black man was found hung in Central Park in New York City on March 12. He has been identified as Abdi Sayed, a 33-year-old Ethiopian senior at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. The police say it was suicide.

Cover-up is right up their alley, but this one takes the cake. According to detectives on the case, "It would have been possible for him to climb the tree . . . sit on a limb, tie his ankles, tie the rope around his neck, then tie up his wrists and jump."

They even assert that it would have been difficult for someone else to do it because there were no signs of a struggle. Isn't a racist lyncher smart enough to erase

their tracks?

Other evidence is that lint from his gloves was found on the rope, and the same type of rope was found in his dormitory room. All this could have been set up by the murderer.

But there have been two other lynchings in New York in the last year, which police have also called suicide. Franklin Rudge, 30, was found hanging in the Bronx on May 17, 1986, and Robert Carolina, 28, was found hanging from the Brooklyn Bridge in February of this year.

Blaming the victim is the perfect way of letting this racist system off the hook.

It's time to get our unions involved in this fight, on a massive scale in the streets, to stop these racist murders.

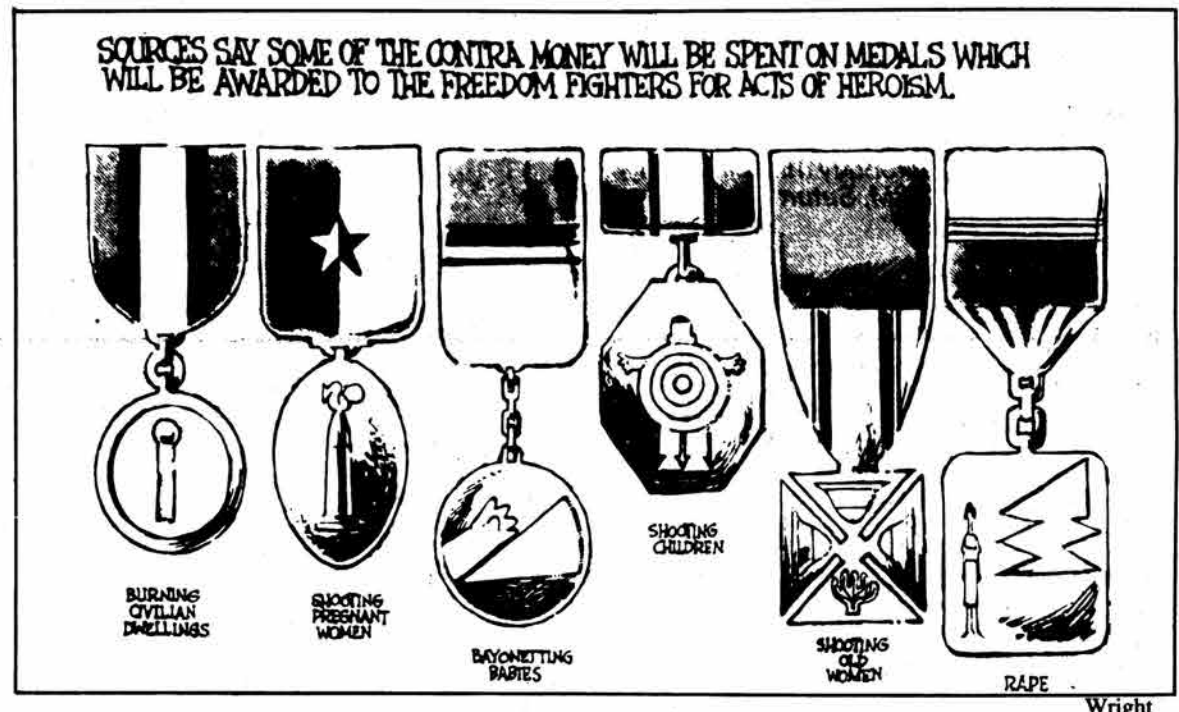
Pat Hunt
Jersey City, New Jersey

Nordic Brigade

At the general meeting of the Icelandic Cuban Friendship Society in February a report was given by participants on the Nordic Brigade, which visited Cuba for four weeks in December. Such a visit has taken place every year for over a decade, each delegation having 100 to 200 people from Scandinavia.

On these brigades, delegates work for three weeks in the building industry, gardening, etc., and travel around the island for a week. They get the opportunity to speak to Cubans and see Cuba themselves in practice, listen to political lectures, and participate in discussions. Under the dominance of the right-wing press in our society it is important to get good information and see countries like Cuba and Nicaragua.

