

## White House targets Iran for preemptive strikes

BY FRED FELDMAN

The U.S. government is now openly threatening a preemptive military assault on Iran. When reporters in Venice, Italy, asked President Ronald Reagan on June 8 if he was bluffing about attacking Iran, he insisted that he was not. Reports of U.S. plans for military action, he said, were "just a statement of fact."

Representatives of the Joint Chiefs of Staff reported to the House Armed Services Committee June 5 on plans for a "preemptive strike" against Iran.

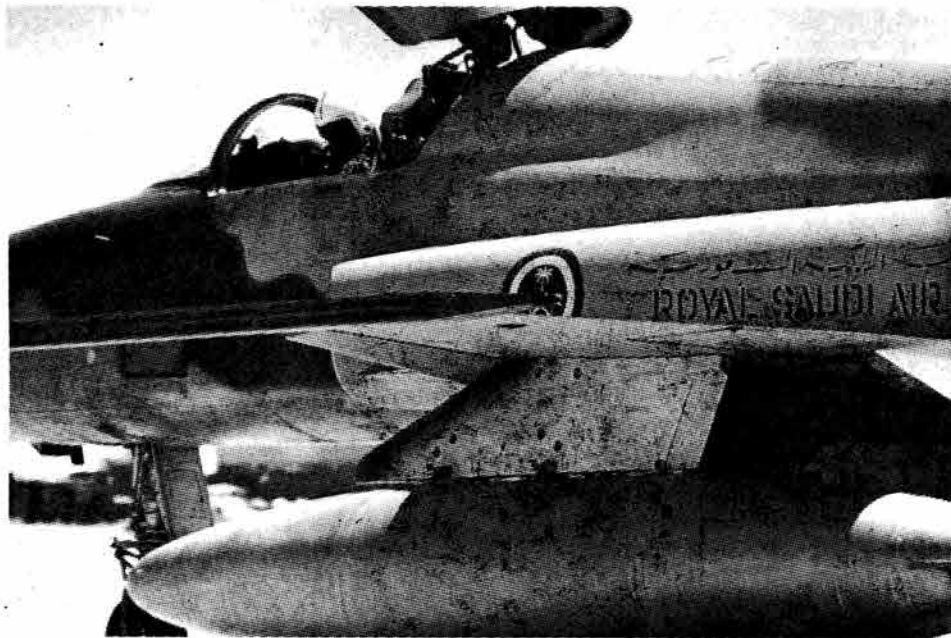
The reason for the projected attack, U.S. officials claim, is the Iranian government's preparations to deploy recently obtained "Silkworm" missiles along the Strait of Hormuz. The missiles have a range of 50-70 miles and the strait narrows to 30 miles at one point. According to White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, deployment of the missiles would constitute a "hostile act."

White House sources claim that a strike against the missiles would be "self-defense" since they might possibly be used against the 11 Kuwaiti tankers now being placed under the U.S. flag and command, or against the U.S. naval warships that are scheduled to guard tanker convoys in the strait and Persian Gulf.

If the missiles are deployed, Baker threatened, the U.S. government will "do whatever we need to do."

On an NBC news program June 6, Republican Sen. John Warner and Democratic Sen. John Glenn voiced strong support for a preemptive strike.

The open calls for military action against



Saudi pilot in U.S.-made F-5E jet fighter. Washington is seeking help from Persian Gulf allies in setting up provocations against Iran.

Iran came as U.S. officials and legislators sought to prepare public opinion for more casualties in the Persian Gulf, where 37 sailors died May 17 when an Iraqi plane fired on a U.S. naval frigate. "There are no absolute guarantees that such an operation will be casualty-free," Adm. William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the congressional committee about the plan to escort the Kuwaiti tankers.

Senator Warner called on Reagan to prepare the people of the United States for

"the risk of downed fliers becoming POWs [prisoners of war] in Iran."

