

## 200,000 protest contra war, apartheid

BY NORTON SANDLER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Today's march is a great victory. Union members are disgusted with the policy on the contras and South Africa."

Armando Velez summed up the sentiment of some 125,000 people who demonstrated here April 25 in the cold and rain. Velez, a New York hospital worker, and his family marched in one of the many union contingents that led the demonstration.

As the cheering, banner-waving hospital workers strode by, they had an impact on other marchers. "Look at all the unionists!" said one man.

With labor contingents making up about 20 percent of the march, it was the largest mobilization ever of union members protesting U.S. policy in Central America.

The march and rally demanded an end to Washington's intervention in Central America and to U.S. backing for apartheid in South Africa. Organized by the Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa, the action included 19 union presidents among its sponsors.

Some estimates of the size of the crowd ranged as high as 150,000. The same day, 75,000 turned out for an antiwar, anti-apartheid protest in San Francisco. (see story on page 9.)

By early morning, demonstrators were already gathering on the soggy lawn of the Ellipse behind the White House. For the next several hours, thousands more poured into the assembly area. Hundreds of cities were represented. Several buses came from Canada.

Many came in groups organized by their unions. Tens of thousands were high school and college students.

Lots of church groups were visible in the crowd.

Many protesters identified themselves as belonging to campus or community Central America solidarity or anti-apartheid groups.

For many, it was the first time they had demonstrated against the U.S.-run war in Nicaragua or against apartheid in South Africa.

### Union participation

Black and Latino workers made up a substantial portion of the union contingents. As many as half the unionists were women.

Thousands of union members proudly carried a sign put out by march organizers that read, "Union members say: we work hard for our money, not one penny for the contras."

Union signs and banners condemning apartheid were especially prominent.

Members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) from cities throughout the East made up the largest labor delegation. In New York alone, 70 AFSCME buses had been chartered.

Several thousand workers joined the well-organized delegation from the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees Local 1199. Some chanted, "Jail Reagan, free Mandela," a reference to imprisoned African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela.

### Cudahy strikers

Marching with red "P-40" caps were more than 30 members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-40 who have been on strike at the Patrick

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## Contras in Nicaragua murder U.S. engineer

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — At 8:00 a.m. the morning of April 28, Ben Linder, a 27-year-old U.S. engineer, was surveying a site for a hydroelectric plant in the northern mountains of Nicaragua. Moments later, Linder and two Nicaraguan workers were dead, victims of a sudden terrorist attack by U.S.-organized contra mercenaries.

Cecilio Rosales, a worker who survived the attack, said that the contras first fired

**INSIDE: U.S. protests against murder of Linder, page 7; editorial, page 14.**

five grenades, killing Linder and another worker as they sat on the ground taking notes for the project. The mercenaries then opened fire with automatic rifles and killed another worker and wounded one more.

Linder is the first U.S. citizen killed by the contra mercenaries. As a mechanical engineer, he was working as a volunteer designing small electric power plants and drinking-water systems for rural towns in the north-central mountains of Jinotega Province.

The Nicaraguan Committee in Solidarity with the Peoples reported that there have been an average of 500 U.S. volunteers working on different projects here each year. Many European volunteers also work here, and nine, including Spanish and French doctors, a Swiss agronomist, and a Belgian civil engineer, have been killed by the mercenaries.

Linder's murder demonstrates "the terrorist and criminal nature of the actions



April 29 protest outside Washington, D.C., offices of U.S.-financed contras. Marchers condemned contra murder of Ben Linder, who was building hydroelectric plants in Nicaragua.

promoted by the U.S. administration," Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said in an April 28 protest letter to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

"The attacks of these mercenary forces have usually been directed at destroying civilian and economic targets, including many houses, health centers, schools, means of transportation, bridges, electric power lines, and peasant cooperatives," D'Escoto continued.

"Such attacks have caused thousands of

victims, among them 1,996 children, 166 teachers, and 52 doctors."

On April 29, more than 300 U.S. citizens joined a protest in front of the U.S. embassy in Managua to condemn the murder of Linder and demand an end to the contra war.

A delegation from the Committee of U.S. Citizens Living in Nicaragua met with U.S. Ambassador Harold Bergold. But he said only that he had "little information and no comment" on Linder's murder.

## South African troops attack Zambia

BY ERNEST HARSCH

The April 25 South African commando raid into Zambia was a "naked act of aggression and terror" against that country, the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa declared.

The apartheid regime had claimed that its attack was directed against ANC "terrorists." In fact, the four people who were killed were all Zambian citizens. They were, the ANC said, "murdered by Pretoria's crazed killer squads."

The Zambian government likewise condemned "this dastardly and unprovoked attack."

The assault came early in the morning. South African helicopters, apparently flying from a base in South African-occupied Namibia, dropped the commandos near Livingstone, a town of 80,000 in southern Zambia. They then attacked three buildings in different parts of town.

Two unarmed Zambian security guards were shot to death when they blocked the commandos from entering a seven-story office building.

The attackers also poured gunfire into a residential house. "There was no ANC in that house, just a woman and her daughter," a neighbor later told reporters. Fortunately, the occupants managed to flee.

About the same time, the raiders attacked a housing compound, killing two Zambian brothers in their sleeping quarters. A young woman, the niece of the Zambian defense minister, was also seriously wounded.

The ANC, which maintains political of-

fices and refugee facilities in Zambia, acknowledged that some of the buildings had until recently been occupied by ANC members. It denied, however, that they were military facilities. It also denied Pretoria's claims that a group of ANC guerrillas were on their way to South Africa to disrupt the May 6 white parliamentary elections.

The apartheid regime commonly makes such accusations in an effort to justify its unprovoked attacks against neighboring states that give support and refuge to the ANC. South African Defense Minister Gen. Magnus Malan admitted that one of

the raid's aims was to warn the Zambian government to stop backing the ANC.

Coming just a few days after the police murder of six striking railway workers, Pretoria's attack on Zambia prompted further popular protests at home.

Hundreds of students at the predominantly white University of Cape Town held a protest meeting on campus April 27. They were attacked by police wielding whips and firing tear gas and birdshot, wounding several students. The next day thousands rallied at the university to condemn the police repression.

## Indians and Blacks celebrate Nicaragua's autonomy plan

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

PUERTO CABEZAS, Nicaragua — Thousands of Nicaraguans — Indians, Blacks, and Spanish-speaking mestizos — packed the town square here April 24 to celebrate the final drafting of an autonomy law for Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast.

The law was adopted by a Multiethnic Assembly held here in the capital of Northern Yelapa Province April 22-24. The legislation now goes to Nicaragua's National Assembly, or parliament, for final approval and enactment.

Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast comprises the provinces of Northern and Southern Yelapa and is the home of six different racial groups, each with their own history,

culture, and traditions.

There are Miskito Indians, who speak the Miskito language; Sumo Indians, who speak Sumo; Rama Indians, who speak English; Creoles, who are descendants of African slaves, and speak English; Garifonos, English-speaking descendants of slaves and Carib Indians; and mestizos, descendants of Spanish-speaking peasants from Nicaragua's Pacific and central regions.

Prior to the Sandinista revolution of 1979, the Atlantic Coast was dominated by U.S. corporations, who together with Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza, sub-

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# Denial of visa to Allende ruled 'improper'

BY SELVA NEBBIA

An important victory for democratic rights was won March 31, when a U.S. District court in Massachusetts ruled the 1983 denial of a visa to Hortensia Bussi de Allende to be "improper." This decision was in response to a lawsuit filed by the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (NECLC).

"This litigation is of historic significance, because this is the first time that a court has decided that the denial of a visa on ideological grounds is unlawful," Edward Copeland, an attorney for the NECLC, told the *Militant*.

Hortensia Allende is a member of the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), an honorary president of the World Peace Council (WPC), and a member of the United Nations Committee Against Apartheid. She is the widow of Salvador Allende, the president of Chile assassinated in 1973 during the military coup that brought Gen. Augusto Pinochet to power.

## Visa denied

In March 1983, Hortensia Allende was invited to speak in the United States by several universities and individuals.

Allende, then living in exile in Mexico, applied to the U.S. embassy in Mexico City for a visitor's visa. The consulate denied the visa under a section of the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act (also known as the McCarran-Walter Act), which prohibits the issuance of visas to "aliens who are members of or are affiliated with . . . the Communist or any other totalitarian party . . . of any foreign state."

The government claimed that the WIDF and the WPC are affiliated to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The State Department, which could have granted Allende a waiver, refused on the basis of another section of the McCarran-Walter Act. That section prohibits entry into the United States to persons believed to seek admission "solely, principally, or incidentally to engage in activities which would be prejudicial to the public interest, or endanger the welfare, safety, or security of the United States."

## Curb on freedom of speech

In December 1983 the NECLC filed a lawsuit on behalf of citizens who had invited Allende to the United States to speak and exchange views on the issues of human rights, the situation in Chile, and U.S. involvement in Latin American affairs.

The plaintiffs included professors John Womack of Harvard University, Duncan Kennedy of Harvard Law School, Brian Smith of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Jack Spence of the University of Massachusetts. The Boston Area Council on Latin America and the Northern California Ecumenical Council were also plaintiffs.

They argued that by not being allowed to hear Allende their constitutional right to

freedom of speech was violated.

The defendants in the lawsuit were Secretary of State George Shultz, Attorney General William French Smith, and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Commissioner Alan Nelson.

In April 1985 the court rejected a government motion to have the case dismissed, citing the 1972 case of *Kleindienst v. Mandel* to support its decision.

In *Kleindienst v. Mandel*, the NECLC had established that even though a visa applicant from another country has no constitutional right to contest the denial of a visa, U.S. citizens whose First Amendment rights are harmed by the visa denial do have such a right.

Despite this advance, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the denial of a visa to Ernest

Mandel, a Belgian socialist and a leader of the Fourth International.

The government's explanation for denying a visa to Allende centered around an affidavit by the Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. The government had originally requested to be allowed to present this affidavit *in camera*, that is, to be seen by the judge only and not by the plaintiffs and the lawyers, since it was classified information. Judge Andrew Caffrey denied the government this request.

The affidavit was then partially declassified and presented as evidence to justify Allende's exclusion from the country. But all it amounted to was citing Allende's attendance at three international conferences where she spoke on "women's issues and the need for nuclear disarmament" and where she "assailed the U.S." in her

speech.

In March 1987 the court ruled that the declassified Eagleburger affidavit did not provide sufficient proof for her exclusion from the United States. The judge also ruled the government failed to provide legitimate reason for refusing to grant Allende a waiver that would have allowed her to visit the United States.

This ruling is an important breakthrough in getting rid of the barriers that government officials use in barring people whose views it disagrees with. "This whole area of law and the real ability to challenge this started with the Mandel case back in 1972," Copeland stated. "And while there have been many challenges since then, none has managed to get a court to say that the denial of a visa was unlawful."

# Farm co-op militias repel contras

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

SAN JUAN DEL RÍO COCO, Nicaragua — Peasant militias at the Che Guevara farm cooperative 10 miles from here successfully fought off an attack by a large force of contra mercenaries April 9.

The contras killed four cooperative members, including a school teacher; burned a truck and tractor; and robbed the cash from the rural supply store, but were driven away before doing more damage.

When reporters arrived a day and a half after the attack, we could hear grenades exploding and bursts of machine-gun fire in the valley below the cooperative. Soldiers were operating a radio communication post from the roof of one building, and armed peasants stood guard throughout the settlement.

Despite the fighting nearby, the soldiers and peasants we talked to were confident and cheerful. The army had cornered a contra force, probably the one that had attacked the cooperative, a radio operator told me. It was just a matter of time until the mercenaries surrendered or were wiped out, he said.

We met Francisco Baez, the 40-year-old production secretary of the cooperative, as he stood guard in a foxhole with a machine gun. Behind him lay the burned-out hulk of the cooperative's new truck, destroyed in the April 9 attack.

The cooperative has 100 members, both men and women, Baez said. These peasants work their land together and have organized a 60-person militia for self-defense.

The contras came out of the thick woods from an unexpected direction and reached the edge of the settlement without being detected, Baez said. They surprised and captured the cooperative's truck driver and immediately killed him with a shot to the head.

The mercenaries then launched a mortar and grenade attack and set the bombs that

destroyed the truck and tractor. The peasants fought back, however, and forced the contras to retreat after 45 minutes of sharp fighting. Baez said there could have been as many as 200 mercenaries in the attack.

This cooperative is located in rich coffee growing land in the mountains about 40 miles northeast of the city of Esteli. Much of this area was abandoned in 1983 and 1984 because of heavy contra attacks. San Juan del Río Coco itself was attacked in 1984, though local militias kept the contras from entering the town.

Now, with the Nicaraguan army driving back the mercenary forces, the land is being resettled and put back into production.

As the area around San Juan was secured

by the Nicaraguan army, peasants from dry, unproductive land were encouraged to move there. The government gave them land, initial supplies, and credit.

Natividad López said they started the Che Guevara cooperative last fall, just in time to harvest the coffee crop.

Although they were just beginning, López said proudly, the cooperative already had a functioning school and child-care center.

"While we're producing, the children are studying," he said, hefting his rifle to return to a lookout post. "The contras don't want us to have schools or the help that we now get from the government. But we peasants are going to continue moving forward despite them."

# Veterans' leader to speak on Vietnam at N.Y. meeting

BY STEVE CLARK

NEW YORK — An eyewitness report from Vietnam by veterans' leader Barry Romo will be presented at a speakout here May 17 on "Contragate-Vietnam: What's the Connection?"

Romo will have just returned from Vietnam, where he is currently leading a month-long tour by a delegation of U.S. veterans. He is national coordinator of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

"There is a direct link between U.S. policy toward Vietnam and Nicaragua," the call for the meeting explains. By covering up the crimes committed against the people of Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s, the leaflet says, Washington hopes to undercut mounting public opposition to its mercenary contra war against Nicaragua today.

Thousands of leaflets for the event were

distributed on New York buses to the April 25 march on Washington, D.C.

The meeting will demand an end to the U.S. trade embargo of Vietnam and the establishment of normal diplomatic relations with its government.

Bui Xuan Nhat, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations, will also speak at the meeting. Eddie Demmings of the National Conference of Black Lawyers will report on his recent fact-finding trip to Vietnam.

The meeting is sponsored by the Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos and has been endorsed by some 35 organizations. It will be held at Casa de las Americas, 104 W. 14th Street, at 2:00 p.m. There is a \$5 donation (\$3 for limited income). For more information, call (718) 643-0201.

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## The Militant

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Coeditors: MARGARET JAYKO and DOUG JENNESS

Circulation Director: MALIK MIAH

Nicaragua Bureau Director: CINDY JAQUITH

Business Manager: JIM WHITE

Editorial Staff: Susan Apstein, Fred Feldman, Ernest Harsch, Arthur Hughes, Sam Manuel, Harvey McArthur (Nicaragua), Roberto Kopeck (Nicaragua), Harry Ring, Norton Sandler.

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# Crisis deepens for Salvadoran gov't

## Despite massive U.S. aid, regime unable to crush popular struggles

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

The devastating attack by Salvadoran liberation fighters on a key government military base at El Paraíso on March 31 was a stunning blow to the U.S.-backed regime there. It put a spotlight on the deepening political and economic crisis facing the government of El Salvador.

In spite of massive infusions of U.S. dollars and weapons, President José Napoleón Duarte's regime has been unable to quell the growing opposition by Salvadoran workers and farmers to its policies of war, repression, and austerity.

And it has been unable to crush the popular guerrilla forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), which controls a significant portion of El Salvador's countryside.

Since the civil war began in 1979, Washington has poured huge resources into El Salvador to prop up the regime and to try to crush the FMLN and destroy its base of support among workers, peasants, and youth.

The \$2.5 billion in U.S. aid has built up the Salvadoran army to 56,000 soldiers, in addition to a paramilitary force of between 18,000 and 22,000 "civil defense" troops. The air force has been bolstered with nearly 80 U.S.-supplied helicopters, 11 bombers, and 12 gunships.

The FMLN estimates that there are some 300 U.S. military advisers in the country, helping direct the government's war. This includes the 55 officially recognized advisers.

### 62,000 Salvadorans killed

The government's seven-year war on the Salvadoran people has already left 62,000 dead in this country of 5 million inhabitants. Most of them have been victims of army repression and right-wing death squads.

Although Washington claims the human rights situation has improved in El Salvador, government terror still prevails. The death squads, which the regime had reined in to bolster this image, began to step up their activity again last year. Air force bombings of civilians continue.

According to a report by the New York-based Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights, torture "continues to be standard operating procedure for the Salvadoran security forces."

There are more than 1,000 political prisoners, most of them held without trial. On the other hand, not a single military officer responsible for torture and murder has ever been prosecuted.

The military also terrorizes youths by sweeping through working-class communities and rural areas and forcibly recruiting young workers and peasants into the army.

The latest tactic in the regime's war has

been a counterinsurgency program called "United to Rebuild." Because of widespread outrage at the terror unleashed by the Salvadoran armed forces, this campaign was proclaimed as a "humanitarian" nonmilitary effort by the government.