At the general meeting there was a book table with books from Cuba and Pathfinder Press. More than 200 copies of Pathfinder books were sold. The biggest hits were: *Nicaragua, the Sandinista People's Revolution*, *Fidel and Religion*, and *Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*. In the last book, Fidel addresses the people in the United States and explains many questions on various subjects. The book is for this reason



also helpful for the people in Iceland.

In Iceland we are getting more used to the disappearance of *Intercontinental Press*. It might be related to the fact that we are reading the *Militant* more. We appreciate especially detailed articles like the one last December on the new Nicaraguan constitution, and your coverage of speaking tours like Don Rojas' and Oliver Tambo's. Gylfi Pall Hersir
Reykjavik, Iceland

Won't renew

I strongly support the labor movement. I was recommended to your publication by someone who said the *Militant* was a prolabor paper.

Since I've had an introductory subscription, I've found your paper to be more procommunist than prolabor. I therefore will not renew my subscription and request that you take my name off any of your mailing lists.

W.M.
Arcadia, California

Impressed

I recently received a copy of your paper and was quite impressed by the high quality and directness of the reporting. I particularly enjoyed "The Great Society" by Harry Ring.

The main reason I'm writing to you is to get a subscription to the paper. Secondly, I was moved by the requests of prisoners for copies of the *Militant*. I wish to help with that as well.

Thank you for your time and your paper.

S.R.
Saratoga, California

Keep up the good work

We have received our first issue of the *Militant* and greatly appreciate it. Boy, were we surprised when the "keepers" allowed us to have it. "F" block is now known as the "Commie" block.

Word spreads fast here when anything out of the ordinary happens, being that Walworth County is both rural and conservative. Right now the county jail is humming with prisoners, all 28 of us. The overwhelming majority serving time because we are indigent and unable to pay child support, fines, or the like. Not one of us would be here if we had money. Funny how that works, isn't it?

Anyway, keep up the good work. You have our support.

A prisoner
Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Joe Portaro

A longtime supporter of the Socialist Workers Party, Joe Por-

taro died of cancer on March 10 at the age of 78.

Joe, a native of Italy, lived and worked all his adult life in the working-class community in Cleveland.

Affectionately known as "Dr. P.," he was a doctor, but not the kind of doctor typified by the AMA. He practiced among workers and over the years contributed money generously to the working-class movement.

He avidly read the *Militant*, always eager to engage people in conversations about the issues discussed in its pages.

Joe was often called upon to make one of his delicious spaghetti dinners as a fundraiser for socialist campaigns. He enjoyed a lively political discussion at these events as well as reciting poetry or singing an aria from one of his favorite operas.

Those of us who knew him will miss his wide grin and the glint in his eyes.

Linda Joyce
Miami, Florida

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.

Haitians debate new constitution

Opposition: new charter legitimizes rule of Duvalier generals

BY LINDA JOYCE

MIAMI — The U.S. State Department hailed Haiti's new constitution, ratified by a March 30 plebiscite, as a document that will set the country "firmly in the camp of democratic governments, which are increasingly dominant in our hemisphere."

A *Miami Herald* headline proclaimed, "Haiti rolls onto road to democracy." It reported the Haitian Information Ministry's claims of a 99.8 percent approval rate and 40 percent voter turnout.

Lina McNally, in a telephone interview from Haiti with the *Militant*, also said that about 40 percent of the voters went to the polls. But McNally, who is active in the Rural Women's Rights Organization and Haitian Democratic Liaison Committee, added, "Those that did vote had it in their minds that this would be the end of the CNG [National Council of Government]. They shouted, 'Down with Regala and Namphy!' as they voted," she said.

Gen. Henri Namphy and Col. William Regala, both high-ranking military officers under Jean-Claude Duvalier's tyranny, were among those appointed to rule in Duvalier's place when he fled the country in February 1986.

Voting irregularities

The April 1 *Haiti Progrès*, a widely read opposition newspaper in Haiti and among



Gen. Henri Namphy

Haitians in other countries, estimated that only 28 percent of eligible voters cast ballots.

The newspaper reported wide irregularities in the vote. Some people were said to have voted several times, and in the town of Petionville, many more ballot cards were counted than there were eligible voters.