War propaganda is also pouring out, aimed at pinning the blame on Iran for the clashes Washington is engineering. Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, for instance, warned against the danger of "fanatical attacks" by Iranians on U.S. warships or Kuwaiti tankers.

Some legislators expressed doubts about the plan to reflag the tankers. Sen. Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, chairman

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## What's wrong with mandatory AIDS tests

The Reagan administration's decision to begin mandatory AIDS testing of immigrants and federal prisoners has nothing to do with a serious effort to combat the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Rather it is a cynical move to capitalize on the fear, prejudice, and ignorance that surrounds AIDS and to whip up reactionary

notions about gays, immigrants, prisoners, and those forced into drug addiction. It is a way to gain more acceptance for narrowing democratic rights.

The mandatory-testing scam seeks to turn attention away from the criminal refusal of the government to take the concrete steps that could slow down the spread of AIDS and instead to blame the victims of the disease, most of whom come from oppressed and discriminated-against layers of society. (See article on facts about AIDS on page 9.)

On June 8 Attorney General Edwin Meese announced that starting immediately all newly sentenced federal prisoners and those about to be discharged

would be tested for AIDS. Meese added

### EDITORIAL

that it might be inappropriate to grant parole to some inmates with AIDS on the grounds that they pose a danger to the community.

At the same news conference Meese announced that he had directed the Immigration and Naturalization Service to develop a program to test all immigrants, refugees, and undocumented workers applying for legal status to see if they are infected with the AIDS virus.

Undocumented workers who test positive will be ineligible for legal status. Supposedly, however, a positive result will not be grounds for deportation and will be kept confidential. As for those applying to enter the United States, a positive test result will be grounds for denying them entry.

One week earlier, the Senate voted 96-0 to require immigrants to be tested for AIDS and to exclude them if they showed evi-

dence of infection. On May 31 Reagan delivered his first major speech on AIDS — six years after the disease was discovered — at a fundraising dinner sponsored by the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

He was booed and hissed when he made his pitch for "routine testing" of prisoners, immigrants, applicants for marriage licenses, and those seeking treatment for drug abuse or sexually transmitted diseases.

The next day, Vice-president George Bush received the same treatment when he addressed the 7,000 researchers attending the Third International Conference on AIDS held in Washington, D.C.

Bush reiterated Reagan's call for more testing. Outside, several hundred people protested the Reagan administration's lack of action on AIDS. In a move designed to help create the impression that the disease is far more infectious than it really is, the cops wore bright yellow rubber gloves to arrest 64 demonstrators.

Mandatory testing proposals are not an effective way to prevent the spread of AIDS, a disease for which there is currently no cure or preventive vaccine.

What health benefits could accrue from such testing?

Given how AIDS is transmitted — through direct contamination of blood by infected blood or semen — it is not contagious through casual social contact or even through most sexual contact. It mainly strikes gay men who engage in anal intercourse, impoverished intravenous drug users, and prostitutes with venereal disease.

The universal testing of categories like

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## N. Carolina marchers say 'no' to Klan

BY MIKE GALATI

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Chanting "Racists are cowards" and "Klan no, unity yes!" more than 1,200 people held a spirited march and rally here on June 6. The action, organized by the Greensboro Coalition for Unity and Justice, was part of a weekend of events in response to a Ku Klux Klan march scheduled for the following day. The Klan march, which drew only 140, marked the first public return of the Klan to this city since the November 1979 killings of five anti-Klan demonstrators by Klansmen.

The protest action drew participants from all over the state and as far away as West Virginia, Georgia, and Washington, D.C. Many of the marchers were young. Two-thirds were white.

As the crowd waited for the march to begin many of them spoke to the *Militant* about why they had come.

Gail, a young Black woman and a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, said that she had come with five others from Charlotte, North Carolina. "We came here to help defeat the Klan," she said. "We want to invite everyone to come to Charlotte on July 4 when the Klan is planning a march there."