In fact, however, the campaign is based on the "pacification" program used by Washington in its war against the Vietnamese people. It is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and designed by U.S. military advisers. The plan consists of the forcible relocation of thousands of rural families, military "clean-up" operations against the guerrillas and their supporters, and intimidation of villagers into forming paramilitary "civil defense" patrols, along with some meager economic aid to those communities that cooperate with the regime.

In the Guazapa volcano region, which has been an FMLN stronghold, the army carried out this plan in early 1986 by massively bombing the area, destroying farms and houses, pushing out most of the FMLN forces, and forcibly relocating more than a thousand peasants.

Over the past months, however, the liberation fighters have been returning in small groups to this strategic area, which is 30 miles north of San Salvador, the capital.

In the relocation camps, the army occupation and the harsh conditions have generated widespread discontent. The key element of the counterinsurgency program — the "civil defense" patrols — has failed, since most villagers have refused to join them.

### Impact of Sandinista victories

In addition to the problems faced by the Duarte regime, the failure of the U.S.-organized contra war in Nicaragua is a decisive factor in the crisis facing Washington in El Salvador.

This was pointed to in a joint statement by the FMLN and Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), a coalition of political organizations allied with the FMLN. The statement, released in January, pointed out, "The inability of the Nicaraguan contras to achieve their aims, the resounding defeats inflicted by the Nicaraguan people on these bands of mercenaries, and the lack of a favorable outcome to the counterinsurgency plans in El Salvador will continue to bog down the Reagan administration's policies in Central America."

These victories of the Nicaraguan revolution, as well as the wider government crisis in Washington, have meant "the weakening of the main pillar of support that has allowed [the Duarte regime] to remain in power," the FMLN-FDR statement added.

### Duarte more isolated

As the Duarte regime becomes more and more discredited, there are deepening rifts among El Salvador's wealthy rulers.

Right-wing businessmen organized a business strike on January 22 to protest new war taxes passed by Duarte's Christian Democratic Party. Rightist opposition parties also staged a boycott of the National Assembly to protest an electoral law that favors the Christian Democrats.

The Duarte administration has further antagonized other political forces by using U.S. money — including earthquake relief funds — to build a political machine that hands out jobs and lines the pockets of Christian Democratic supporters.

The vast majority of the Salvadoran people, on the other hand, are feeling the crushing burden of the economic crisis.

Half the work force is unemployed. The inflation rate is 40 percent.

Almost half of El Salvador's budget goes for war spending. Meanwhile, the government spends 42 percent of export earnings on debt payments to U.S. and other international banks. Capital flight has reached an estimated \$1 billion, as the rich stash away their millions in Miami bank accounts.

On top of this came last October's devastating earthquake, which caused at least \$1 billion in damages and left 200,000 people homeless. There are already a half million Salvadoran refugees in the United States and another half million in Mexico,



Militant/Don Gurewitz

Nov. 22, 1986, demonstration in San Salvador. The National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) is leading fight against regime's antilabor policies.

Honduras, and elsewhere.

After the earthquake, the FMLN-FDR issued a platform of demands on the government. These included: abolishing the austerity measures, a freeze on prices, a moratorium on farm debts, a massive program of housing construction for earthquake victims, improvements in health care, freedom for all political prisoners, an end to forced army recruitment, and a dialogue to reach a negotiated political solution to the civil war.

Instead of providing relief, the Duarte government has imposed sharp economic austerity measures on Salvadoran working people.

### Labor upsurge

This crisis has sparked a wave of protests by workers and small farmers in El Salvador. The trade union movement took a big step forward in February 1986 with the founding of a broad labor federation, the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), to fight the regime's antilabor offensive. Significantly, it includes the Popular Democratic Union, a union federation whose leadership had previously been pro-Duarte.

The UNTS has demanded not only better wages and working conditions, but the freeing of all political prisoners, an end to all U.S. aid to the Duarte regime, and the resumption of talks between the government and the FMLN-FDR.

In response to this, the government set

up a rival labor organization called National Union of Workers and Peasants (UNOC). But even this group has started to criticize the Duarte regime's austerity measures.

Last year, more than 150 strikes and many protests were held by sugar workers, farm workers, hospital workers, government employees, garment workers, and others.

Peasants have also taken part in protests. In spite of a U.S.-sponsored "land reform," land remains firmly in the hands of a few wealthy landlords.

Last year, the UNTS organized a march of 60,000 people on February 21 and a demonstration of 50,000 on May 1 in San Salvador. This January 17, it held a march of 35,000, defying the massive army and police presence.

In the face of these protests, the Duarte regime has no solution or plan that can resolve its crisis, which continues to deepen.

"The United States embassy also appears to be out of fresh ideas," a report in the February 16 *New York Times* stated. "As described by several officials, American policy seems to boil down to hanging on until the presidential elections in 1989 and pressing the war at all costs."

Hugo Carrillo, a right-wing Salvadoran politician, had an even less confident view. He told reporters, "We want Duarte to reach the finish line of his term, even if we have to carry him there on a Red Cross stretcher."

## Socialist education conferences

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance invite you to two educational weekends . . .

### Northwest Socialist Conference Seattle — May 9-10

Saturday, May 9, 2 p.m.  
U.S. Labor at the Crossroads  
Hear Craig Gannon, member  
SWP Trade Union Bureau  
5517 Rainer Ave. South

7:30 p.m.  
The Future of the Soviet Union:  
Lenin's Unfinished Fight  
Hear Doug Jenness,  
editor of the 'Militant'  
at Camp 722 18th Ave. at Cherry St.

Sunday May 10, 10 a.m.  
Next Steps in Building a Party of Communist Workers  
Hear John Gaige, member SWP Organization Bureau  
5517 Rainier Ave. South  
For more information contact Seattle or Portland SWP and YSA listed in directory on page 12.

### Northern California Socialist Conference San Francisco — May 2-3

Conference topics and speakers will be the same as Northwest conference. U.S. Labor at the Crossroads, Sat., May 2, 2 p.m.; The Future of the Soviet Union: Lenin's Unfinished Fight, Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Next Steps in Building a Party of Communist Workers, Sun., May 3, noon. ILWU Local 34 hall, 4 Berry St. (at Embarcadero). For more information contact San Francisco, Oakland, or San Jose SWP and YSA listed in directory on page 12.



Salvadoran President José Napoleón Duarte.



# Nicaraguans celebrate autonomy plan

Continued from front page

jected the Indians and Blacks of the region to special forms of racial discrimination.

The coast as a whole was kept isolated from the rest of the country, in a state of extreme economic backwardness. Illiteracy and disease were rampant.

The new autonomy law codifies rights that the coastal peoples or *costeños*, have already won in practice through the struggle that opened up with the July 1979 revolution that overthrew Somoza. The law guarantees the right of *costeños* to use and develop their own languages and cultures, to elect and run their own regional governments, and to exercise decision-making in a broad range of economic and social policies in the region.

Sandinista leader Tomás Borge, president of Nicaragua's National Autonomy Commission, told the thousands at the April 24 rally that they were giving the world "a lesson in democracy."

"The [autonomy] law takes up the historical legitimacy of the rights of the Atlantic Coast," he said. "The law reiterates that the revolution is the source that made it possible to liberate the suppressed energies and recognize the multiethnic character of our people."

"If this is not democracy, what is?" he asked.

At a press conference after the rally, Borge explained that the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) had made serious mistakes in its relations with the coastal peoples in the early days of the revolution. He cited the example of attempting to impose organizational forms that had arisen during the anti-Somoza struggles in the Pacific coast, but were foreign to *costeños*.

Early actions of the FSLN that did not take into account the specific needs and aspirations of the coastal peoples led to sharp conflicts between *costeños* and the revolutionary government. The U.S. government took advantage of these errors to encourage armed uprisings against the revolutionary government, Borge said. Nicaragua's first response, which emphasized military actions without recognizing the legitimate grievances of the *costeños*, only made things worse.

The FSLN came to realize its errors, Borge said, and shifted to promoting a political solution. This led to the autonomy discussions, and to convincing many of the Indians who had taken up arms against the Sandinista government to return to their communities and join the discussions.

As Borge explained to the April 24 rally, the revolution's experience on the Atlantic Coast "has demonstrated in practice that it is not scientifically correct to reduce social reality exclusively to class determinations."

"While there can be no doubt about the class struggle, which is the decisive factor in social transformations and which is always present explicitly or beneath the surface, it is obvious that in contemporary society socio-cultural structures continue to exist that form the basis of specific ethnic identities. Therefore, we recognize that social and ethnic differences are among the motor forces of the revolution."

"We are demonstrating to the world that we have been capable of overcoming and learning from our errors," Borge told the rally. The U.S. government wanted "to



have us killing one another on the coast. [However], we have succeeded in looking each other in the eye and reaching out our hands in friendship.

"This has been a defeat for the U.S. policy and a triumph for the Nicaraguan people."

Borge warned that opponents of the revolution would "conspire against autonomy with the same hatred with which they conspire against all the achievements of the revolution." But he stressed that "nothing and no one will halt the execution of the [autonomy] law or the leadership and the massive and enthusiastic advance of the coastal peoples in the irreversible march of autonomy."

He also emphasized that the new law was only the beginning of solving the problems on the Atlantic Coast. "It is a guide and instrument for action. It must be improved upon, grow, and discover new aspects. Today we must study, explain, understand fully, defend, and, what is most important, carry out this law."

This includes "fighting those who promote racial discrimination and eradicating the remnants of prejudices," Borge told the crowd. "[We must] persuade, argue patiently, deepen our theoretical knowledge of family relations, culture, and the characteristics of the ethnic groups, and at the same time, find practical solutions to the problems that surely will arise in applying the law."

The Multiethnic Assembly here culminated a two-and-a-half year process of discussion and community consultations on the autonomy statutes. Hazel Lau, a leader of the National Autonomy Commission, reported that every village and community on the coast had elected and sent delegates, 2,000 in all.

For many, this meant a long trip on foot, by boat, or by truck over rough, forest roads. Most of the 280 delegates from Southern Zelaya came by fishing boat in a 25-hour trip from the city of Bluefields.

The 2,000 delegates chose a smaller group of 240 who met in workshops and a plenary session to discuss and adopt the final statutes. These delegates included farmers, fishermen, miners, ministers, and professionals. Some were leaders of Indian

groups that had taken up arms against the government, but were now participating in peace and autonomy discussions. The Rev. Hedley Wilson, bishop of the Moravian Church, gave a blessing to the assembly.

Official statistics on the delegates were not immediately available, but Miskitos appeared to be the single biggest group, followed closely by Creoles and mestizos, with a smaller number of Sumos and a few Garífonos and Ramas. About 20 percent of the delegates were women, and some of them, especially Miskito women, were among the most active participants.

The plenary session lasted 16 hours and was conducted in Spanish, with some translation into Miskito, Sumo, and English.

## Role of the autonomous governments

The autonomy law guarantees the right of the coastal peoples to develop their own cultures and to be educated in their own languages, reflecting their history and traditions. Spanish is recognized as Nicaragua's official language, but the Indian languages and English will have official status in the autonomous regions.

The statute establishes two autonomous regions, in Northern and Southern Zelaya, where *costeños* will elect local governments with wide authority over economic, social, and cultural questions. The regional governments on the coast are now, as throughout Nicaragua, appointed by the country's president.

The autonomous governments will have direct control over many economic and social programs, including some financed by the national government. They will also work with national government ministries to oversee programs in education, health, culture, and internal commerce.

In the case of big development projects directed by the national government, such as mining, fishing, and forestry operations, the regional autonomous governments will participate in their planning, evaluation, and administration.

## Communal property traditions upheld

The delegates adopted an article affirming the right of indigenous communities to communal use of lands, waters, and woods that had traditionally belonged to them. All members of the community will have the right to use a plot of the communal lands, which cannot be sold, seized, taxed, or given away. The assembly voted down a proposal from several pastors to allow donations of communal land to churches.

One hotly debated question was how to guarantee that *costeños* would benefit from the use of the rich natural resources of the coast. The mineral, timber, and fishing wealth of the region had long been exploited by U.S., Canadian, and other corporations, but they abandoned the region in the 1970s, leaving behind empty warehouses and ancient, rusting machinery. The few remaining operations were nationalized after the 1979 revolution.

Some delegates wanted to spell out what percentage of the profits of such operations would go to the regional governments. Others said that this was meaningless now, since industry and agriculture on the coast are so underdeveloped that the national government has to heavily subsidize the re-

gion.

The final wording of the autonomy law states that the coast inhabitants "shall receive a fair proportion of the benefits" from the use of their resources, with details to be worked out "in agreements between the regional and national government."

The statutes also affirm the duty of *costeños* to participate in the Nicaraguan army to defend the nation. Autonomy commission members told reporters that the military draft would be extended to all of the Atlantic Coast and that Indian militias being organized for defense against U.S.-run contra attacks would operate under army control.

The statutes also state that the police force will be part of the nationwide Sandinista Police. The delegates rejected a proposal to create a separate police force under the regional governments.

The assembly voted that all the racial groups in each autonomous region had to be represented in the regional councils and their boards of directors, though they did not specify how this would be done.

Sumo and Rama delegates expressed concern at being overwhelmed by larger groups, pointing out that they had historically suffered discrimination and persecution by the Miskitos and others. There are some 5,000 Sumos, 1,500 Garífonos, and 900 Ramas on the Atlantic Coast, compared to 25,000 Creoles, 80,000 Miskitos, and 180,000 mestizos.

A few delegates argued that each group should have an equal number of representatives, regardless of their size. Others argued for election of delegates based on geographical districts, saying that this way the representatives would know the problems and needs of the people of the district they came from.



Cyndi Kerr  
Mirna Cunningham is head of government in Northern Zelaya and member of autonomy commission.

In the end, the assembly decided that each regional council would have 30 to 50 members, elected by geographical districts, and include representatives of all racial groups. The details were left to the autonomy commission and the National Election Commission to work out.

The delegates did vote to increase the size of the board of directors in each regional council from five to seven members, and specified that each racial group should be represented on the board. During this discussion, one delegate said he thought that the Miskito, Sumo, Rama, and Garífono peoples were still too backward to have leaders capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of a board member. He was sharply answered by Mirna Cunningham, head of the government in Northern Zelaya and a member of the autonomy commission, who pointed out that this was just the sort of prejudice that still had to be overcome.

In the course of the plenary session, the delegates added several new points to the statutes. These included a provision for the regional councils to "promote the integration and development of women in all aspects of the political and social life of the region," and another that established "promoting unity, fraternity, and solidarity between the peoples of the Atlantic Coast" as a principle of autonomy.

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# Wash. farm workers launch vineyard boycott

BY MATT HERRESHOFF

YAKIMA, Wash. — Farm workers in the Yakima Valley have launched a boycott against the Ste. Michelle vineyards, the largest winery in the state. The workers are demanding that Ste. Michelle recognize and negotiate with their union, the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS).

In February, Ste. Michelle fired 13 workers at its vineyard in Paterson, Washington, for engaging in union activity. The workers began to organize when Ste. Michelle cut wages for pruners from \$6 an hour to \$5.25 an hour and lower.

The mostly Mexican workers are demanding an end to racist harassment by foremen and supervisors. They are fighting for better working conditions in the fields, such as the availability of toilets and drinking water. And they are demanding job security.

These are key issues for all 225,000 farm workers and their families who will labor in orchards, fields, and vineyards throughout the state this year.

In recent weeks, Ste. Michelle has reinstated the fired workers, raised wages, and improved conditions. But they have refused to recognize or negotiate with the union.

In response, at an April 5 UFWWS convention, 268 farm workers voted to launch a boycott against Ste. Michelle. On April 11, farm workers picketed at Ste. Michelle's Paterson vineyard. And 25

union activists drove three hours to picket Ste. Michelle's corporate headquarters in Woodinville, Washington, on April 18. The union plans to continue weekly pickets, UFWWS President Thomas Villanueva told the *Militant*.

Picketing is also continuing at Pyramid Orchards. Farm workers there went on strike when Pyramid cut wages for pruners from \$2.50 to \$1.75 a tree. Many workers couldn't make the minimum wage at that rate.

Recently, Pyramid completed pruning at its 117-acre ranch near Wapato. The union has responded by setting up picket lines at Pyramid's 300-acre ranch near Yakima.

The Pyramid strike has won support from thousands of farm workers throughout the Yakima Valley, who view it as their own fight and an important test of union power.

Growers, fearing that other workers will emulate the Pyramid strikers, have raised wages and improved conditions in farms throughout the area.

The farm workers' struggle has begun to win support from other unions in the state. Representatives of the Washington AFL-CIO, the striking Inland Boatmen's Union, and International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 37 attended the UFWWS convention April 5.

Contributions and messages of solidarity can be sent to: UFWWS, Box 899, Granger, Wash. 98932.



Strikers picket outside Pyramid Orchards

Militant/Matt Herreshoff

## Canadian unionists fight new B.C. antilabor laws

BY MATT HERRESHOFF

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada — Four thousand trade unionists rallied here April 14 to protest a vicious anti-union law being rammed through the provincial legislature.

The law, known as Bill 19, was introduced by British Columbia Premier Bill Vander Zalm in early April. It sets up a government commission with sweeping powers to break strikes and bust unions.