The new constitution was drafted by a commission elected October 19. That election was widely boycotted because of undemocratic procedures and the unpopularity of Namphy's regime. Only 10 percent of eligible voters cast ballots.

The new charter allows the National Council of Government to hold power until Feb. 7, 1988, when an elected president is scheduled to take office. The constitution

establishes a civilian commission to oversee presidential elections to be held in November.

Debate on constitution

In Miami's Haitian community of nearly 50,000, a lively debate has been taking place on the constitutional referendum. The debate heated up after the First Popular Assembly, held in Haiti March 7-8, called for a boycott of the referendum. Some 900 delegates representing 250 popular organizations came together for that meeting.

They included the Autonomous Federation of Haitian Workers, Intersindical Union of Haiti, United Haitian Women's Liberation Association, Association of Military Veterans, Transport Workers Union, Organization for the Defense of Haitian Youth, and many other progressive organizations, including peasant groups.

The Popular Assembly argued that the CNG regime was not established by the people and that no representative of the people participated in the constitutional commission. Its resolution stated that the referendum was an attempt to put a democratic mask on a regime that does not and cannot represent the aspirations of the people.

The Committee in Solidarity with Haiti, which is backed by the Catholic church hierarchy, campaigned for support to the constitution in Miami's Haitian community. Archbishop Romulus from Haiti spoke at several meetings in Miami urging a yes vote.

Rene Theodore, leader of the United Haitian Communist Party, supported a yes vote.

Prominent organizations such as the Coalition for Democratic Unity, representing about 70 popular organizations, joined the call for the boycott as the date for the vote drew near.

Committee Veye-Yo (Watch Them), a large organization that has been in the forefront of the struggle against the Duvalier and CNG governments in Miami's Haitian community, stood behind the Popular Assembly's call for the boycott.

The committee toured Lina McNally, who had been arrested and subsequently released in early February by the CNG regime. McNally spoke to three public meetings and on the radio.

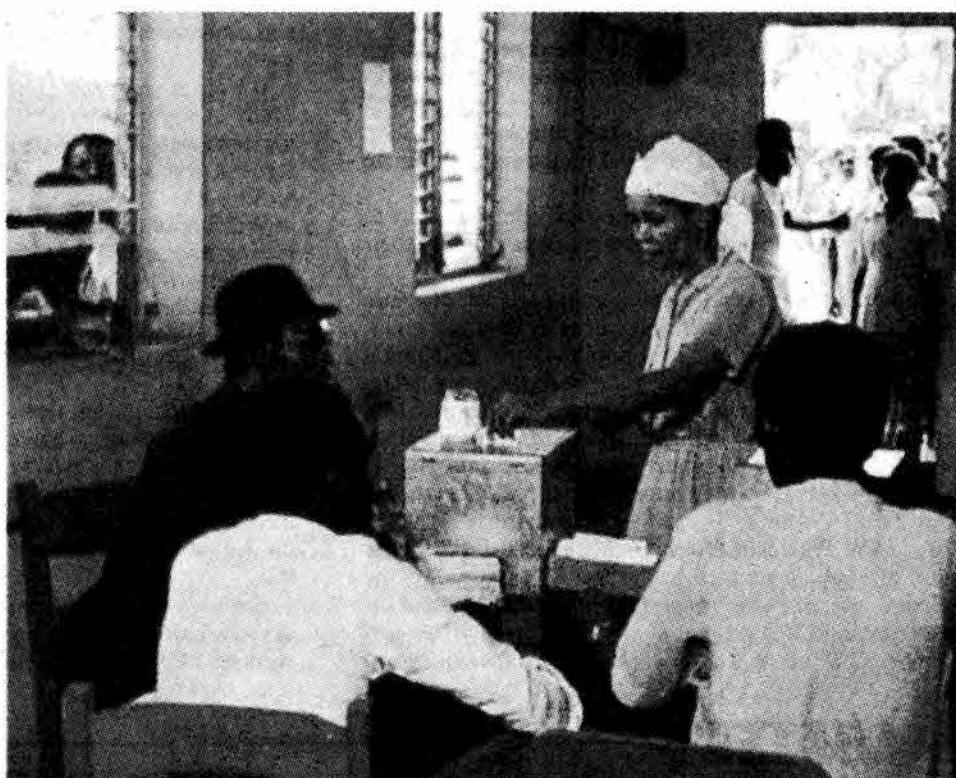
"When the same people who have been repressing us for over 30 years come with a constitution that prohibits them from abusing their power, from plundering," she said, "we've got to be vigilant and ask ourselves, 'Can a leopard change its spots?' Clearly this new constitution is a farce."