Students from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill explained that the Klan had just announced its plans to march in that city the following weekend. The students had come to Greensboro "to take a stand against racism."

Eliza Blake, a student at Guilford College here, spoke for many when she remarked, "People talk about how great America is, but then you have the Klan. The United States is constantly doing a lot of things that aren't always Number 1, like the Klan, the CIA, and the illegal war against Nicaragua."

Cris, a white 14-year-old high school student and her friend were at their first march. She had come because, "I hate the Klan and its mentality."

Responding to the arguments of city of-

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### Firsthand coverage from Britain

*Militant* reporter Norton Sandler is on a two-week trip to Britain. In addition to covering the June 11 general elections there, Sandler will be reporting on tours of Britain by U.S. union activists. (See initial article on page 2.)

A delegation of women coal miners from Alabama, Pennsylvania, Utah, and West Virginia will be touring the British coalfields from June 13 to June 20. Their stay will culminate with their participation in the 100th Anniversary Gala hosted by the Yorkshire area National Union of Mineworkers.

Also touring is Joe Swanson, labor director for the Political Rights Defense Fund. Swanson will be explaining and winning support among British unionists for the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance lawsuit against illegal government spying in the United States. Swanson, a rail worker for 25 years, will also be participating in a conference of British rail workers.



Militant/Eric Simpson  
1,200 mobilized to counter KKK march



# Report from Britain on election eve

BY NORTON SANDLER

LONDON — Several more years of Tory rule. That's what Britain's working people face if, as expected, Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party (Tories) wins the June 11 election.

Pollsters here, on the eve of the voting, had the Labour Party, headed by Neil Kinnock, trailing the Tories by between 7 and 11 percent. The Alliance, an electoral block between the Social Democratic Party and the Liberal Party, is running considerably behind the Tories and Labour.

Since she was first elected in 1979, Thatcher has spearheaded an attack on Britain's working people.

Like their competitors in other capitalist countries, Britain's ruling families have been feverishly restructuring industry to try to increase their profits. Nearly 2 million industrial jobs have been eliminated since Thatcher took office — 40,000 in the coal industry alone since the defeat of the 1984-1985 miners' strike.

Companies such as Jaguar and Rolls Royce that were previously government owned have been returned to private ownership.

Vital social services have been cut, and democratic rights have come under attack.

Tory election billboards and newspaper advertisements declare, "Britain is great again. Don't let Labour wreck it."

Most of Britain's unions are affiliated to the Labour Party, and the political outlook of the union officialdom dominates Labour Party politics. Their perspective in the elections has been to present a middle-of-the-road image as a way of attracting middle-class voters.

A prominent Labour billboard around London shows Kinnock holding a rose in his hand, illuminated by rays of light breaking through the clouds. The line below reads, "The whole country's crying out for Labour."

When Kinnock and other Labour Party candidates hit on real issues facing working people, they get a good response. Much has been written in the press here about the effectiveness of Labour Party speeches and advertisements blasting Tory cuts in the government-financed medical care system, which have led to long waits for hospital beds and specialized surgery.

Also popular is Labour's campaign pledge to remove one million workers from the unemployment list in two years. Currently, three million workers are unemployed, 11 percent of Britain's work force. This is one of the highest levels in Europe.

The Labour Party's promise to maintain the current educational system, targeted by the Tories for "overhaul," also has popular backing.

For most working people I've talked to, the prospect of another Tory administration means more of the same attacks. They see a vote for Labour as a vote for their class and as a vote against the class attacking them.

Andy, a young train engineer and member of the National Union of Railwaymen, told me there is a lot of discussion about the election among his coworkers on the London subways.

"Most," he said, "support Labour."

A woman campaigning in a housing project told me she was convinced that Labour would do better than the polls were

indicating. She based this on her discussions with people in the projects.

She had taken two days off to campaign full time because the civil service union she belongs to was on a two-day protest strike.