Under Bill 19, strikers can be ordered back to work any time a commissioner decides it is in "the public interest." The commissioner would have the right to force workers to arbitration at any time, appoint an arbitrator, and then overturn the arbitrator's decision if it doesn't suit him.

During contract negotiations or a strike, the bill would give employers the power to compel workers to vote on their last contract offer at any time. Scabs hired by the company during a strike would also be eligible to vote on the offer.

The bill also outlaws secondary boycotts.

A second proposed antilabor law, Bill 20, specifically targets the British Columbia Teachers Federation. The union is planning a one-day strike followed by work-to-rule job actions to protest this attack.

A leaflet distributed at the April 14 rally by the Vancouver and District Labour Council said, "At the centre of this assault are the multinationals that want to turn B.C. into another South Korea. To do this,

they must eliminate trade unions and other democratic organizations."

The British Columbia Federation of Labour (BCFL) is calling on unions to refuse to obey Bill 19 if it becomes law. Rallies against the legislation are being organized across the province.

"We didn't start this fight, but as sure as I'm standing here tonight before you, we will finish it," BCFL President Ken Georgetti told the crowd.

Numerous unions were represented. A Chinese garment worker affirmed, "We need to fight." Another unionist commented, "There's been nothing like this in the history of the province."

"I'd like to see 50,000 people demonstrating outside," a veteran member of the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) told me. That union won a militant strike against timber bosses in British Columbia last year. "Under this law, we'd never have won our strike," he said.

Many workers were actively discussing how to fight the attack. "Maybe we'll have to fill the jails," said one. "Maybe we'll all just stay home in bed," said another.

"We need to get everybody out in the streets to demonstrate. We need big demonstrations — 100,000 to 200,000. This affects everyone," a young woodworker told me.

Several union officials spoke at the event. It was also addressed by officials of the New Democratic Party, Canada's labor party.

## Calif. aerospace unionists unite to resist takebacks

BY DEAN DENNO AND SUE SKINNER

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Three thousand members of the International Association of Machinists and United Auto Workers from three McDonnell Douglas plants turned out here for an April 5 meeting. It was the first time ever that members of the two unions had held a joint meeting.

UAW Local 148 represents 10,000 workers at the Douglas plant in Long Beach. Machinist's District 720 has 5,000 members in plants in nearby Torrance and Huntington Beach. Unionists at these Douglas plants and from plants in Oklahoma and Arkansas have been working without union contracts since October 1986.

The joint meeting was called to encourage workers to continue work slowdowns in both plants and to demonstrate to Douglas management the unity that has been established between the unions.

Representatives from the unions at the Douglas plants in St. Louis; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Monrovia, California, also attended.

Douglas has unilaterally implemented its "final offer," though workers have rejected it twice. Four Douglas plants have already voted to authorize strike action. Workers in St. Louis and Monrovia are scheduled to vote soon.

The final offer has substantial takebacks, including weekly deductions for medical coverage, hundreds of new job combinations, and expansion of the two-tier wage system.

Mike Smith, president of IAM District 720, pointed out that benefits fought for in the past will be lost if the takebacks are not challenged.

Bob Berghoff, president of UAW Local 148, emphasized the importance of the two unions participating in joint negotiations. Local 148 waged an unsuccessful 17-week strike in 1983-1984 to try to turn back concessions. The local was hampered by the fact that all other large aerospace locals in the country had accepted concession contracts without a strike that year.

Berghoff presented proposals on what steps to take next. He referred to a book distributed by the AFL-CIO entitled, *The Inside Game: Winning with Workplace Strategies*. Berghoff said many companies today force workers to go on strike as a way of defeating their struggles. He said an "in-plant strategy" based on job actions would help avoid another defeat as in the last strike.

No discussion was organized during the meeting. But many workers talked to each other afterward. The sentiment to continue the fight was clearly in evidence. Some supported the slowdown. Others said we need a strike.

The company has billions of dollars in new commercial and military contracts. Thousands of workers have been hired in the past two years, and still more will have

to be hired if the contracts are to be fulfilled. Clearly the company does not want a strike now.

The very fact that the UAW and the IAM are united puts the workers in a stronger position than before. Given these facts, many workers felt we should build on the slowdown, but also set a strike deadline.

Douglas has stepped up firings, threats, and other disciplinary action. This increased harassment is intended to pick off individual workers and spread fear in the plants.

The entire work force must be organized to fight against the harassment and to fight for a decent contract. We will need more discussion among Douglas workers and more union meetings to respond adequately to the company's attacks. In this way we can continue to build on the strength and unity we have already achieved.

Dean Denno is a member of UAW Local 148 at Douglas's Long Beach plant. Sue Skinner is a member of IAM District 720 at the Torrance plant.

## Ohio farm workers win contract

BY ROBBIE SCHERR

TOLEDO — The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) has scored another victory in its efforts to unionize tomato and cucumber pickers in the Midwest. At a packed news conference April 9, a three-year contract was announced between FLOC and 27 cucumber growers who contract to sell their produce to Heinz USA.

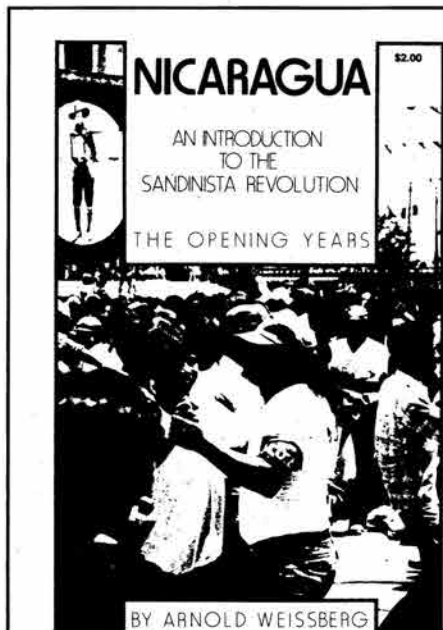
The contract comes about a year after the union's victory in a long and bitter battle with Campbell Soup Co. over the unionization of tomato pickers. After years of strikes, organizing, and a national boycott of Campbell products, FLOC forced Campbell to join in the first three-way contract between growers, farm workers, and the corporations that buy the fruits and vegetables.

John Dunlop from Harvard University, who acted as mediator, announced that FLOC won 72 percent of the vote.

As a result of the election, FLOC now represents 500 more workers in addition to the 800 on farms that contract with Campbell.

The new contract increases bonus payments to cucumber pickers and sets up a commission to investigate health and safety and housing matters. In addition, a three-step grievance procedure is established.

FLOC President Baldemar Velasquez hailed the victory but cautioned, "Some of the dramatic changes won't come until we represent the whole industry, but this is an important step."



### Newly reprinted by Pathfinder

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# Eastern Iowa sales team visits 15 plant gates

BY ED MARTIN

DES MOINES, Iowa — The sales team traveling through eastern Iowa visited 15 plant gates, including eight meat-packing plants. In addition to good sales — 134

throughout the region.

We got the best response at meat-packing plants. At three, sales topped 20 copies.

The team went to two Iowa Beef Processors plants — in Joslin

Workers at the Conagra-Armour plant in Mason City recently won bargaining rights for the UFCW and are now trying to win a contract. The impact of the drive was shown by the way that workers readily stopped their cars at the gate to talk to *Militant* salespeople. One of the 21 papers sold was to a passing driver who called out his support and stopped to buy a prounion paper.

Another side of the meat-packing story was seen at the Farmland plant in Iowa Falls, which is scheduled to close on June 5. The team happened across a union meeting for "dislocated workers."

Sales at the Oscar Mayer plant

in Davenport, FDL in Dubuque, and Farmstead in Cedar Rapids were not as high as those of previous teams. But sales were still good. The team's top plant-gate sale was 25 *Militants*, at FDL.

These experiences point to the ongoing impact of the battle between the employers and workers in meat-packing. Workers at the FDL plant in particular liked the coverage of the Cudahy struggle in Wisconsin.

Those buying subscriptions saw the *Militant* as a paper that reports on the experiences of meat-packers. At the Farmstead plant, a meat-packer bought a copy from one salesperson. Then, on his way

into work, he stopped to discuss with another *Militant* supporter what could be done to halt the bosses' attacks. He ended up buying a subscription.

The team was also able to get to a number of plants in the other major industry in the region — farm implements. In the wake of the farm crisis, workers at these plants have been hit by big layoffs and shutdowns. Even though the work force in some of these factories has been decimated, the response to the *Militant* was friendly. We sold seven *Militants* to workers at White Farm Implement in Charles City and another 27 papers to John Deere workers in Waterloo and Dubuque.

## SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

*Militants*, three *Perspectiva Mundials*, and four subscriptions to the *Militant* — the team was able to learn about some of the developments in union struggles, especially among meat-packers,

and Columbus Junction, Illinois. Some 18 *Militants* and two *PMs* were sold at the Columbus Junction plant. Despite missing the bulk of the workers at the Joslin plant, five *Militants* were sold.

## Good sales on trains, buses to D.C. demonstration

BY MALIK MIAH

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The April 25 "Peace and Justice" train from Boston arrived here with more than 1,300 opponents of the U.S. government's policies in Central America and southern Africa. Among the riders were supporters of the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Several salespeople told me it was a great political experience. About one-third of the train was filled with trade unionists, including many garment and electronic workers. Another third were students.

What were the sales results? I asked Jon and Mark. Some 50 *Militant* and *PM* subscriptions were sold. Many people bought books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder. And 75 signed up as sponsors of the Political Rights Defense Fund, which is backing the suit by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against government spying and disruption.

The subscriptions sold on the peace train were just a few of the more than 500 *Militant* and *PM* subscriptions bought by demonstrators participating in the antiwar and anti-apartheid protest. The overwhelming majority of subscriptions were sold on the buses, vans, and trains that carried people to the march. The cold rain in Washington cut across subscription sales at the march and rally itself.

Nevertheless, more than 2,000 copies of the *Militant*, 140 *PMs*, and 170 *Young Socialists*, newspaper of the Young Socialist Alliance, were sold at the demonstration. Pathfinder literature tables brought in several hundred dollars. More than \$1,200 worth of YSA buttons and T-shirts were sold.

Hundreds of protesters also attended an open house, held a few blocks from the rally area, sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party, which ran from 3:00 to past 8:00 in the evening.

Supporters of the two socialist publications in San Francisco also had good sales.

The successful April 25 sales have put us on target to meet our national spring subscription goal of 8,500 new readers to the *Militant* and *PM*. We now have 2,896 *Militant* and 824 *PM* subscriptions. (See scoreboard.)

A significant number of new subscribers are young people, many of whom were attending their first protest march.

Arlene sold three *Militant* subscriptions to students from Kansas University in Lawrence on one of the two buses coming from Kansas City. The students told her they had raised \$900 at a fundraising dance to help finance the trip.

YSA members from around the country played a big role in distributing the *Militant* and *PM* on buses and at the march. The YSA literature and sales table was always packed with young people. Malcolm X, Nicaragua, and Che Guevara T-shirts were big sellers.

Many people at the march expressed interest in the YSA, which is holding a national convention in Chicago May 23-25. Hundreds of convention brochures and *Young Socialists* were distributed. (See ad on page 9.)

Two of the top salespeople from New York were Yolanda and Francisco. Yolanda sold 10 *PM* and two *Militant* sub-



Despite cold and rain, several hundred salespeople sold more than 500 subscriptions and 2,000 copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at the April 25 demonstration in Washington, D.C.

scriptions on a bus that left from uptown Manhattan.

Francisco took a bus from Hostos Community College in the Bronx and sold 11 *PM* and one *Militant* subscription.

Marty from Cleveland said her best selling point was the *Militant's* and *PM's* full-time reporting bureau in Nicaragua.

Three buses and two vans came from Iowa. Stu, a member of the United Auto Workers union, said people came from several small towns. Many were interested in the *Militant*. One older farmer "got on

the bus and told everyone to buy the *Militant*," Stu said. "He said he had been reading it for a year after his wife bought it off a literature table."

Stu sold eight *Militant* and two *PM* subscriptions on his bus.

A 75-year-old man who took a van from Houston bought a subscription. He told *Militant* salesperson Peter that he had gone to Nicaragua last year to study Spanish at the language school in Estelí.

Jim and Julie of Pittsburgh looked bushed when I ran into them. But they had

an exciting story to tell. They had been selling at the Breezewood, Pennsylvania, bus stop since 3:00 a.m. Most buses going to Washington pull over at this stop.

"It was fantastic," Julie said. "We sold 48 *Militants* and eight subscriptions."

A highly successful open house sponsored by the YSA and SWP culminated the day's events for supporters and friends of the socialist publications. Hundreds of people came to the event to talk politics, get warm, and have some refreshments.

At the high point some 500 people packed the room to hear a short rally. Among the guests were antiwar and anti-apartheid activists. In addition, a table full of strikers from Local P-40 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union in Cudahy, Wisconsin, were there and received a standing ovation.

The rally was chaired by Rena Cacoullos, national secretary of the YSA, who recently visited Cuba on the occasion of the Fifth Congress of the Union of Young Communists. She urged everyone to attend the YSA convention and invited youth in the audience to join the YSA.

Other speakers were Ellie Beth Brady, a member of the Morgantown, West Virginia, SWP and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, who recently participated in an international coffee-picking brigade in Nicaragua; John Studer, executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund; and Sam Manuel, a *Militant* staff writer who recently spent two months in southern Africa and covered the Eighth Summit of the Nonaligned Movement in Harare, Zimbabwe.

## Spring Subscription Scoreboard

Goals			Sold		% Sold	Goals			Sold		% Sold
Area	Militant	Perspectiva Mundial	Militant	Perspectiva Mundial		Militant	Perspectiva Mundial	Militant	Perspectiva Mundial		
	New York	500	250	337	176	68	Kansas City	120	20	48	3
Phoenix	80	80	39	60	62	Dallas	120	60	48	17	36
Los Angeles	250	200	173	98	60	Houston	125	25	46	6	35
Stony Brook, N.Y.	10	—	6	—	60	Austin, Minn.	80	10	28	2	33
Chicago	225	75	130	49	60	Cincinnati	70	5	20	4	32
Milwaukee	100	25	66	7	58	Birmingham, Ala.	130	2	41	0	31
Des Moines, Iowa	100	10	46	11	52	St. Louis	250	12	75	5	31
Boston	240	60	103	51	51	Cleveland	125	15	36	6	30
Baltimore	130	8	56	14	51	New Paltz, N.Y.	10	—	3	—	30
Atlanta	110	10	53	7	50	Capital Dist, N.Y.	110	12	31	4	29
Portland, Ore.	125	25	63	12	50	Omaha, Neb.	100	15	25	6	27
Pittsburgh	90	10	42	6	48	Washington, D.C.	160	50	47	8	26
Greensboro, N.C.	115	10	54	2	45	Salt Lake City	100	30	29	3	25
Toledo, Ohio	100	5	45	2	45	Annandale, N.Y.	70	10	18	0	23
Miami	110	40	53	14	45	New Orleans	90	10	22	0	22
San Francisco	100	60	45	25	44	Ames, Iowa	5	—	1	—	20
Charleston, W. Va.	100	—	41	2	43	Columbus, Ohio	25	5	3	2	17
San Diego	85	55	40	19	42	Price, Utah	45	2	3	0	6
Twin Cities, Minn.	200	15	80	10	42	Athens, Ohio	8	—	0	—	0
Seattle	180	50	74	21	41	Clovis, Calif.	5	—	0	—	0
Morgantown, W. Va.	75	5	29	4	41	Edmond, Okla.	5	—	0	—	0
Denver	100	15	43	4	41	Honolulu, Hawaii	15	—	0	—	0
Newark, N.J.	375	175	177	45	40	Lawrence, Kan.	20	—	0	—	0
Amherst, Mass.	10	—	3	1	40	Oberlin, Ohio	5	—	0	—	0
Oakland, Calif.	150	50	64	16	40	Tucson, Ariz.	2	3	0	0	0
Wilmington, De.	5	—	2	—	40	West Haven, Conn.	5	—	0	—	0
San Jose, Calif.	180	100	80	31	40	W. Palm Beach, Fla.	5	—	0	—	0
Detroit	190	20	75	8	40	Teams	—	—	239	29	—
Philadelphia	150	50	57	16	37	Other	—	—	57	18	—
<b>Totals</b>						6,700	1,800	2,896	824	44	
<b>To be on schedule</b>								2,874	772	43	



# 1,500 in Portland protest murder of Ben Linder

BY LISA HICKLER

PORTLAND — In the largest antiwar protest here in recent years, 1,500 people held a vigil April 29 to express outrage at the murder of Ben Linder by U.S.-trained contras in Nicaragua.

The 27-year-old Linder, who grew up here, was working as an engineer building hydroelectric plants in northern Nicaragua.

The vigil was called by the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee and the Portland-Corinto Sister Cities Association, which organizes solidarity with the Nicaraguan city of Corinto.

At a news conference here earlier in the day, David Linder, Ben's father and a board member of the Portland-Corinto Sister Cities Association, spoke. He told reporters his son would be buried in Nicaragua.