The ultraright, popularly known as the Macoutes after the Duvalier thugs called Tontons Macoutes, pushed for a no vote on the constitution. Many of those calling for a yes vote equated the ultraright's position with that of the left.

One leader of the Haitian community here countered this claim:

"The Haitian ultraright Macoutes push for a no vote on the constitution," he said, "because they don't understand the game being played, they don't want to be outmaneuvered by the bourgeoisie and they also want to keep abusing people with impunity. But when we [on the left] say boycott, we mean don't legitimize the CNG government. We are for a genuine constitution in which all the aspirations and democratic rights of the people will be respected."

Father Gerard Jean Juste, director of the Haitian Refugee Center, told the *Militant* that the best approach is to not participate "in any activity coming from the CNG, the military-dominated junta in Haiti. Now that there is a constitution," he continued, "we want those from the masses who voted for it under the CNG to agitate in such a



Opposition newspaper *Haiti Progrès* reported widespread irregularities in March 30 vote on constitution.

way that the good articles in the constitution be implemented and the bad ones amended. We should not give any opportunity to generals Namphy or Regala, graduated Duvalierists, to run the country any longer," he said. "We must ask ourselves how we can continue the making of the revolution in Haiti."

Effort to legitimize government

Jean Marie Bernard from the Watch Them Committee told the *Militant*, "The referendum and the new constitution is an effort to legitimize the CNG and to pave the way for the coming of some 'leaders' more suitable to U.S.-IMF [International

Monetary Fund]-big-business interests."

The constitution "leaves land reform to the 'sound judgement' of the law," he said. "The most appealing article of the constitution states that any former member of the Duvalier government who had shown excessive zeal or who had contributed by their actions to keep the Duvalier government in power, including torturers and assassins, will not be allowed to run for office or have any position in the new government. But this article is a perfect demonstration of the doubletalk of the CNG because it leaves out people like Namphy and Regala who ordered killings and torturings."

Spirited farm workers' march supports strike in Wash. state

BY MATT HERRESHOFF

WAPATO, Wash. — "The strikers of today will be the architects of the future." "Long live liberty and death to slavery. We will struggle, and we won't get tired." "This is the future."

These were some of the slogans raised on hand-painted picket signs by 400 farm workers and supporters who marched in the Yakima Valley April 4.

The demonstrators were supporting a strike by 60 tree pruners at Pyramid Orchards. The strikers, members of the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS), have been fighting to win a union contract since February 10. The strike began when Pyramid arbitrarily cut wages from \$2.50 to \$1.75 a tree. Most workers couldn't earn the minimum wage at that rate.

The Pyramid strike has won wide support among farm workers here. Some 150 people joined the march along its eight-mile route from Wapato to Pyramid's farm. Many others drove by to wave support, as the marchers passed by apple and peach orchards, vineyards, and hops fields.

The day before, 300 growers attended a meeting of a new union-busting organization, the Eastern Washington Growers League. According to the *Yakima Herald-Republic*, a Growers League organizer "said the true test will be how many growers are prepared to help others pick their crops or prune their orchards should they be the subject of a strike."

Fearing that the strike at Pyramid will spread to other orchards and crops, some growers have temporarily improved wages and working conditions. "The growers think we will be satisfied if they treat us well and pay better," UFWWS President Tomas Villanueva told the marchers. "But we have to be firm, because without a contract, they will pay us less tomorrow."

Marchers included farm workers from throughout the valley. Some came from the Ste. Michelle vineyard, where a dozen workers have been fired for union activity. Many of the marchers, like other farm workers, are currently unemployed, waiting to get jobs in the asparagus season, which is just starting.

The majority of the marchers were young — in their teens and twenties. One 14-year-old told the *Militant* how he and other students will have to leave school to cut asparagus next month.

Other marchers were older, and some of them have experience in other union struggles. I talked with workers who had been active in the United Auto Workers in Texas, the International Association of Machinists in Seattle, and in strikes and organizing efforts by silver miners and farm workers in Mexico. A number were involved in previous farm worker struggles in the Yakima Valley.

Contributions and messages of support for this struggle should be sent to: UFWWS, P.O. Box 899, Granger, WA 98932.