Not all workers support the Labour Party. Two workers, members of the National Communication Workers Union, on a break from repairing underground tele-

phone lines, told me that they were voting Tory. The younger of the two, a man in his 30s, said the Tories had helped him buy a home for the first time.

He also said he is opposed to the plank in the Labour Party platform calling for the removal of U.S. nuclear missiles from Britain and for the dismantling of Britain's nuclear arsenal.

## North Carolina march says 'Klan no'

Continued from front page

officials that the best way to oppose the Klan was to stay home and ignore them. Raymond, a laid-off tobacco worker from Durham explained, "The Klan needs to see the streets lined with thousands of people so that they can see that people are opposed to them. We can't just ignore them, especially in Greensboro with its history of Klan killings."

One of those marching, Joan Drake, a national board member of the Haitian Refugee Center, had come from Washington, D.C. She remarked, "It looks like the police fear women and children marching against the Klan more than they did the Klan in 1979 when they were nowhere to be found while the Klan was murdering five people in cold blood." The city government mobilized over 400 police for the march.

The heavy police presence didn't dampen the marchers enthusiasm. Chanting and clapping their hands as they approached the downtown area, the throng sang, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "We Shall Overcome."

There were banners representing at least half a dozen National Organization for Women (NOW) chapters from around the state.

A number of banners identified different college campuses and organizations. A banner carried by members of the Greensboro Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance read, "No to the Klan! No to the contras! No U.S. ties to apartheid!"

The marchers paused at the F.W. Woolworth department store where in 1960 Black students began a sit-in at the segregated lunchcounter demanding to be served. This protest sparked nationwide sit-ins and was an important step in the fight to smash Jim Crow segregation in the South.

Tommie Young, a professor at A&T University and the co-chairperson of the coalition that organized the protest, welcomed everyone to the rally following the march. He explained, "We are responding in a positive way today to say that this is not Klan country."

Sherie O'Dell, national vice-president of NOW told the crowd, "This event today has national implications. The Klan is being discredited and rejected all across this country."

Ervin Brisbon — a leader of the Morningside Homes Community, the Black housing project where the 1979 murders took place — explained, "We have a leadership problem in Greensboro when in 1979 the city allowed five people to be shot down like dogs by the Klan and in 1987 they allow the Klan to come back to this city."

The list of the endorsers of the June 6 march and rally included the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NOW, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union locals 1391 and 2376, Greensboro chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, North Carolina Council of Churches, Guilford County Native American Association, Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America, National Nicaragua Network, University of North Carolina at Greensboro Student Government, Democratic Socialists of America, Socialist Workers Party, and the Young Socialist Alliance.

On the following day, 140 Christian

Knights of the Ku Klux Klan participated in a "recruitment march." The Knights, who claim to be the largest Klan outfit in the state, had mobilized its members from Virginia to Georgia.

The march was staged on the second anniversary of a Federal court verdict that found Klansmen liable for the deaths of the five anti-Klan demonstrators in 1979. Two Greensboro cops were also found liable in that case. The verdict required that the city, along with the Klan, pay survivors of the victims more than \$400,000 in damages.

About 50 predominantly young people followed the Klan march throughout the city jeering and heckling them as they went. Seventy-five people held a silent vigil against the Klan across the street from the Klan rally.

On the other side of town a festival for racial unity was taking place sponsored by the Greensboro NAACP and the Greensboro Alliance, a student group. Throughout the course of the day it drew more than 500 people.

## YSA hears international greetings

BY MALIK MIAH

CHICAGO — A highlight of the 25th national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance, held here May 23-25, was the participation of international guests. Five gave greetings to the delegates and other guests, and several presented classes on the situation of their countries.

Tji Kuili spoke on behalf of the South West Africa People's Organisation Youth League. Welcomed with a standing ovation, Kuili described the struggle of the Namibian people against South African occupation of his country.

"The question of Namibia," he added, "is linked to the question of apartheid in South Africa. Our fight is tied to the global struggle for freedom and justice."