Ben Linder "had a commitment to the revolution there," said his father. "By the revolution he meant giving people schools, giving them medical care, giving them land. He was trying to give them a little electricity."

John Linder, Ben's brother, told reporters, "My brother's death was not an accident. His death was policy," the policy of the U.S.-funded contras to kill workers bringing needed social services to remote parts of Nicaragua.

"The U.S. government killed my brother," Linder declared. He urged people

to respond by becoming involved in protests against U.S. aid to the contras.

Linder also urged people to replace his brother a thousandfold by going down to Nicaragua themselves.

Ben Linder had worked in Nicaragua for the last four years and was living in the peasant village of El Cuá at the time of his death. He traveled here to Portland occasionally to speak out in support of the Nicaraguan revolution and to raise funds for the group he was working with, the Nicaragua Appropriate Technology Project.

Members of that group told the *Oregonian* newspaper that they had recently been the target of FBI harassment. Roger Litman was quoted as saying that project activists had been threatened with loss of their jobs and that federal agents had visited group members in early April.

The *Oregonian* also printed a letter Ben Linder recently sent to his family, reflecting his optimism about the future in Nicaragua. "This is probably the final offensive of the contras," he said.

"Losing soldiers daily as they desert, the contras are desperate. Like any desperate animal backed into a corner, they are fighting with all they have."

"The people of El Cuá know 1987 will be a very hard year. But they also know they are winning the war. Next week, for the first time, high school classes will be taught in El Cuá."

## 200,000 march against contra war, apartheid

Continued from front page

Cudahy packing plant near Milwaukee since January.

P-40 Vice-president Leon Butler said they had come to Washington "because we are against apartheid and against America being in Nicaragua. We're also marching to help workers in America. The same people doing it to workers [in Nicaragua and South Africa] are doing it to us. We're also against racism."

P-40 striker Eleanor Clayborne said Milwaukee-area unions had funded their trip to the march. "We're not just fighting for ourselves but for all unionists," she said. "People are oppressed all around the world, but people in the U.S. are oppressed too." She said if unionists don't support the struggles of working people in other countries, "how can we expect them to support us?"

Ten meat-packers and their supporters from Austin, Minnesota, marched behind a banner that said "Hormel out of South Africa."

Auto workers came from several cities. Dede Grey from the General Motors plant in Parma, Ohio, said she had come because she was angry about apartheid. "I want to march against this killing of children," she said.

Paul Cipollone explained that the GM plant in Norwood, Ohio, where he has worked for 21 years, will be closed in a few months. He was in Washington to protest both the loss of his job and the contra war.

One of the most vocal groups consisted of members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). At least 50 ACTWU members, most of them Portuguese-speaking women, were there from Fall River and New Bedford, Massachusetts. Like many other demonstrators, they sported red caps declaring "No pasarán!" — a Nicaraguan slogan meaning Washington's contras "shall not pass."

Several hundred unionists marched behind the ACTWU Mid-Atlantic region banner. "Stop contra aid," "Stop U.S. war in Central America," and "No more Vietnams," were among the signs they carried.

Others wearing ACTWU caps marched behind the banners of the New York and Philadelphia Labor Committees Against

Apartheid. "We are for freeing the people of South Africa. We are against slavery," a woman shouted as she passed by.

### Electronic workers

Jaime Martínez, an International representative of the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE), marched with 100 IUE members from Texas. Many were Chicanos. Martínez said they had come to "protest against racism, the new immigration law, the outrageous amount of money going to the contras. That money should be used for hospitals here instead of the military."

Thirty IUE members came from the Rotarex plant in Frederick, Maryland. This was the first time that local had participated in a national protest march since the AFL-CIO organized the Solidarity Day demonstration in September 1981.

Somewhat smaller than the IUE contingent was the International Association of Machinists (IAM) contingent, whose members carried anti-apartheid signs. IAM President William Winpisinger marched in the contingent.

Signs and banners also identified delegations from the American Federation of Government Employees; Communications Workers of America; National Education Association; American Postal Workers Union; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; Farm Labor Organizing Committee; and Hotel and Restaurant Workers. Many other unionists also joined the march.

### Students

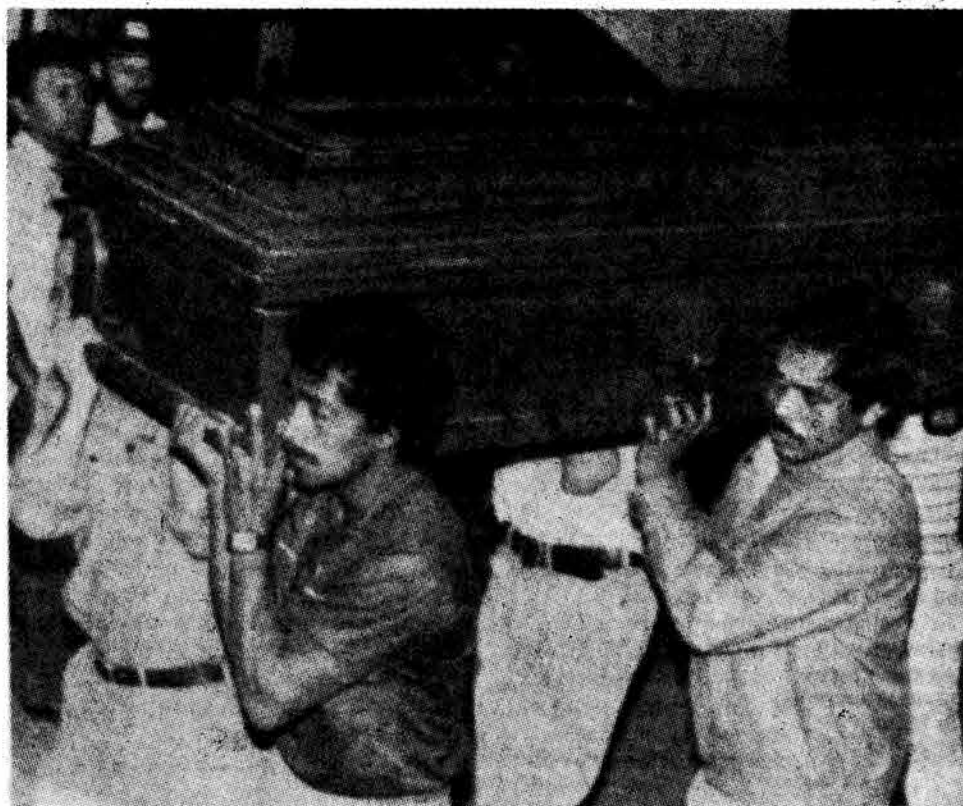
Though people of all ages were noticeable in the crowd, the youthfulness of the demonstration was striking.

Eddie Kirtz, 17, who rode the bus from Boston, said, "Age should not be an excuse for not getting involved. We're the next generation that will have to fight the wars."

The impact of the government contra-gate crisis was very much in evidence at the demonstration, especially expressions of anger over being lied to by Washington about what the White House is really doing in Nicaragua.

Chris Holt, one of three high school stu-

Continued on Page 8



Sandinistas bring coffin of Ben Linder, U.S. engineer killed by contras, to city of Matagalpa April 29.

## Solidarity group is sending more volunteers to Nicaragua

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "This terrorist murder will not deter us from continuing our work of sending U.S. volunteers to Nicaragua to work in a variety of development projects," said Debra Reuben, leader of the Nicaragua Network, at a news conference here April 29.

The news conference was called to protest the murder of Ben Linder, a U.S. engineer working in Nicaragua, by contras armed and trained by the U.S. government.

"We U.S. citizens living and working in Nicaragua and in the United States refuse to be intimidated," declared Reuben. "We will not allow the Reagan administration to use its murder of Ben Linder as a justification for restricting the right of Americans to travel freely to Nicaragua and to work in solidarity with the Nicaraguan people."

"On the contrary, we will redouble our efforts in support of peace and development in Central America."

Participants in the news conference de-

manded a congressional investigation of Linder's death. Also speaking were Sam Hope, from Witness for Peace; Roger Litman, from the Nicaragua Appropriate Technology Project that Linder belonged to; and Dr. Anne Lifflander, who worked in Nicaragua and knew Linder.

Protest statements were also released by Sen. Mark Hatfield and Rep. Les AuCoin, both from Oregon, where Linder grew up.

Several hours after the news conference, 150 people demonstrated outside the offices here of the contra group UNO, chanting "USA, CIA, out of Nicaragua" and "Contra terrorists out of D.C."

Leaflets were distributed for a demonstration May 16 at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to protest huge U.S. military maneuvers in Central America. The action will take place from 12 noon to 3 p.m., and is sponsored by the Pledge of Resistance, Nicaragua Network, War Resisters League, National Mobilization for Survival, Witness for Peace, Madre, Veterans Peace Action Team, and others.

## Gov't changes arguments in Los Angeles deportation case

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — Overruling government objections, U.S. Immigration Service Judge Ingrid Hrycenko ruled April 28 that she will hear arguments on whether Palestinian immigrants are being unconstitutionally targeted for deportation because of their political views and nationality.

The hearing occurred in the case of seven Palestinians and one Kenyan who were arrested in Los Angeles on January 28 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The INS began deportation proceedings against them on the grounds that they promote the views of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), an affiliate of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Some 300 supporters of the defendants picketed outside the court building at the INS hearing. Simultaneous protests occurred in several other cities.

The hearing involved six of the eight who had been arrested.

On April 23, the government dropped "subversion" charges against the six. Instead, the government is now demanding their deportation for supposed technical violations of their visas, while still openly admitting the six have been singled out for deportation because of their political views.

At the same time, charges against the two other defendants, Khader Musa Hamide and Michel Ibrahim Shehadeh,

were changed.

Initially, the INS charged that the PFLP promoted the "doctrine of world communism" and therefore the activists' support for the group made them liable to be deported. The government has now dropped this charge.

The new accusation is that the PFLP "advocates or teaches . . . the unlawful damage, injury or destruction of property," and that is why the two should be deported.

The next hearing has been set for May 8.

Meanwhile, in a separate proceeding in federal district court, Judge Stephen Wilson said he would schedule arguments on whether legal residents who are not citizens have the same constitutionally protected rights as U.S. citizens, a key issue in the case.

According to the judge, "No court has ever decided this. In the history of our country, this issue hasn't been taken head on."

It was reported at the federal court hearing that government attorneys said charges against Hamide and Shehadeh would be changed. They would now be charged with belonging to an organization that advocates the overthrow of the U.S. government.

Under the McCarthy-era McCarran-Walter Act, advocacy of such ideas by noncitizens is grounds for deportation. Judge Wilson saw the McCarran statute as overly broad and chilling in its effect on free speech. He set a further hearing for May 15.



# Big outpouring in Washington protests contras, apartheid

Continued from Page 7

dents from Belfast, Maine, said, "We came here because too much is being covered up, with all the lies we've been told about Central America. This march could be the beginning of a new consciousness in this country."

Gayle Perkins, a Cleveland college student, expressed pride in the fact that 24 buses came from her area. "We have to stand up for the rights of the people of Central America," she said, as well as "demand an end to racism for good."

Fifty Black students came from D.C.-area campus chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Clifford Strong, a sophomore at Georgetown University, emphasized, "There is racism and oppression not only here but in other countries, and we can't allow the U.S. to support apartheid."

## Identification with Nicaragua

Strong identification with the Nicaraguan revolution was an especially striking feature of the march and rally. Visible in the crowd were thousands of activists who have traveled to Nicaragua since the revolution there in July 1979.

The New York Nicaragua Construction Brigade marched alongside a float depicting Uncle Sam being flattened by a huge hammer. This brigade recently helped construct a "Peace House" in Puerto Cabezas on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast.

An older woman from Spencer, West Virginia, said she had spent two weeks in 1984 in Jalapa, Nicaragua. "We had been lied to" about that country she said, and, "I went to see what it was really like."

"I'm from a farming area," she explained, "I went to a farming area there and felt right at home."

"Let Nicaragua live" and "Just say no to the contras" signs were scattered throughout the crowd. Church groups and others carried crosses bearing the names of those murdered by the contras.

Activists from the Quest for Peace Organization parked 40 trucks filled with material aid for Nicaragua below the Capitol, near the end of the march. They passed out literature appealing to the demonstrators to help raise \$100 million in material aid to counter the \$100 million Congress voted for the contras.

## Latin Americans, Caribbeans

Many groups of Latin American and Caribbean activists marched in contingents. The largest group was Salvadorans, many of whom carried signs expressing support for the Revolutionary Democratic Front and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador.

More than 100 Guatemalans carried signs with the names of activists murdered by that country's government. Contingents of Puerto Ricans, Hondurans, Colombians, Cubans, Nicaraguans, and Dominicans were also present.

Banners protested the recently enacted immigration law and deportations.

The Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression passed out literature along the march route.

Many other groups carried signs protesting the U.S. government's role in their countries: "No U.S. intervention in the Middle East," "No U.S. arms to Israel," and "Stop U.S. intervention in the Philippines," were among them.

A group of South Koreans carried placards reading "U.S. troops and nukes out of South Korea" and "Korean torture, made in the USA."

Signs and banners protested racist attacks on Asian Americans in the United States.

A large contingent marched behind the banner of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES). Some 75 people marched with the banner of the African National Congress of South Africa.

Political parties and groups organized contingents and distributed their newspapers and other literature. They included the Communist Party and Young Communist League, Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, Democratic Socialists of America, Line of March, and

Workers World Party.

The rally at the Capitol had been under way for an hour and a half before the last contingents made their way onto the lawn and stairs below.

Kenneth Blaylock, president of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), told the crowd that Congress was "running a war where the people of El Salvador and Nicaragua are dying."

"We should be reaching out to the people of those countries, not supporting the government in El Salvador who's using our airplanes, our bombs, our weapons against the people in the hill country."

A month before the demonstration, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland sent state and local AFL-CIO bodies a letter prohibiting them from endorsing the Washington and San Francisco actions.

Kirkland's letter was followed up by red-baiting attacks on the mobilization by Bricklayers' union President John Joyce and by American Federation of Teachers President Albert Shanker.

These attacks received prominent play from several newspaper and magazine columnists looking for a peg to discredit the actions.

Henry Nicholas, president of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, told the press at the demonstration, "For the labor movement not to come here today is a betrayal of our responsibility and our obligation to the members we represent."

"I'm here because at each and every meeting, resolutions by the members of the union I represent have said that we want out of Nicaragua... we want out of our back-handed lethal engagement in South

Africa," said Nicholas.

Entertainer Ed Asner, who chaired part of the rally, directly addressed Kirkland's attack. "It's hard to believe the AFL-CIO rhetoric about free speech abroad," he said, "in the face of their abysmal disregard for free speech at home."

Asner said that in Central America the AFL-CIO's American Institute for Free Labor Development mirrors "the role of the administration and quite possibly the CIA."

## Nicaragua and El Salvador

Also addressing the rally was Maria Teresa Tula from the Salvadoran Women's group Co-Madre. Tula was imprisoned and tortured by the Salvadoran government. She called for Washington to end its military backing for the regime there.

Bill Means from the American Indian Movement spoke as "a supporter of the autonomy process that is taking place" on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. Means said it was "the first time in this century that a national government is sitting down with an indigenous people, attempting to work out an honorable and just policy so that Indians can live side by side with the rest of the Nicaraguan people."

Detroit Bishop Thomas Gumbleton said the U.S. government has "lied to us" about El Salvador and Nicaragua. He told the crowd he had visited Nicaragua and "there is no repression there." Gumbleton encouraged contributions to the Quest for Peace material aid campaign for Nicaragua.

## African National Congress

Greeted by chants of "ANC, ANC," Pallo Jordan of the African National Con-

Union Members Say:  
We Work Hard For  
Our Money—  
Not A Penny  
For The Contras.



Militant/Osborne Hart

gress said, "The situation in South Africa is characterized by a well-organized campaign of state terrorism, which reaches not only into the township, but into every hamlet, into every village in my country." He described Pretoria's raid the day before in Zambia.

Elombe Brath from the Patrice Lumumba Coalition in New York linked racist attacks in Howard Beach, New York, and at Columbia University in New York and the University of Michigan to Washington's aggression against people of color around the world.

Jesse Jackson called for negotiations with the Nicaraguan government "like Camp David," the anti-Palestinian plan negotiated by the administration of former president James Carter. He also called for getting "foreign troops out" of Nicaragua and Angola.

Jackson's main message to the demonstrators was to focus their energies on the 1988 presidential elections.

This theme was repeated in remarks made by Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, and AFGE President Blaylock.

Other speakers over the course of the day included Cleveland Robinson, Secretary-treasurer of United Auto Workers District 65; Joseph Lowery, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Helmut Angula, South West Africa People's Organization; Rep. Walter Fauntroy; Rev. César Jerez from the Jesuit University of Nicaragua; Rev. Simon Farisani from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa; and Patricia McClurg of the National Council of Churches.

Entertainment was provided by Jackson Browne, who performed with several musicians from Latin America, Holly Near, the reggae group Peter Broggs and the Front Yard, and rap group Stetsasonic. On behalf of Artists Against Apartheid, Stetsasonic presented the ANC with a check for \$25,000.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

April 25 saw largest mobilization ever of unionists protesting U.S. policy in Central America.

## Hundreds arrested in anti-CIA protests

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN AND IKE NAHEM

LANGLEY, Va. — Nearly 3,000 activists — over half college-age youth — converged on the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency here April 27.

The protest was organized by the Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa, which also organized the April 25 antiwar, anti-apartheid demonstration in Washington, D.C.

Police arrested 560 people here in the early morning protest, which combined a rally with nonviolent civil disobedience. Demonstrators sat down and blocked the three main gates leading to the massive CIA complex.

It took 200 Virginia and federal police fully decked in riot gear over four hours to clear the streets of the peaceful protesters who denounced the criminal violence of the CIA in Nicaragua and around the world.

Those arrested included antiwar activists Daniel Ellsberg and Philip Berrigan. Also arrested was a 14-year-old student and man in his 70s, who as a teenage marine participated in the 1926 U.S. invasion of Nicaragua.

Among the rally speakers was Lisa Sheehy, a University of Massachusetts student, who was one of 15 recently acquitted by a jury of charges stemming from a campus demonstration against CIA recruitment.

"One of the jurors told us anyone would come to the same conclusion we did when they find out the facts on what the CIA really is and what it really does. Now our job is to go out and take the facts to the American people," Sheehy said.

Solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and revolution was evident in chants, signs, and speeches. Chants of "USA, CIA, out of Nicaragua," "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua," and "Sí, sí, Sandinistas, no, no, CIA," filled the early

morning air.

The day before, 300 activists attended a national student meeting in Washington, D.C. They came from more than 30 different college campuses as well as from several high schools.

The meeting was organized by the Student Subcommittee of the National Steering Committee of the Mobilization.

Doug Calvin, student coordinator of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), said at the opening session, "We have completely broken the right-wing assertion that students are apathetic. We will look back at the 80s, and remember weekends like this one and young people like us and be proud."

Students responded enthusiastically to solidarity greetings from Nicaraguan and Salvadoran students who were in attendance.

Workshops were held on Central America, southern Africa, organizing to get the CIA off campus, the Rainbow Coalition, racism, and women's rights.



# 75,000 join antiwar march in San Francisco

BY GEORGES SAYAD  
AND MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Seventy-five thousand people marched here April 25 against U.S. intervention in Central America and against apartheid. It was the biggest antiwar demonstration in this city in more than a decade.

Twenty-two buses arrived from Los Angeles, including one chartered by the United Auto Workers and another by the United Electrical Workers, the latter carrying many Salvadoran UE members. Buses came from as far as Portland and Seattle, and busloads of students arrived from Santa Barbara, San Diego, and many other cities.

A 10 car train brought marchers from San Jose, stopping to pick up International Association of Machinists contingents from the Lockheed and Westinghouse plants in Sunnyvale, and airport workers in Burlingame.

A large group boarded in Palo Alto, including 40 students from one high school.

## Watsonville cannery workers march

A contingent of Watsonville cannery workers and their community supporters also took the train. United Transportation Union and Amalgamated Transit Union members in San Jose had gone before the Watsonville city council demanding that city buses be made available to take the victorious former strikers to meet the train. City buses had previously been used to transport scabs during the strike.

There was a sizable contingent from the United Farm Workers of America. Yakima Valley farm workers, members of the United Farm Workers of Washington State, were also there.

The overwhelming majority of the young crowd were high school and college students, many attending their first demonstration.

One of their favorite chants was "What the hell are we doing there? U.S. out of everywhere!"

There were many more people from Central America and other Latinos at the march than at any previous demonstration of its kind.

There were other contingents and banners representing Salvadoran refugees and Central American groups in Los Angeles and other California cities.

## Veterans, youth

A contingent of a hundred veterans carrying a banner that said "Wage peace" got enthusiastic applause along the march.

Two of the youth contingents drew a lot of attention as among the noisiest and most colorful. One was the Young Koreans contingent of several hundred, something new for demonstrations in this area.

The other was the Young Socialist Al-

liance contingent, with its distinctive T-shirts and banners.

One of the scheduled rally speakers, representing Nicaragua's Mothers Tour for Peace, and members of her delegation, were denied visas by Washington. But a spirited contingent of Central American and North American mothers carrying placards from the Mothers Tour for Peace helped lead the march.

Guillermo Rojas, president of the Social Security Workers Union of El Salvador, spoke for the National Union of Salvadoran Workers.

One of several union officials addressing the rally was Curtis McLain, international secretary-treasurer of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

"In the name of peace," he said, "we got years of shadow war against Nicaragua. In the name of prosperity, they launched an attack on American working people and challenged the right to organize. But today the tide has turned."

## Make South Africa the weakest link

Neo Mnumzana, chief UN delegate of the African National Congress of South Africa, called on the crowd to "work together to break up the unholy alliance" between the Reagan administration, Israel, and South Africa and promised the ANC "will work toward making South Africa the weakest link."

Hinyangerwa P. Asheeke, the South West African People's Organisation UN delegate, also addressed the gathering.

James Zogby, executive director of the Arab-American Institute, said, "While we are speaking today, Palestinians in Los Angeles live in fear of being deported because they dare to think and to organize."

Other speakers included Dolores Huerta, vice-president of the United Farm Workers, Nomonde Ngubo of the United Mine Workers of America, Merle Hansen of the North American Farm Alliance, and veteran civil rights fighter, Ben Chavis.

Patricia Ireland, national treasurer of the



Militant/Howard Petrick  
Supporters of Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador in San Francisco. More people from Central America and other Latinos took part than in any previous such demonstration.

National Organization for Women, spoke at a kickoff rally at the assembly site.

An important feature of the demonstration was the union contingents.

The largest was the Service Employees International Union. There were also contingents from the Machinists; the Longshoremen's union; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Musicians; American Federation of Government Employees; United Electric-

cal Workers, and others.

There was a contingent of workers from Livingston, a big San Francisco department store chain, who are faced with losing their jobs when the stores go out of business.

Robin Wilson, a Teamster who came up on the auto workers bus from Los Angeles, captured the feelings of many when she said she was "furious about the foreign policy of this government."

"I want to wake up and read the paper and have it say peace was declared," she told the *Militant*. "And I'd also like them to free Nelson Mandela."

# Socialist open house a big hit in S.F.

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Some 350 people packed an open house sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance after the April 25 demonstration. It was held in a meeting hall near the Civic Center Mall where the rally took place. As many as a third had never attended a socialist event.

A big banner caught the eye of many demonstrators as they poured into the mall, inviting them to visit the open house after

the rally. Thousands received printed invitations distributed by socialists selling the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist*.

Demonstrators bought 190 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at small tables that dotted the assembly and rally areas and from individual salespeople who circulated among the crowd.

Many people signed to sponsor the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) which organizes support for the SWP and YSA's

current legal battle with the Justice Department over the government's ability to use illegally gotten spy files. Others learned about the suit and got subscriptions on buses to and from San Francisco. The PRDF gained 15 new supporters on one United Auto Workers-sponsored bus as it returned to Los Angeles.

A prominent Pathfinder display helped sell more than \$750 in books and pamphlets, many in Spanish.

At the open house, Greg Rosenberg of the YSA National Executive Committee urged young people to join the YSA. YSA members staffed big tables at the rally site and assembly area. In a constant flurry of activity, hundreds bought popular YSA T-shirts, copies of the *Young Socialist*, and subscriptions and added their names to lists of those interested in the upcoming YSA convention. (See ad on this page.)

Leading militant chants, a spirited YSA contingent carried two banners — one about Nicaragua, the other South Africa — that side by side spanned the width of the march route.

Also at the open house, SWP leader Fred Halstead compared the current antiwar movement to the early stage of the movement against the war in Vietnam. "Just as the U.S. rulers couldn't win because of people here and in Vietnam, they can't win now because of opposition they face at home and in Nicaragua," Halstead said.

Los Angeles YSA organizer Greg Jackson urged support for the Political Rights Defense Fund.

Describing the work of the *Militant* and *PM* bureau in Managua, Nicaragua, Ruth Nebbia, Phoenix YSA organizer, invited everyone to subscribe to the two periodicals.

Bill Nicasio, second vice-president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State, came to the open house to talk about the current farm workers' strike, then in its 75th day, in the Yakima Valley. Striking farm workers led the labor contingent in the march. Nicasio called for support of the boycott of Ste. Michelle Wines.

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The three Nicaraguan soldiers who shot down and captured CIA mercenary Eugene Hasenfus.



# Palestinians resist Israeli occupation of West Bank

BY HARRY RING

"The Israeli authorities and Jewish settlers on the West Bank seem increasingly angered by the fact that no matter how many people they arrest, no matter how many Palestinian leaders they expel and no matter what security measures they adopt, the level of anti-Israeli Palestinian violence continues to mount. . . .

"From the hundreds of Palestinians in jail now in the 15th day of a hunger strike for better conditions, to high school and college students, they are lashing out at every opportunity irrespective of the price." — An April 14 *New York Times* dispatch from the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River.

In June it will be 20 years since the Israelis seized the West Bank from Jordan. The area now includes some 800,000 Palestinians and 60,000 Jewish colonial settlers who have directed vigilante violence against the Palestinians.

The territory is under the rule of the Israeli army, and subjugation of the Palestinians is harsh. As the *Times* dispatch indicates, the repression has brought an irrepressible opposition.

The latest wave of Israeli violence erupted April 13 when Israeli troops fired into a student demonstration at Bir Zeit University, a center of opposition to Israeli rule.

As a thousand student protesters gathered, three busloads of Israeli soldiers descended on the campus and quickly opened fire, killing one student and wounding four others.

The Israeli army claimed the troops initially fired tear gas and rubber bullets and then, in response to student rock-throwing, fired live ammunition, aiming at their legs.

An angry dean of the school responded, "That's science fiction." He insisted there

had been no rock-throwing and that the soldiers opened fire with the tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition at the same time.

The student who was killed was shot in the throat, and one of the critically wounded was shot in the back.

## University shut down

The Israeli military ordered the university shut down for four months. Arrests have been made on and off the campus and, in various areas, military curfews imposed.

A correspondent for the *Miami Herald* reported that "the crackdown was the toughest set of coordinated measures imposed by Israel on Palestinians since 1985, when Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin adopted a policy of deportations and arrests without trial known as the 'Iron Fist.'"

The Bir Zeit demonstration was in solidarity with recently jailed Palestinians and with Palestinian prisoners engaged in a hunger strike over harsh, degrading prison conditions.

The prison action also sparked strikes by Palestinian workers and shopkeepers.

More than 4,000 West Bank Palestinians are held in 14 Israeli jails. They complain of guard brutality, lack of proper medical care, lack of sun and air, and other abuses. A reported 1,200 joined the hunger strike, which began March 25.

One statement by a group of prisoners said, "In the recent months our living conditions have deteriorated so as to become unbearable. The prison administration withdrew most of our former rights, which had become an integral part of our daily lives.

"For example, we are prohibited from visiting prisoners in other cells and in other sections. We are kept in a small room for 22



Palestinians protesting occupation of West Bank

hours a day, and the break is given to each room individually so that the prisoners of one cell cannot see the prisoners of another cell in the same section."

The plight of the West Bank Palestinians began with the 1967 "June War," when the U.S.-equipped Israeli army blitzed neighboring Arab countries.

With victory, Israel took the West Bank

from Jordan, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt.

The Sinai was later relinquished and the Golan Heights annexed. The West Bank and Gaza Strip remained under military occupation. Like the West Bank, the Gaza Strip is ruled with the "iron fist." There, too, Palestinian resistance is strong.

## N. Y. solidarity meeting for victims of gov't repression

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — "We the fighting people of South Africa are opposed to oppression from Puerto Rico to Palestine," said Jeanette Mthobhi, member of Sechaba, a cultural group of the African National Congress.

Mthobhi was addressing a crowd of 200 people gathered for an evening in solidarity with the Puerto Rican 15 and the Los Angeles 8.

The Puerto Rican 15 are activists arrested by the FBI in Puerto Rico on August 30, 1985, and on March 21, 1986. The government accuses them of conspiring in the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot and of belonging to the Macheteros, a group supporting independence for Puerto

Rico that has been branded "terrorist" by Washington.

The Los Angeles 8 are the seven Palestinians and one Kenyan detained by agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service last January 26 and threatened with deportation.

The meeting was sponsored by the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression and by the November 29 Committee for Palestine.

Leonard Weinglass, lawyer for both Kahder Musa Hamide, one of the Los Angeles 8 and Juan Segarra Palmer of the Puerto Rican 15 was the main speaker.

Weinglass described how Hamide, a resident immigrant for the past 16 years, was arrested by a SWAT team that came to his home in the middle of the night and held him for three weeks in a steel room.

"There was no evidence of wrongdoing on his part, no acts of violence," Weinglass stated. Yet the government has "investigated him for 13 months, had an FBI agent living next door to him for eight months," he added.

In the case of Segarra Palmer, Weinglass pointed out that although he has never been arrested before and although he is now being accused of a nonviolent crime, Segarra Palmer has been imprisoned without bail for the past 20 months. This is the longest pre-trial custody in the history of the United States," Weinglass noted.

He stressed the need to build a broad, united defense around these cases. Rafael Anglada-López, also a member of the Puerto Rican activists' defense team spoke, as well as Cheryl Howard of the National Conference of Black Lawyers.

Sechaba performed songs about the struggle of the people of southern Africa. Al Waten, a Palestinian dance group, also performed, as well as the Latin American musical group Lactamasi.

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## —WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

### U.S. helicopters, pilots in Peru raid

For the first time, U.S. pilots are to take part with Peruvian paramilitary forces in a raid against suspected drug smugglers.

The operation, code-named Condor Six, was set to begin in late April in the Alto Huallaga Valley, some 200 miles north of Lima, the capital.

The Peruvian police unit that will conduct the raid is already heavily financed by Washington. For this particular operation, the U.S. government is providing three Bell 212 helicopters, with "private" U.S. pilots contracted by the State Department. The State Department is also for the first time providing a Merlin radio interceptor aircraft.

Washington has in the past accused the Peruvian government of not doing enough to suppress the narcotics trade. Such charges are intended, in part, to divert attention from the U.S. government's own close ties to rightist guerrilla forces in Afghanistan that produce and export heroin and to Nicaraguan contra suppliers involved in the Central American cocaine trade.

By increasing direct U.S. participation in Peru's antidrug operations, Washington is likewise seeking to set further precedents for the use of U.S. military forces in Latin America. Last year some 160 U.S. troops took part in a similar action in neighboring Bolivia.

### Ecuador radio confirms U.S. troops' presence

An April 13 broadcast over the Voz de los Andes radio station in Quito, Ecuador, reported that Defense Minister Medardo Salazar Navas would appear soon before a committee of that country's National Congress "to report on the presence of U.S. troops in Ecuadorian territory."

The radio did not report when the U.S. troops arrived, why they had come, or how many there were. The radio did note, however, that the U.S. troops were based in the province of Manabí, along Ecuador's Pacific Coast.

### Japanese activists to be executed

Japan's Supreme Court on March 24 rejected the final appeal of two anti-imperialist activists who have been sentenced to death. If the sentences against

Masashi Daidoji and Toshiaki Masunaga are carried out, their's will be the first executions in Japan for political reasons since the end of World War II.

The two were among several members of the East Asian Anti-Japan Armed Front who were arrested in 1975. They were accused of involvement in a series of bombings against Japanese companies profiting from the Vietnam War (one such bombing resulted in eight deaths). They were also charged with plotting to assassinate Emperor Hirohito.

In confirming the death sentences, the Supreme Court also upheld sentences against two others in the case: Yoshimasa Kurokawa, who was sentenced to life imprisonment, and Mariko Arai, a sympathizer of the group who was given an eight-year sentence for "moral support." Acknowledging that Arai has already spent 12 years in prison since her initial arrest, however, the court said she could be released in November.

Supporters of democratic rights in Japan have urged that protests against the death sentences be sent to: Kaname Endo, Minister of Justice, 1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

### Nigerian junta bans outspoken magazine

Nigeria's military government banned *Newsweek* magazine on April 6 and arrested its three top editors. This action comes just a little more than six months after Dele Giwa, the weekly's first editor-in-chief, was killed by a letter bomb.

*Newsweek*, which began publishing in January 1985, was one of Nigeria's most outspoken and popular news magazines. It often published articles on high-level corruption and other sensitive issues. This earned it the hostility of government officials and powerful businessmen. For example, just a few days before Giwa's still-unsolved assassination in October, he was interrogated by the State Security Service, which made unsubstantiated allegations that he was plotting a "socialist revolution" and importing arms into the country.

The justification the regime used for banning *Newsweek* was its publication of an unreleased government report on the country's political future.

The banning has been condemned by other newspapers and magazines, as well as the Nigerian Union of Journalists.



# Socialists seek to bar gov't use of illegally gotten spy files

On Aug. 25, 1986, federal Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that the FBI's decades-long spying and disruption operation against the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance was unconstitutional and illegal. This decision came in response to a lawsuit the SWP and YSA filed against the FBI in 1973.