"Our aim is people's power," said Fred Dube, a member of the African National Congress (ANC), the organization leading the democratic struggle in South Africa.

Dube is currently waging a fight to win tenure at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook. The chairman of the SUNY system has told Stony Brook officials not to let Dube teach there anymore because of his political ideas.

Speaking directly to the young people attending the convention, he said, "You must fight as Fidel Castro did — to get power to the people."

Mojaki Thulo of the ANC Youth Section also spoke to the convention.

The biggest international delegation was led by Theresa Kiefer, a leader of the newly formed Young Socialists in Canada. She gave greetings to the convention.

Members of the Young Socialists and the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada actively participated in the convention, exchanging experiences and ideas with YSA members and other convention guests.

One of the warmest welcomes preceded greetings from Terry Marryshow, general secretary of the Maurice Bishop Youth Organisation (MBYO) of Grenada.

The MBYO and the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, he said, are fighting to maintain the revolutionary perspective of slain prime minister Maurice Bishop and bring back confidence to Grenada's youth. Bishop was murdered in a counterrevolutionary coup a few days before the U.S. invasion.

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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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# Sullivan appeals for S. Africa sanctions

Disavowing his own 'Sullivan Principles,' he calls on U.S. firms to get out

BY ERNEST HARSCH

The U.S. government and those corporations that do business in South Africa have lost an important ally, Leon Sullivan, who has now joined those calling for the imposition of comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid regime.

At a June 3 news conference in Washington, D.C., Sullivan called on all U.S. companies with investments in South Africa to pull out within nine months. He also appealed to the Reagan administration to declare an economic embargo against that country and to sever diplomatic relations with Pretoria.

Previously, Sullivan had been one of the main apologists for U.S. corporate involvement in South Africa. A Black church figure in Philadelphia as well as a member of the board of directors of General Motors Corp., he was the author of the "Sullivan Principles." Those principles provided a cover for U.S. companies with South African subsidiaries, by arguing that their presence and activities there would encourage "reforms" in the apartheid system.

But this view became increasingly discredited as the struggle in South Africa sharpened and as demands for sweeping economic sanctions against Pretoria grew, both within South Africa and internationally.

## 'Pillars of apartheid remain'

At his news conference, Sullivan acknowledged that the South African government had made no fundamental moves away from apartheid. "The main pillars of apartheid still remain," he noted, "and Blacks are still denied basic human rights in their own country and are denied the right to vote."

Anti-apartheid activists have welcomed Sullivan's shift. Jennifer Davis, executive director of the American Committee on Africa, stated, "We can take heart that Mr. Sullivan has now added his voice to the millions of black South Africans, from mineworkers to Winnie Mandela to Archbishop Tutu, who have called for an end to all United States economic support for apartheid and for support for their struggle for freedom."

Susan Mnumzana, a representative at the United Nations observer mission of the African National Congress of South Africa, told the *Militant*, "We are glad that Sullivan is ultimately accepting that apartheid cannot be improved, that the role of multinational companies in South Africa can never be a conciliatory one. They have to be on one side, and obviously the side they fall onto is the side of the regime."

"So when Sullivan says they must pull out," Mnumzana concluded, "we accept that."

A State Department spokesperson, on the other hand, said administration officials "deeply regret" Sullivan's call.

Executives of many of the companies involved in South Africa have reacted the same way, and have rejected Sullivan's call to get out. "Caltex intends to stay in South Africa," an official of that oil company bluntly declared.

But Sullivan's declaration will make it harder for these companies to justify their collaboration with the apartheid system. His own disavowal of the Sullivan Principles serves to further discredit them.

## 'Corporate camouflage'

The principles, a corporate "code of conduct" for U.S. companies operating in South Africa, were originally signed by 12 U.S. firms in 1977. The signers pledged to desegregate work places, provide job training for Black employees, adopt equal pay for equal work provisions, finance Black housing and educational programs, and carry out other modest measures. This, they claimed, would erode apartheid.

Over the years, some 100 other U.S. companies signed the Sullivan Principles as well, and made some steps toward implementing their provisions. In this way, these U.S. firms sought to put an "anti-apartheid" face on their lucrative South African operations and use their adherence to the Sullivan Principles as a justification for not acceding to the widespread demand to get out.

Many anti-apartheid activists referred to the Sullivan Principles as "corporate camouflage." Randall Robinson, director of TransAfrica, an anti-apartheid lobbying group in Washington, said that they "have done more harm than good; they've given corporations an excuse for remaining."

In recent years, however, nearly 100 U.S. firms have announced that they are



Tony Savino/Impact Visuals  
Members of Metal and Allied Workers Union, one of many unions in South Africa that favors international sanctions against apartheid.

"withdrawing" from South Africa. Among them was General Motors, a fact that may have cleared the way for Sullivan, as a General Motors director, to publicly proclaim his shift.

But there has been less to these divestment moves than meets the eye. Rather than pulling out entirely, these companies have sold their subsidiaries to local South African businessmen and corporations — with whom they then maintain close ties. These include contracts for the supply of parts, licensing and marketing arrange-

ments that enable the products of these companies to still be sold in South Africa, and even the transfer of key U.S. personnel to the new South African entities.

General Motors is a case in point. A former GM executive is heading up the new firm, which will continue to produce GM cars and trucks. General Motors has agreed to sell it the parts to do so.

This highlights the need for anti-apartheid activists to redouble their efforts to cut all U.S. political, economic, and military ties with South Africa.

## Grenadian youth leader completes tour

BY MALIK MIAH

Terry Marryshow, general secretary of the Maurice Bishop Youth Organisation (MBYO) of Grenada, recently completed a successful speaking tour of three cities in the United States and Toronto, Canada. He spoke on the current political situation in Grenada. The tour began May 16 and ended on May 29.

In New York Marryshow spoke at Med-

gar Evers College on May 16. Ninety people attended the meeting.

He appeared before the national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance held May 23-25 in Chicago and also spoke at two other public meetings while in that city. On May 23 he brought greetings to an African Liberation Day demonstration of 300 at Garfield Park and on May 26 spoke to a forum at the University of Chicago sponsored by the New Movement for Independence in Puerto Rico.

Marryshow was interviewed by several newspapers, including the *Chicago Metro News*, the *Citizen*, *Final Call* (published by the Nation of Islam), and *Tempo*, a Chicago State University campus magazine.

In Atlanta Marryshow addressed a May 27 meeting attended by some 30 people at the American Friends Service Committee office. The meeting was chaired by Atlanta Committee on Latin America (ACLA) member Robin Singer.

Singer gave a brief history of Grenada and said that ACLA had a long history of supporting the Grenada revolution and opposing U.S. government policy there. "We are not only concerned with Latin America," he explained, "but also the Caribbean."

"And we are determined not to let the U.S. government do to Nicaragua what they were able to do in Grenada," he added.

Marryshow said the social situation in Grenada three and a half years after the 1983 U.S. invasion is bleak. "What we have to show for it," he said, "is high unemployment, drugs, inadequate housing, and improper health care."

Solidarity greetings were presented by David Ndaba on behalf of the African National Congress of South Africa's Youth Section. He spoke of "the bond of friendship that existed between the people of South Africa and Grenada during the revolution."

The ANC had planned to open an office

in Grenada before the revolution was overthrown, he said. (In October 1983 Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, after whom the MBYO is named, and other revolutionary leaders were murdered in a counterrevolutionary coup led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard. Less than a week later the U.S. government invaded.)

WRFG radio station and two newspapers oriented toward the Black community — the *Atlanta Inquirer* and the *Atlanta Voice* — interviewed Marryshow during his stay. The reporters were surprised to hear that all the social gains of the revolution had been overturned since the U.S. invasion. One reporter expressed an interest in organizing a fact-finding tour to the island to see for himself.