Griesa stated that a further hearing would decide the scope of an injunction barring the government from using material obtained by such methods. The SWP and YSA presented the judge with their proposal, which would forbid any use of the files by the government.

The Justice Department and 11 other governmental agencies filed affidavits arguing that barring the use of illegally obtained files on the SWP and YSA would seriously hamper their work. (See March 27, 1987, *Militant*.)

On April 21, Leonard Boudin, attorney for the SWP and YSA, filed a memorandum replying to these affidavits. The *Militant* will be serializing the document over the next several weeks. Below is the introduction and Part A of the first section.

\* \* \*

## Introduction

Plaintiffs submit this memorandum in response to defendants' submissions concerning the appropriate terms and scope of the injunction to be entered prohibiting the defendants' use of the "records obtained illegally or developed from illegally obtained information." *Socialist Workers Party v. Attorney General* (1986).

According to the defendants, they have important interests which require their continued use and dissemination of the illegally obtained records and information. They propose to limit the injunction to the FBI, to allow the FBI to seek ex parte [without notifying the plaintiffs] court approval to disclose illegally obtained records and information, and also to use the material in an "emergency" without prior approval.

Defendants proffer two separate but related arguments as the justification for their position.

First, they assert that the government needs the information because it is vital to protect the national security. They rely principally on their desire to use the illegally obtained information in loyalty-security programs operated by the various defendant agencies.

Second, the defendants assert that illegally obtained information must be used to physically protect the president, other government officials, and foreign dignitaries.

Neither of the two arguments is directed to the matter before this Court, which is the formulation of an order to prevent the use of the illegally secured information. Instead, the defendants argue a different issue: whether the court has the authority to and should issue an injunction that the illegally obtained materials not be used by the defendants. But that issue already has been decided against the defendants.

The defendants' essential arguments are

as ill considered as they are ill timed. This court has decided to enter an injunction with respect "to documents that the Government obtained through clearly illegal activities, and the maintenance of which serves no legitimate purpose for the agency which possesses them."

The court's recognition and concern for the constitutional rights of individuals and associations, and recognition that these rights override the claims of need asserted by the government, is fully supported by the decisions of the Supreme Court. This is particularly so here because these claims not only have no basis in the trial record but in key respects conflict with that record.

The defendants claim, as well, that there are practical difficulties in implementing the proposed order. While it may take some effort to implement the injunction in good faith, the defendants exaggerate the problem in an attempt to show that any meaningful injunction would be unworkable. The FBI is quite able to ascertain the sources and methods from which information in its files comes — whether it be an informer, a black bag job, a mail cover, or a disruption operation. This was obvious at trial and in the eight years of pretrial proceedings.

Insofar as the other defendants claim that they may not be able to ascertain the method used by the FBI in procuring information in their files, they need only follow the procedure used during discovery and under the Freedom of Information Act, i.e., refer a document or record to the FBI for a determination.

Defendants' remaining arguments are equally without merit. They assert that neither the disruption activities nor the mail cover should be covered by the injunction. We show, to the contrary, that both fall fairly within the court's decision, because both were illegal methods used by the government. Defendants also assert that only information obtained by informers after Jan. 1, 1960, should be covered by the injunction. We show that the cutoff date for informers should be no later than July 1, 1955, because by that date the technique was illegal as applied.

Finally, the defendants assert that there should be no presumption that a document is covered by the injunction. In so arguing defendants ignore the fact that the vast majority of the information the government has was obtained by illegal methods or developed from illegally obtained information. Without a presumption, defendants could negate the intended effect of the injunction.

## Misconstrue proposed order

Many of defendants' arguments misconstrue the plaintiffs' proposed order. The government asserts that the proposed injunction would impose an extreme burden on the defendants. However, their arguments are aimed at terms that the plaintiffs have not proposed: an immediate sorting and physical segregation of all documents in each defendants' files covered by the courts' ruling. Plaintiffs' proposal calls instead for a ban on use, release, or disclosure of the covered documents. The deter-

mination of whether information is within or without the injunction need not occur until use, release, or disclosure is contemplated.

While the court would clearly be justified in ordering the immediate complete expungement or complete physical segregation of the covered records, we have presented a workable proposal which would impose very little, if any, burden upon the government until the occasion arises for reference to the files. The fact that the plaintiffs sought and the court ordered less relief than was warranted cannot justify the government's proposed ex parte or self-determined "emergency" use of the illegally obtained records.

At stake here are not abstract principles, but the actual use to which the information obtained illegally by the FBI can be put today, resulting in continued real harm to the SWP and YSA, their members and supporters.

## Argument

### I. Defendants Have No Legitimate or Important Interest in Using Documents Illegally Obtained or Developed From Illegally Obtained Information

The defendants assert that they need to use the illegally obtained documents and that the "principal area" for this need is in "providing, receiving, or acting upon information concerning the loyalty and security of government employees and government contractors," and meeting "the needs of certain agencies having responsibilities to provide physical protection to persons and, where possible, to prevent terrorism."

Their argument to justify future use of the illegally obtained records ignores this court's decision, the record in this action, and controlling law.

### A. The documents were obtained illegally, in violation of the constitution and in a manner outside the authority and discretion of the FBI

The defendants studiously avoid even acknowledging the illegality of the manner in which the records were obtained. The systematic use of informers, surreptitious entries, mail covers, and disruption activities by the FBI is very different from merely obtaining some scattered information through questionable means. The FBI systematically "exceeded any reasonable definition of its mandate and had no discretion to do so."

Informers were used, not to vindicate any legitimate interest, but rather, as this court expressly found "to obtain private information about political meetings, demonstrations and other lawful events and their participants." This was "wholly incompatible with the SWP's First Amendment right," and "clearly constituted invasion of privacy."

The burglaries fare no better when one considers this court's findings: "[T]hey were obvious violations of the Fourth Amendment. The FBI knew this full well. There was no statutory or regulatory authorization for such operations."

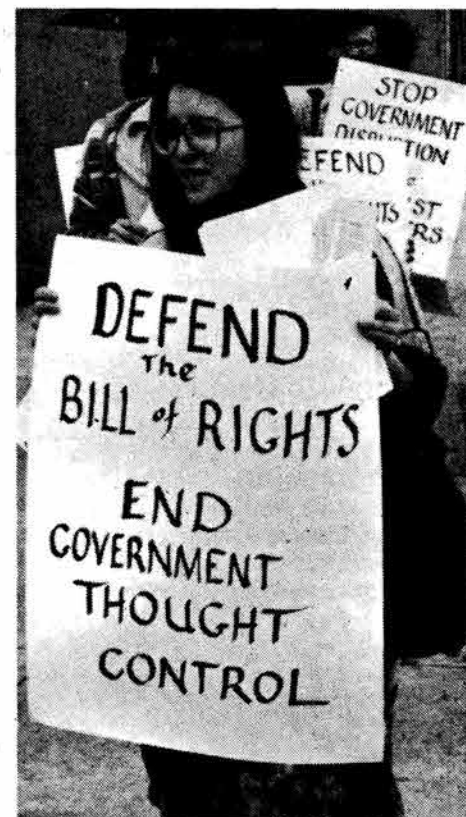
The court further found that these "black bag jobs" were invasions of privacy "of the most aggravated form."

The disruption operations were equally flagrant abuses by the FBI: "There can be no doubt that these disruption operations were patently unconstitutional and violated the SWP's First Amendment rights of free speech and assembly. Moreover, there was no statutory or regulatory authority for the FBI to disrupt the SWP's lawful political activities."

As the court stated "[t]here can hardly be a more compelling case for applying the prima facie tort doctrine [right to payment for damages] than the present one. The FBI embarked on a series of actions with the express purpose of harming the SWP...."

### Ten million pages

The amount of documents resulting from these activities, currently maintained and currently in use by the defendants, is massive. The defendants compiled millions upon millions of pages of material: the FBI alone maintains nearly 10 million pages



Militant/Sue Hagen

Picket against Immigration and Naturalization Service. INS is one of defendants in socialist suit.

that it can clearly identify with plaintiffs and individuals it associates with them.

We are not concerned here with vindicating a general principle, which by itself would justify the proposed injunction. Any continued use of the illegally obtained records will exacerbate the harm already suffered to the rights and interests of the targets of the illegal acts. The records were not gathered for any legitimate purpose.

The methods by which the records were obtained were not only illegal but were unconstitutional, violating both the First and Fourth amendments and the SWP's rights of free speech and association. To use such records anew would again infringe and violate these rights.

Indeed, this Court has the authority and would be justified in ordering the complete expungement of the records. Plaintiffs' suggestion that the documents be available pursuant to a court order or a Freedom of Information Act request is not an opening for continued use by the defendants. The provision for access to the records by Court order is included only because of the possibility that some other plaintiff might well need the records to vindicate his or her own rights in a suit against the government.

The Freedom of Information Act exception is included to address the possible needs of scholars and the like. The fact that plaintiffs asked for a lesser remedy than expungement in no way gives the government any right to use documents which it never should have obtained and which the Court could order destroyed.\*

\*The government's suggestion that there is some irony in the order because "Soviet intelligence" can obtain the records must be facetious. The simple fact is that it was the FBI which violated the Constitution and state tort law and acted in excess of any authority to spy on Americans in violation of their rights.

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**Harry Ring**

**Not old-fashioned laissez faire?** — "While Wall Street continues to reel from the insider trading scandal, things are getting hairy in the crowded Chicago fu-

tures pits as well: Three members of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange have been fined for pushing, spitting and elbowing in the Standard & Poor's futures pit." — News item.

**Don't build 'em the way they usta** — In their final shredding spree, Col. North and his secretary destroyed so many documents that the shredding machine backed up and broke down, an investigation source said.

**Don't confuse him with facts** — A federal judge ruled against fining GM and recalling its 1980 X-car. There are 4,282 complaints

that the car skidded and swerved dangerously, and 1,417 accidents were linked to this, including 400 injuries and 18 fatalities. The judge shrugged all this off as merely "anecdotal."

**Best of both worlds** — We're beginning to understand how upset James and Tammy Bakker are at losing their Praise the Lord posts. How often do you get the opportunity to do His work and also knock down \$4.8 million in salary and fringes over a three-year period?

**Besides, they're only Guatemalans** — The Agriculture Dept. wants to use EDB, a cancer-

causing chemical banned here, against the medfly in Guatemala. Said an Agriculture Dept. official, "I will not deny that EDB is a poison. It will kill people as fast as it will kill bugs. But it is very effective if it is handled safely."

**Be cheaper to arrest the testers** — Nye County, Nevada, officials called for a halt to the arrest of nuke test protesters at the Nevada Test Site, noting an \$87,000 drain on county coffers last year, handling more than 600 arrests. "I don't feel these people are committing any great crime," said one of the commissioners.

**Thanks pal, we like you too** — "We're no longer interested in the family of five who flies from New York to Florida on the lowest fare once every two years." — A Delta Airlines exec explaining why they'll be orienting more to business folk.

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## CALENDAR

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**Issues in the 'Baby M' Court Case.** Speaker: Kate Dahar, chairperson Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 2365. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Hearts and Minds.** Film documentary on the Vietnam War. Thurs., May 7, 7 p.m. 107 Brighton Ave., 2nd floor, Allston. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: YSA. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

**Labor and the Fight Against the U.S. War in Central America.** Panel discussion and slideshow. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 107 Brighton Ave., 2nd floor, Allston. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

### MINNESOTA

#### St. Paul

**Where Does the Antiwar Movement Go From Here?** Panel discussion. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

**Clouded Land.** Celebrate Minnesota Indian month. Film by Minnesota filmmaker Randy Croce on Indian land rights. Speaker: John Morin of Anishinabe Akeeng of White Earth Reservation. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

### MISSOURI

#### Kansas City

**El Salvador: Eyewitness Report.** Speaker: Kathleen Kenney, activist in Catholics for Justice. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 3, 7 p.m. 4725 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

#### St. Louis

**Youth Speak Out.** Panel discussion among participants in April 25 demonstration in Washington, D.C. Speakers: Derek Bracey, chairperson Young Socialist Alliance; Ted Kayser, member United Auto Workers Local 2250 and student at Washington University; Tanja, high

school student. Sat., May 9, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. YSA fundraising dinner, 6 p.m. Party to follow forum. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**The Continuing Struggle in the Philippines.** Speakers: Ramon, Philippine Workers Support Committee; Fred Feldman, staff writer for the *Militant* newspaper. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Translation to Spanish. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Issues in the 'Baby M' Case: What position should working people take?** Speaker: Margaret Jayko, coeditor of the *Militant*. Translation to Spanish. Fri., May 8. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

**Contragate-Vietnam: What's the Connection?** Speakers: Bui Xuan Nhat, ambassador to United Nations, Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Barry Romo, national coordinator, Vietnam Veterans Against the War; Eddie Demmings, National Conference of Black Lawyers. Sun., May 17, 2 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 104 W 14th St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos. For more information call (718) 643-0201.

### OHIO

#### Cleveland

**The Soviet Union: Its Real Role in World Politics.** Speaker: Jim Wright, political activist who visited the Soviet Union in 1985. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

### UTAH

#### Price

**The Unions' Stake in the Fight Against the U.S. Contra War and South African Apartheid.** Speakers to be announced. Sat., May 9, 7 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., Rm. 19. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

### WEST VIRGINIA

#### Charleston

**Report Back from Nicaraguan Coffee Brigade.** Speaker: Ellie Beth Brady, garment worker and member Socialist Workers Party. Sun., May 3, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For

more information call (304) 345-3040.

#### Morgantown

**The West Virginia State Budget Crisis.** Speaker: John Harris, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.



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**OKLAHOMA: Edmond:** YSA, c/o Ricky Garcia, 1308 N. Blvd. F-46. Zip: 73033. Tel: (405) 340-3868.

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# Film depicts lives and struggles in rural Burkina

**Yam Daabo (The Choice).** Written and directed by Idrissa Ouédraogo. Produced by Burkina Faso and Films de l'Avenir (France). In Mooré, with French subtitles.

BY ERNEST HARSCH

The fierce, relentless sun presses down on the villagers, who squat on the hard-packed earth or seek refuge in the few spots of shade. Their faces are blank, worn, apathetic. They are waiting, and waiting.

So begins *Yam Daabo*, one of the finest films to come out of Burkina Faso.

The first feature-length film directed by Idrissa Ouédraogo, it premiered in late February at the 10th Pan-African Film Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), where

## FILM REVIEW

this reviewer saw it. *Yam Daabo* was on many viewers' lists of favorites. The festival judges tended to agree. During FESPACO's closing ceremonies, Ouédraogo was repeatedly called to the stage to receive awards for the film — eight of them, more than for any other film.

*Yam Daabo* is visually stunning. Unlike some films that depend on extensive dialogue to get their points across, *Yam Daabo* relies on its powerful images.

The opening is shot in Gourga, a small village in Burkina's north, on the edge of the semidesert region known as the Sahel. It is a time of drought and famine, a recurrent problem in that part of the country. It is a problem that Idrissa Ouédraogo knows well, having spent his childhood very near Gourga.

The images and mood are of destitution and despair: the near fruitless search for water, the absence of any green vegetation, the soil dried and cracked. Most of the villagers themselves have become worn down. They see no hope of changing their situation. The only thing they look forward to is the arrival of trucks bearing international relief aid. They have become dependent on others for their survival.

But one family, headed by Salam, an elder patriarch, decides to break from this pattern, to stop sitting by passively with outstretched hands. They make a choice to leave their homes and seek a more hospitable life elsewhere. Hence the film's title: *yam daabo*, which in the

Mooré language means "the choice."

In rural Burkina, such a choice is not so easy to make. Most villages are closely knit communities, the different families often related to each other. Traditional religion and village ritual are tied to the land of one's ancestors. So to leave is like departing for another country.

But change is necessary, Ouédraogo argues. "You know that in Burkina we have 9 million hectares of arable land," he said in an interview, "but just 3 million are actually cultivated — and the worst ones at that! I also wanted to show in my film that tradition can only lead to misery and death: the land of the ancestors is very important, but one should not hesitate to leave if the lives of the children are at stake."

Most of *Yam Daabo* recounts the odyssey of Salam and his family once they leave Gourga. But life is not immediately easier. New difficulties abound. First they go to Ouagadougou, the capital, to sell their wagon and donkey. They get very little for them. The city is also a dangerous place: Ali, the youngest son, is struck by a car and killed.

In grief, they intend to return to Gourga. But the driver of the "bush taxi" they take dumps them in the middle of the countryside once their money runs out.

And that is where they decide to stay. The land seems fertile, with a nearby stream and pond. Through their own hard work they clear the land and till the soil.

The film's tone becomes lighter, more cheerful. The colors move toward lush shades of green.

With the immediate struggle for survival now won, there is room for other interests. Bintou, Salam's daughter, falls in love with Issa, who had traveled with the family southward.

But in doing so she defiantly challenges another tradition, obedience to the elders, since her father disapproves of the relationship. When Bintou becomes pregnant, the patriarch Salam banishes Issa from the homestead and keeps his daughter tied up. Yet just as Salam was able to break with tradition by leaving his village, he also eventually becomes reconciled to his daughter's wishes and allows Issa to return.

Uprooted from their old homes, the film's protagonists have managed, through their own labor and ingenuity, to build a new life without hunger and famine.

Meanwhile, back in Gourga, the villagers who stayed behind continue to sit and wait for the relief trucks. But



Salam leading his family out of village of Gourga

the aid does not always come.

Amid the general praise for *Yam Daabo*, some Burkinabè viewers also expressed a few criticisms. Leaving a drought-stricken region is not the only or best choice available to villagers, they argue. In revolutionary Burkina Faso, where the peasants are organizing themselves to increase production and where the government gives priority to rural development, it is possible, even in the arid north, to challenge nature and beat back the threat of famine.

I tend to agree. During a visit to the north, by chance I ended up passing through Gourga. The villagers I saw were not the ones portrayed in the film. While they may have been passive a few years ago, they are not today. They are actively tilling their fields, digging wells to get new sources of water, and organizing themselves into peasants' associations.

But this minor criticism aside, *Yam Daabo* remains a fine film, combining artistic competence with a sharp sense of social concern for the realities facing the struggling people of Africa today. Representative of the new generation of African cinema, it deserves to be shown widely, not only in Africa, but in this country as well.

# Sri Lanka: Tamil minority fights discrimination

Continued from back page

north-eastern area of the country. Since the late 1970s a growing number of Tamils, especially the young, have demanded "Eelam" — an independent homeland.

A majority of Indian Tamils, on the other hand, continue to press for full citizenship rights within Sri Lanka as it exists today. They were stripped of these rights soon after independence, and generally do not support the demand for Eelam.

The roots of the current civil war go back to the post-independence period.

During the struggle against British colonial rule both Sinhalese and Tamils fought together in the independence movement. A central demand of the struggle was to end the privileged status of English and make Sinhala and Tamil the national languages.

But soon after independence the main capitalist party, the United National Party (the party currently in office), pushed through parliament three anti-Tamil laws. These denied Indian Tamils their right to vote, which they had had under the British, as well as the right to citizenship. Many were told to go back to India.

Sinhala chauvinists, led by the Buddhist clergy, pressed for a Sinhala Sri Lanka. (The country was then known as Ceylon.) By 1956, parliament adopted the "Sinhala-only" language law. Few Tamils speak Sinhala, and even fewer Sinhalese speak Tamil.

This chauvinist action by parliament led to protests and riots by Tamils and other supporters of democratic rights. Even Tamil capitalist politicians came out for autonomy.

From that point on, Tamil parties

pressed for full equality.

A full-fledged guerrilla war, however, did not break out until 1983. After a military clash between the army and guerrillas left 13 Sinhalese soldiers dead, anti-Tamil pogroms resulted in some 2,000 Tamil deaths. Tens of thousands of Tamils fled the country and thousands of youths signed up with the militant organizations.

Since 1983 at least 5,500 people have died, most of them Tamils killed by the army or "Home Guards" — the mainly Sinhala paramilitary outfits.

The Jaffna Peninsula is essentially a liberated zone under the control of the Tigers, who recently set up a parallel administration. The eight army bases are surrounded. The army's main fort in Jaffna City, for example, is only accessible by helicopter gunship or sea. A government blockade of the region over the last five months has been basically ineffective.

While the Sri Lankan government claims it is for a negotiated settlement with the rebels, its real policy has been state terrorism.

Since 1985 the army has doubled its strength from 11,500 to 24,000. Nearly 15 percent of the budget is for the military — 15 times the amount spent on the armed forces 10 years ago. The government gets military aid and training from such countries as Israel, Pakistan, and South Korea. Special "anti-terrorist" training is also provided by a British security agency, Keeny Meeny Services.

Despite this fire-power, the Tamil militants continue to grow and gain support. This reflects the broad sympathy they have among the Tamil population, including an increasing number of Indian Tamils.

But the Jayewardene government hopes to use the public outrage against the latest violence, particularly the bus station massacre, to impose its military solution to the "ethnic problem."

The government is also pressing the Indian government of Rajiv Gandhi to put down the Tamil militants who are based in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, home of 50 million Tamils.

While condemning the murderous as-

saults, the Indian government has not blamed the Tamil militants.

Since 1983 the Indian government has sought to mediate the civil war. An article in the April 26 *New York Times* reports that Tamil militant leaders recently held secret talks with Indian government officials in

## — 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

**THE MILITANT**  
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
May 6, 1977

The Supreme Court ruled April 19 that if teachers or school officials hit students — no matter how hard — they do not violate the Constitution's Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

In the case before the court, two Miami junior high school students had been beaten with a two-foot-long, one-half-inch-thick paddle. The court ruled that this kind of abuse is not unconstitutional.

As a result, while prisoners in jail are at least formally protected by the Eighth Amendment, students now are not. As Justice Byron White protested, "If it is unconstitutional to cut off someone's ear for the commission of murder, it must be unconstitutional to cut off a child's ear for being late to class."

The National Education Association sided with the students in the case. Unfortunately, the American Federation of Teachers favored legalized beatings. "Teachers want to maintain a healthy atmosphere and they need options," an AFT spokesperson explained.

Threatening students with violence does not produce "a healthy atmosphere." It only produces battered students.

To create "a healthy atmosphere," we need desegregated, quality schools.

Students have already been badly brutalized by inferior, segregated education — and, now, by a vicious court decision.

New Delhi about negotiating a settlement with the Sri Lankan government.

A rebel official told the *Times*, however, that they "will not participate in the peace process until the Sri Lanka government abandons her policy of military terrorism against the Tamils."

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the Interests of the Working People  
May 5, 1962 Price 10c

LOS ANGELES, April 27 — Cheers and a lusty song from a 800-strong picket line greeted a dozen steelworkers as they emerged from the Federal Building this afternoon at the conclusion of a four-day witch-hunt by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Also summoned into HUAC's star-chamber hearings today were local leaders of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Upon leaving the hearings, Steve Roberts, West Coast representative of FPCC, declared that HUAC was trying to intimidate, harass and terrorize citizens.

Carl Kessler, speaking for the subpoenaed steelworkers from Consolidated Western, the U.S. Steel subsidiary in nearby Maywood, charged that the real conspiracy was between the ultraright Birchites and the U.S. Steel management.

"Our plant, a steel fabricating unit, has one of the best union contracts of any such plants in the nation," he continued. "The 12 men brought before this committee have played no small role in achieving these hard-won conditions."

"HUAC plays a punitive role," Kessler said, "and has forced us to take recourse in our constitutional rights and guarantees in the First and Fifth Amendments. This committee, which has already leaked information that by their own rules is supposed to be confidential, is representing U.S. Steel here, not the American people."

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## Organize more Nicaragua brigades

The murder of Ben Linder by U.S.-run terrorists should be a signal to redouble efforts to get as many people as possible to go to Nicaragua.

Why was Linder killed?

Because he was involved in a rural electrification project in northern Nicaragua, bringing electricity to this remote area for the first time ever. Like tens of thousands of other U.S. residents who have gone to Nicaragua since the 1979 revolution there, Linder supported Nicaragua's right to live in peace.

Like tens of thousands of other young people in this country — and millions throughout the world — he was inspired by the gains Nicaraguan workers and peasants have made against hunger, disease, landlessness, racism, and the oppression of women. And he sought to contribute his skills to furthering these gains.

Washington bears full responsibility for the death of Linder, as it does for the nine other international workers who have been killed by the contras, and the 20,000 Nicaraguans who have died in this war.

The response of the U.S. government to Linder's death is a slap in the face to the people of the United States who in their great majority oppose the contra war.

White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater — responding to Linder's murder — said U.S. volunteers in Nicaragua were "putting themselves in harm's way." In other words, you better not go to Nicaragua.

But most people in the United States don't see it that way. They oppose the contra war. And they don't blame the victims for the criminal acts of the CIA's hired thugs in Nicaragua.

Far from intimidating those in the United States who support Nicaragua's right to live in peace, Linder's murder has been met by protests and calls for more work brigades and tours to Nicaragua.

The Nicaragua Network and others are calling for more people to go to Nicaragua and learn about the revolution for themselves.

We need to organize more crews to build houses, child-care centers, and clinics; more teams of medical workers, teachers, and technicians; more brigades to pick coffee. Many of the 200,000 people who participated in the April 25 antiwar and anti-apartheid demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, which included thousands of trade unionists, can be drawn into this campaign.

At the same time, more protests like April 25, to demand an end to the contra war, also need to be organized.

Workers, farmers, and students in the United States can help throw our weight into the battle against the contras by going to Nicaragua, bringing as many people as we can with us, and coming back here and organizing the most massive movement possible to demand an end to Washington's dirty war.

## Drop all charges against L.A. 8

When the government rounded up eight Los Angeles residents for deportation (see story page 7) they were aiming beyond supporters of the Palestinian liberation movement.

The purpose was to intimidate immigrant supporters of emancipation movements around the world — from Central America to South Korea, from Ireland to South Africa.

And, of course, Washington did not intend to limit the chilling effect to noncitizens. It was a warning to all potentially active workers, farmers, and students who dissent from Washington's policies.

But the protests against this outrageous violation of free speech from an impressive range of organizations and prominent individuals forced the government to drop the political charges against six of the eight defendants who are here on visitors' visas. Officials now want them deported for alleged visa violations, not for alleged activity in behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Political charges are still being directed against the two defendants who are permanent U.S. residents. Here, the government is shifting ground.

Attempting to avoid the charge of deporting people solely for their ideas, they are now trying to frame up the two on allegations of activity supposedly aimed at overthrowing the U.S. government.

The growing support generated for the eight suggests this won't strengthen the government's hand.

Among those who have demanded that the charges be dropped are such figures as writer Kurt Vonnegut and scientist Stephen Jay Gould. They are joined by many others, including Rabbi Balfour Brickner of New York and rabbis in other areas of the country.

Their statement brands the threatened deportations as "a strong challenge to First Amendment rights."

They correctly declare, "The Constitutional protection of the First Amendment does not depend on United States citizenship. The First Amendment protects all persons living within our borders and is meant to preserve precisely the kind of political debate and discussion which has been challenged by these arrests and deportation proceedings."

They demand a halt and urge repeal of the provisions of the thought-control McCarran-Walter immigration law under which the charges were brought.

The broad implications of the deportation effort are readily apparent. If people can be deported on grounds of support for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, why not supporters of the African National Congress, which has also been violence-baited by Washington politicians?

All supporters of democratic rights should rally behind the demand to drop all charges against the Los Angeles eight.

## Convict racist gunman Goetz

"The victim!"

"Easy bait," set upon by "vultures."

"Those punks that surrounded Bernhard Goetz got what the law allows."

That was the theme of the opening defense statement in the New York trial of Bernhard Goetz. He is being tried for attempted murder in the Dec. 22, 1984, subway shooting of four Black youths.

Responding to these defense lies, the prosecutor declared the teenagers — Troy Canty, Barry Allen, James Ramseur, and Darryl Cabey — were shot by Goetz not because he thought they intended to rob him, but "because they were the kind of people he hated with a ferocious and all-consuming passion."

That pretty well sums it up. The facts, and Goetz's own statements, make it unmistakably clear that his was not an act of self-defense, but one of cold-blooded racist violence.

When the youths approached Goetz in the subway car and one asked him for \$5, he responded, "I have \$5 for each of you" and pulled out a gun.

He shot all four of them — two in the back as they fled.

By his own admission, Goetz stopped shooting only because he ran out of bullets.

Before he unloaded all his ammunition, Goetz walked over to Darryl Cabey, who had not even approached him, but was in his seat when shot.

Goetz looked at the wounded young man and said, "You seem to be all right. Here's another," firing the shot that severed Cabey's spinal cord, paralyzing him for life.

In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, most of the capitalist media tried to paint this racist vigilante as a

"hero" and "crime" fighter.

In that atmosphere, a grand jury initially refused to indict Goetz.

Giving aid and comfort to the racist drive, New York's Mayor Edward Koch welcomed the outrageous grand jury decision. "I was sympathetic to Mr. Goetz," the mayor declared.

He said he was "pleased" that the grand jury found that Goetz "did not go past the right of self-defense."

But sufficient antiracist sentiment was expressed to counter the reactionary campaign being whipped up, and Goetz was finally indicted.

Clearly, his was not simply an individual act of anti-Black violence. Someone like Goetz is incited by what he sees around him: The transit cops who beat and stomped Michael Stewart to death. The city police who gunned down the elderly Eleanor Bumpurs in her apartment. The white lynch gang that beat transit worker Willie Turks to death in Brooklyn.

And the violence of a Goetz helps to fuel more: The vigilante gang that murdered Michael Griffith in Howard Beach. The cops who gunned down Nicholas Bartlett on a Harlem street corner.

But today there is a strong, growing demand that such racist violence be halted and its perpetrators prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

The angry outcry over police brutality in New York and the outpouring of protest after Howard Beach testify to this.

The Goetz case also calls for the strongest protest. The fight to deter racist violence demands that he be put behind bars for his crime.

## Extending and defending the right to privacy

BY DOUG JENNESS

The *Militant* is in the midst of a drive to sign up 6,700 new subscribers. Consequently, many of you may be reading this column for the first time. So it might be useful to briefly state what it is about.

As the name of this column indicates, the idea is to describe, in the small space available, some aspects of socialism and explain what socialists think about various

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

matters, including revolution, exploitation, religion, violence, the Soviet Union, democracy, farmers, etc. Readers who have questions or suggestions on topics are urged to send them in.

For the past few weeks, I've been focusing on the Bill of Rights to the Constitution — how it was won, the struggle to extend it to broader layers of the population and to new activities, and its importance for working people.

The column this week on the right to privacy is the fifth in this series. Tentatively two more are planned.

The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated."

No warrants shall be issued except "upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

The battle to make this right real has been difficult and a great many abridgements of it have been institutionalized in police activity. The cops today, for example, rarely use warrants in making some 12 million arrests a year, and most searches of "suspects" are conducted without warrants. In 1968, in fact, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right of cops to "stop and frisk" citizens on the basis of their suspicions, rather than "probable cause" of wrongdoing.

Yet, advances have been won in establishing legal guidelines for police interrogation, including banning the use of confessions made because of threats or bribes. Moreover, the Supreme Court affirmed in the 1966 *Miranda* ruling that arrested persons must be informed of their constitutional right to an attorney and warned against saying anything that could be self-incriminating.

One of the most important battlefronts to extend Fourth Amendment rights — and where working people have made some progress is the fight for the right of privacy. That is the right to be free from government regulation or meddling in activities engaged in by adults, that in no way interfere with the rights of others.

The Constitution does not explicitly mention any right of privacy. This is, in fact, a new terrain of struggle for the working class. And the victories that have been won have been at great human cost.

As a result of the civil rights struggle against Jim Crow segregation, the Supreme Court decided in 1958 to uphold the NAACP's right not to release its membership list to state authorities. The court ruled that there is a "vital relationship between freedom to associate and privacy in one's associations . . . particularly where a group espouses dissident beliefs."

Individuals' right to privacy has also been advanced in recent years in the victories won for women's right to control their own bodies without government interference. The most important gain came in 1973, when the Supreme Court struck down state laws prohibiting abortion at any stage of pregnancy. In a 7-to-2 decision the court majority found that the right to privacy "is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy. The detriment that the State would impose upon the pregnant woman by denying this choice altogether is apparent."

Further legal ground was broken in expanding the right to privacy when federal Judge Thomas Griesa ruled in August 1986 that the FBI had violated the constitutional right to privacy by bugging and burglarizing the Socialist Workers Party for 40 years. Moreover, he said that the presence of government informers in a political organization (the FBI admitted having targeted the SWP with 1,300 informers between 1960 and 1976) violated the right to privacy of that organization and of its members. This was a first for a federal court.

As more and more workers find themselves locked in struggles to protect their unions and rights on the job, the right to be free of government intrusion will become increasingly important. The gains that have been won so far, including the court victory in the SWP case, should be studied and used for the powerful weapons they are.



# Chicago railroad bosses try to divide unions

BY JIM MILES

CHICAGO — The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad (CNW) is making a bid to divide and conquer the railroad unions.

An April 2 notice posted on the company bulletin board announced that the railroad has entered into

## UNION TALK

negotiations with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) for a "totally new collective bargaining agreement."

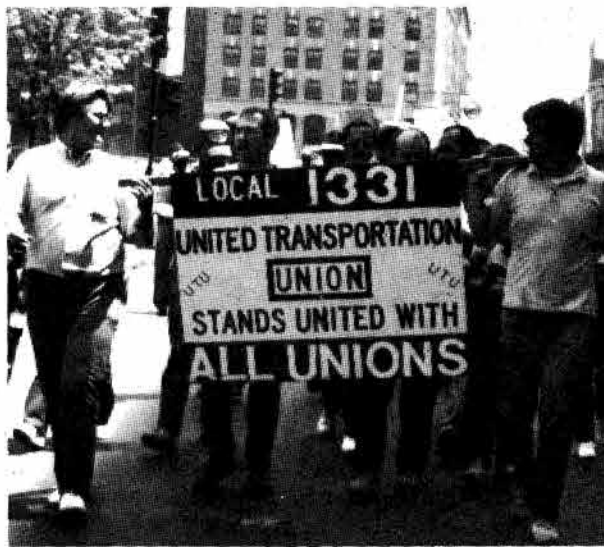
The agreement "would eliminate current pay practices and work rules that are inconsistent with modern railroad operations" and "replace them with monthly salaries . . . designed to meet the productivity requirements of today's competitive environment."