Sponsors of the May 27 meeting in addition to ACLA and the American Friends Service Committee included the city chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Caribbean Oriented Students Association (Atlanta University Center); Socialist Workers Party; Techwood Tenants Association; Timothy McDonald of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and the Young Socialist Alliance.

Marryshow's final stop was in Toronto. He spoke to 60 people at a May 29 forum organized by Grenadian nationals living in Toronto.

Pat Hunt in Chicago and Kate Daher in Atlanta also contributed to this article.

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# Caribbean cultural meeting in Cuba honors Bishop

BY MALIK MIAH

The Seventh Annual Caribbean Cultural Festival concluded June 1 in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. Located in southeastern Cuba, Santiago is where many migrants from other Caribbean islands settled in the 1920s and 1930s.

This year's festival honored Maurice Bishop. Bishop was the central leader of the Grenada revolution whose example and speeches best embody the social and political conquests of the workers' and farmers' government on that small Caribbean island from 1979 to 1983. Bishop was murdered in October 1983 after a counterrevolutionary coup overthrew Grenada's revolutionary government. Subsequently, Washington invaded Grenada and imposed a puppet regime.

The festival was kicked off May 30 with a tribute to Bishop in the courtyard of the Casa del Caribe, where a bust of the Grenadian leader is on permanent display. Bishop would have been 43 on May 29. Speaking at the event were George Lamming, the outstanding Barbadian novelist, and Don Rojas, the representative in Havana of Grenada's Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. Rojas is also a leader of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America, which encompasses political groups from more than 20 countries in the Caribbean Basin.

In a telephone interview with Rojas, he explained that Lamming made two very important points. Lamming said that Maurice Bishop "was able more than any other politician of his time," Rojas explained, "to capture, to evoke the affection of all generations of Grenadians."

Secondly, Rojas said, Lamming explained that the Grenada revolution was not destroyed by the Yankee invasion. It was destroyed by enemies of Bishop who, Lamming said, were "devoid of political

morality."

At the festival, Lamming was honored for his contributions to Caribbean culture by being presented a medal by Armando Hart, Cuba's minister of culture.

Rojas told participants in the tribute that Bishop was "a man who loved life, who lived it with intensity, and who died with his dignity, honor, and self-respect — qualities that can never be exterminated by lies, slander, and murderous bullets."

But the way to "truly pay tribute to Maurice Bishop now and in the future," Rojas said, is by "emulating his outstanding qualities; by dedicating ourselves to what he stood for: the ideas of social justice, equality, peace and friendship among peoples, happiness and fulfillment for the oppressed of the world."

Bishop's "vision of a new and just society for Grenadians encompassed the entire Caribbean region," Rojas added.

"On his several visits to revolutionary Cuba from 1979 to 1983," Rojas told the crowd at the ceremony, "he was able to capture the hearts and imagination of the Cuban people with his humanity and staunch anti-imperialism."

Rojas thanked the Cuban people for displaying a bust of Bishop on the grounds of Casa del Caribe.

Foreign delegations at the ceremony and festival came from many countries, including Jamaica, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

A delegation from New York City's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture videotaped the entire festival.

Folklore and cultural groups from Cuba and Guyana performed throughout the four days.

Grenadian youth studying in many parts of Cuba came to Santiago for the festival. They held their annual general meeting of Grenadian students in Cuba while there.

## Minn. groups protest arrest and beating of two youths

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Steve Argue and Eric Gove, two youths who were arrested and beaten June 5 by St. Paul cops and campus security guards, led a delegation of family members and other supporters to the office of Mayor George Latimer June 10.

The delegation demanded that the police and guards be prosecuted for assault, false arrest, falsification of police reports, theft and destruction of personal property, and violations of constitutional rights.

The group met with Lee Turchin, assistant to Mayor Latimer.