The attacks on wages and benefits pale in comparison to other attacks in the proposed contract. They include a "no strike pledge" and a commitment by BLE engineers not to honor picket lines set up by other rail unions. The Northwest says these two items are "nonnegotiable."

An initial offer along these lines was rejected by the BLE. The company has come back with a second proposal that includes a higher pay offer. It is pushing for a May 1 settlement.

In spite of Northwestern's stated desire to keep the negotiations secret, rumors began circulating around the yard as soon as the notice was posted on the bulletin board. Officers of the United Transportation Union (UTU) got hold of the proposed contract and key points were summarized at the monthly meetings of UTU Locals 577 and 528.

On April 5 an open letter addressed to "all CNW unionized employees" and signed by six BLE and UTU officers in Chicago urged "all unionized employees to work toward the total rejection of the ideas put forth in Article 18." That's the no strike clause of the proposal.



Militant/Jon Hillson  
**March in Boston last year in solidarity with striking rail workers. Chicago and Northwestern Railroad is trying to block members of United Transportation Union and of Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers from honoring each others' picket lines.**

The BLE is the bargaining representative for engineers on the Northwestern. However, not every engineer belongs to the BLE. Some are members of the UTU. The new agreement would force every Northwestern engineer to become a BLE member within 60 days.

Most workers I've talked to are opposed to the contract and think it will be defeated. Some speculated that the guaranteed salary offers and higher medical coverage benefits are designed to appeal to workers nearing retirement.

Two years ago, the UTU and BLE discussed a merger. Nothing came of this. If the two unions had merged, it would have united all engineers and brakemen in one

craft union. Currently, rail workers in the United States belong to some 14 different unions.

Although the proposed merger was primarily motivated by the officials' concern over shrinking dues payments flowing into the union treasuries, the merger would nonetheless have been a step forward for rail workers. Now the company is dangling the possibility of a larger dues base in front of BLE officials.

UTU members honored pickets during a brief BLE strike in 1982. Rail traffic was crippled, and it took congressional intervention to force the BLE back to work. The carriers want to prevent labor solidarity from developing in future battles. They also want guarantees that "qualified personnel" will always be around to move the trains.

Anticipating objections to the contract's provision that engineers not honor picket lines set up by other rail unions, the proposed contract states: "The carrier will make every effort to insure that employees represented by the BLE are provided entrance to the carrier's property at locations where picketing by other labor organizations is not physically present."

There is speculation that the Northwestern wants to intimidate the UTU into a systemwide reduction of crews. The company wants a single engineer and a single conductor per train. This reduction is already in effect on CNW's Wyoming Coal line. But throughout most of the CNW system there is still an engineer, brakeman, and a conductor on every train. Under the proposed agreement, engineers will have to perform a variety of expanded duties.

Joint meetings of BLE and UTU locals need to be organized so that the full implications of these proposals can be discussed. This union-busting contract should be rejected.

Jim Miles is a brakeman in the Chicago & Northwestern's Chicago Freight Terminal. He is a member of UTU Local 577.

## LETTERS

### Like a mushroom

I recently ran across two old copies of the *Militant* while digging through a box of old newspapers in the prison library. I was very impressed with the fact that you print the truth rather than what sells papers. I can no longer stomach the lies that fill the local newspapers; I get enough lies from the prison administration that I don't want to see more in my news source.

I am an indigent prisoner and would like to join the prison subscriber's program. I'm tired of being treated like a mushroom (kept in the dark) and would like to have the *Militant* to shed a little light in this darkness.

A prisoner  
Goodyear, Arizona

### Nicaraguan environment

In a recent letter to the *Militant*, Leann Lamb wrote, "I have recently been told that the Nicaraguan government has been taking down its rain forests with all the force it can."

As a member of the first U.S. delegation of environmentalists to Nicaragua in June 1985, and as a member of a reforestation work brigade for the Nicaraguan government's Institute of Natural Resources and the Environment in August 1986, let me assure Leann that nothing could be further from the truth.

The Nicaraguan government is acutely aware of the necessity to preserve and protect ecosystems, especially rain forests, for the long-term health and welfare of its people.

It sponsors many environmental projects on a mass scale in an attempt to reverse decades of extreme environmental destruction and abuse. These include projects such as integrated pest management, reforestation, alternative technologies, wildlife conservation, and environmental education.

To preserve the largest tract of tropical rain forest left in Central America (which falls mostly within its borders), Nicaragua has proposed that much of it be desig-

nated as preserves within the UNESCO Man and Biosphere ecosystem preservation program.

The policies of the Nicaraguan government have made it a model for other countries in the area of environmental protection.

Tragically, the U.S.-sponsored contra war is seriously impeding the progress of the Nicaraguans in reclaiming and restoring their natural resources. Lorenzo Cardenal, head of the Nicaraguan National Park Service, has said, "The war is our greatest environmental problem."

All those concerned about the global environmental crisis that faces humanity could take no better step toward reversing the trend than to work for the end of U.S. intervention in all of Central America.

For more details about Nicaragua's efforts at environmental preservation, I highly recommend *Nicaragua, an Environmental Perspective; Militarization: the Environmental Impact; and Rainforests and Land Reform: A Case Study of the Nicaraguan Revolution*, all available from the Environmental Project on Central America (EPOCA), 13 Columbus Ave., San Francisco, CA 94111 (415-788-3666).

Deborah Jamison  
Cupertino, California

### 'Real Miskito Coast'

I urge supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution to read an article entitled "The Real Miskito Coast" appearing in the Dec. 15, 1986, issue of *Newsweek*.

"The Indians had always resisted any Spanish-speaking central government, and many of them supported the contras," the article states. "Now, however, some of the Miskito regard the Sandinistas as their new protectors. Many have returned to their homes from refugee camps in Honduras and other parts of Nicaragua. . . . 'We don't have problems with the Sandinistas anymore,' said a Moravian pastor in the resettled town of Waspám. 'KISAN is the only problem we have now.'"

The article explains the success

the Atlantic Coast autonomy program has had in integrating this traditionally isolated area in Nicaragua's revolution. It quotes a Miskito commander as saying, "We were fighting for the rights of the Indians. Once the Sandinistas agreed to recognize our rights, there was no reason to fight anymore."

Although this article tells little that *Militant* readers do not know already, I believe it is significant when a major bourgeois publication grudgingly recognizes the advances of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Stephen Millen  
Bloomington, Indiana

### Trade union struggle

An interesting piece of evidence in support of the analysis presented in the *Militant* on the state of the trade union struggle in the United States is reported in the *Wall Street Journal* of April 15.

According to the *Journal*, "major manufacturers" lost nearly 5.8 million worker-days to strikes in 1986, up 68 percent from 1985 and up 135 percent from 1984. That amounted to a loss of 1.2 days work out of every thousand.

The rust-belt states were at the heart of this. Strikes hit such major firms as USX Corp., John Deere & Co., Weyerhaeuser Co., General Electric, and Timken Co.

The *Journal* reports that these struggles resulted from management's push for wage and work-rule concessions but "unions balked."

"Moreover," the *Journal* concludes, "unions sought to win back some of the things they have given up earlier."

Mehdi Assar  
New York, New York

### Rotate the table

The time to rotate the table for the betterment of the oppressed people of the world is now, because the imperialists and their reactionary marionettes are at their apex, doing everything from the systematic imprisonment and murdering of innocent Black people to the global extermination of people

## This Year's Korean Olympics

Some events to watch for



of color.

Only a drastic revolutionary tourbillon will help us from the destruction of imperialism. Therefore it's our duty to stop it now before it stops us.

A prisoner  
Attica, New York

### Rocky Flats test burn

The Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons plant plans to conduct a "trial burn" of radioactive materials the third week of May.

Incineration of radioactive and other hazardous materials has been conducted on a continuous basis for a number of years.

However, now that the Colorado Department of Health has been required to issue an incineration permit, the people have become more aware of this dangerous threat to their health and well-being.

This burn and the succeeding burns that progress will have se-

vere adverse effects on the health of the local population (especially Denver-metro residents), the environment (through increased amounts of plutonium levels in our air, water, and soil), and the local economy.

In 1975, then Congressman Tim Wirth and Governor Lamm formed the Lamm-Wirth Citizens Task Force on Rocky Flats, recommending the closing of the plant and a reemployment of its employees. We endorse this finding and support an end to all burning of radioactive wastes and an immediate closing of the plant. *Rocky Flats Committee*  
Boulder, Colorado

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.



## Behind the violence in Sri Lanka

### Tamil minority fights decades of discrimination

BY MALIK MIAH

A series of murderous attacks have brought Sri Lanka, a small island-country off the southern coast of India, to the world's attention.

On April 17, 127 Sri Lankan civilians were brutally slain in the village of Alut Oya, about 120 miles north of Colombo, the country's capital, in the eastern district of Trincomalee. Gunmen stopped several buses and trucks, forced the ethnic Sinhalese passengers out, and shot them to death.

Three days later, in another village in the same district, 15 people, including several children, were massacred.

On April 21, at least 106 people at Colombo's main bus terminal died after a powerful bomb ripped apart the station during the height of rush hour. Scores of people were hospitalized, many seriously injured.

The government of President Junius Jayewardene immediately blamed the ethnic Tamil minority for the violence. A 24-hour curfew was imposed, which was lifted April 26.

The major Tamil militant organizations — the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Eelam Revolutionary Organization — deny responsibility for the killings. A Tigers' spokesperson in Madras, India, called the charges by the Sri Lankan government "unfounded and aimed at tarnishing our image."

Bala Tampoe, general secretary of the Ceylon Mercantile Union, could not be reached by telephone at the CMU's headquarters in Colombo on April 23. Tampoe, a Tamil, was not available because of the curfew. But a member guarding the building reported that some Tamil-owned stores had been stoned.

#### Government responds with terror

Beginning April 22, the Sri Lankan Air Force bombed Tamil areas in northern and eastern provinces. The bloody retaliatory attacks led to the death and wounding of hundreds, particularly in Jaffna Peninsula, home of 750,000 Tamils in the northern province.

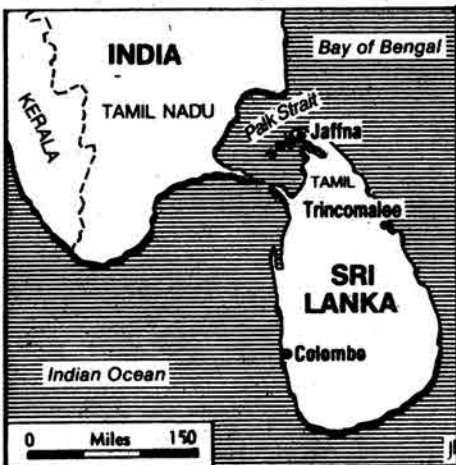
Civilians were allegedly given a brief warning by leaflets, loudspeakers, and radio broadcasts to leave their homes before the bombings. Thousands fled.

Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali said the cabinet had decided to "pull the stops" on the military. "Up to now," he cynically explained, "we have had the power, but we did not want to kill civilians. After all, they are our own people."

#### Background

The latest violence in Sri Lanka must be seen in the context of the struggle of the Tamil minority to end decades of ethnic discrimination in jobs, education, land distribution, and other spheres of life.

Sri Lanka is a tear-shaped island slightly larger than the state of West Virginia. It has a population of 16 million people. It is mostly flat or rolling except for the south-central region where mountains and the large tea plantations exist.



Tamil guerrillas in training (left); Sri Lankan army on patrol in Jaffna. Since 1985 army has doubled in size. Government gets military aid and "anti-terrorist" training from such countries as Israel, Pakistan, and South Korea.



A British colony until 1948, Sri Lanka is composed of two major ethnic groups: Sinhalese and Tamils. The Sinhalese are 75 percent of the population, with a majority supporting the Buddhist religion. The Tamils are 18 percent of the population, with most following the Hindu religion.

There is also a smaller Tamil-speaking

ethnic Muslim community — 7 percent of the country's inhabitants — who are descendants of Arab traders.

The Tamils are divided between Sri Lankan Tamils (those who first migrated to the island over 1,000 years ago), and Indian Tamils who were brought to the island as laborers by the British colonialists in the

19th century to pick tea.

The Sri Lankan Tamils (12 percent of the population) are mainly concentrated in Jaffna Peninsula, the Eastern Province, and Colombo.

Since the 1950s a majority of Sri Lankan Tamils have favored autonomy for the

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## Western coal miners forced on strike

BY FRANK PAVELKO  
AND MARY ZINS

KAYENTA, Ariz. — A big sign greets you on the road leading to Peabody Coal Co.'s Kayenta Mine. It reads: "L.U. 1620 and L.U. 1924 on strike. We need full medical coverage. Better working conditions. Job security. Pension."

Twenty or so United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) members stand on either side of the road. There's a wooden shanty with news about the strike posted inside.

Some 900 UMWA miners at five Peabody western surface mines in Arizona, Colorado, and Montana were forced on strike when their contract expired at the end of March. Peabody is the largest U.S. coal company.

The Kayenta and Black Mesa mines here are the largest of the five. They are adjacent to each other and are located within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation.

Negotiations between the UMWA and Peabody Coal generally set the pace for the western surface coal agreements. Miners had to strike for several months in 1984 to win a decent contract. Dennis Grass, president of UMWA Local 1924, and Roy Small Canyon, chairman of the mine committee (grievance committee), and miners on the picket line explained to us what has happened this time around.

Grass said the union offered to continue working under an extension of the old contract while negotiations continued, but the company instead demanded substantial concessions and broke off negotiations.

#### Concessions demanded

Peabody's takeback demands included a 90-day probation period for newly hired workers (there was no probation period under the old contract) and a two-tier pay scale under which new hires would receive 20 percent less than other workers doing the same job until they put in two years at the mine.

Peabody also demanded that UMWA members pay 20 percent of their medical

bills instead of the full coverage they have been receiving.

To top it off, Peabody demanded a one-year wage freeze followed by raises totaling only 2.5 percent over the next two years.

Union members oppose these concessions. Grass and Small Canyon said the union's biggest disagreement with Peabody is over the company's plans to open nonunion mines next door to union mines.

The UMWA is demanding that Peabody sign an agreement like the one the union recently negotiated with Island Creek Coal Co. That agreement gives laid off UMWA miners first crack at jobs at any of Island Creek's mines whether or not those mines are currently unionized.

On March 27, Kenneth Moore, president of Peabody's Western Region, in a letter sent to each striker, wrote, "Such provisions have little or no impact on our western surface miners. . . . It [agreements like Island Creek] will restrict us in many instances from hiring persons who live near you and are your neighbors."

#### Navajo Nation

The most insulting affront in the strike is the attempt by Peabody Coal to pit the Navajo Nation against the UMWA.

Estimates on Navajo unemployment in the area run from 35 to 50 percent.

For years the UMWA at the Black Mesa and Kayenta mines has fought for preferential hiring for Navajos. The union is in full support of a recent resolution enacted by the Navajo Nation called the "Navajo Preference in Employment Act." The act states, "All employers doing business within or near the boundaries of the Navajo Nation or engaged in any contract with the Navajo Nation shall give preference in employment" to residents of the area.

Peabody is claiming that the union's proposals stand in the way of hiring Navajos in the mines.

Grass and Small Canyon say there is no conflict between the resolution adopted by the Navajos and the UMWA's demands.

They explained that 90 percent of UMWA members at Black Mesa and Kayenta are Navajos. Others are Hopi Indians.

Working in conjunction with the Navajo Nation, the union has set up a community panel and asked Peabody to hire from the list. But in many instances the company refuses and brings people in from other Peabody mines.

UMWA official Small Canyon described a meeting he attended at which Peabody officials told him, "You have no business supporting the Navajo Preference Act."

In the March 27 letter, Peabody official Moore said, "Consider this letter and what I say and act in your best interest and not in the interest of some third party who may in the future take work away from your friends and neighbors."

#### 'UMWA is us'

The UMWA responded with a statement that says, "UMWA is us. And we are one solid unit, and we all recognize Navajo Nation as a sovereign Nation and Respect its laws."

On April 2 Peabody sent letters to UMWA members at the five struck mines inviting them to return to work. Unionists at Kayenta and Black Mesa received an additional letter encouraging them to resign from the union. UMWA members told us only two miners at the Black Mesa and Kayenta mines have crossed the picket line.

The strike has received scant media coverage. Much of what has appeared is inaccurate. "The corporations manipulate public opinion. They issue press releases saying the unions are greedy, and the newspapers print it," Small Canyon said.

Contributions and messages of support can be sent to UMWA Locals 1620 and 1924, P.O. Box 247, Kayenta, Arizona, 86033.

Frank Pavelko is a member of UMWA Local 2176 in Price, Utah. Mary Zins is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 7315 in Salt Lake City, Utah.