Included in the delegation were University of Minnesota Prof. August Nimtz; Chris Nissen, organizer of the Market Place Forum; Virgil Mountain and Wally Storbakken of the Minnesota American Indian Movement Patrol; and several high school students.

"No police officer has ever been prosecuted" for violating the rights of citizens, Nissen pointed out. "What is necessary is that the police who were responsible for and aided this attack be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

Argue and Gove had taken a shortcut across the College of St. Thomas campus June 5 when a security guard shouted "freeze," tackled Gove and forced both of them against the wall.

He called for backup from the St. Paul police.

He then falsely accused Argue of assaulting him, and both youth were arrested.

Putting them in a squad car, the cops pulled Gove's hair, handcuffed him, and slammed his head repeatedly against the side of the car.

They were taken to a detention center where their repeated requests for the right to make a phone call were denied.

Several hours later, Gove, 17, was released to his parents. Argue, 18, was searched and his belongings taken and never returned.

Up to seven cops grabbed Argue by the hair and threw him into an isolation cell. There they put a knife to his neck and wrists. They cut off a leather bracelet and necklace, which had been given to him on a recent coffee-picking brigade in Nicaragua.

In the cell they kicked him repeatedly and bashed him against the wall. They taunted him about how much of his hair they had cut off.

Argue spent the night on the cold, dirty concrete floor of the cell without bed or blanket.

Denied the right to a lawyer of his choice, he was given a court-appointed attorney. The lawyer got Argue to plead guilty to trespass charges in exchange for dropping the assault charge. When Argue realized the trespass charge included breaking into a campus building, he rejected the plea bargain and pleaded not guilty. He told the judge he had been badly beaten for no reason.

Finally, Argue was released. While being held he missed a math test he must complete to graduate from high school this month.

Argue, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance, has been active in high school struggles.

A meeting to protest police brutality has been scheduled for June 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Inner City Youth League, 175 N. Victoria Street. The meeting is cosponsored by the Market Place Forum, Young Socialist Alliance, and others.



Wayne Carter

The late Maurice Bishop, as prime minister of Grenada during 1979-1983 revolution. "He was able," declared supporter at cultural festival in Cuba, "more than any other politician of his time to capture, to evoke the affections of all generations of Grenadians."

## U.S. government prepares preemptive blow to Iran

Continued from front page

of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, introduced a bill to block the reflagging which he termed "poorly conceived and dangerous."

"War is coming in that area," warned Wisconsin Republican Rep. Toby Roth, "and I do not want congressional fingerprints on that course of action."

These criticisms and cautionary remarks come in the context of strong backing from both parties in Congress for the U.S. naval buildup in the gulf.

Placing Kuwaiti tankers under U.S. naval escort was intended to set the stage for U.S. military intervention against Iran in the nearly seven-year war between that country and Iraq. Washington fears that an Iranian victory would doom the Iraqi regime and encourage popular upheavals against other U.S.-supported governments in the area.

Soon after it launched the war in 1980 by invading Iran, the Iraqi regime of President Saddam Hussein began an air war against shipping bound to and from Iran. Since 1984 Iran has retaliated by attacking shipping to and from countries which arm or otherwise aid Iraq.

### Kuwait's role in war

The Kuwaiti emirate, which Washington claims is a nonbelligerent in the war, is actually a strong supporter of the Iraqi regime. Since the war shut down Iraq's ports, Kuwaiti ports have functioned as Iraq's as well. Ships bound for Kuwait carry arms and other supplies for the Iraqi military forces.

Soon after announcing that Kuwaiti tankers would be reflagged and reregistered as U.S. ships, Washington began announcing plans to retaliate if Iran attacked one of them. But Iranian forces have not attacked a Kuwaiti tanker since October. And neither Iran nor Iraq has struck at gulf shipping since May 21.

Since reflagging and convoying of Kuwaiti tankers might not succeed in provoking an incident that would provide a credible pretext for a U.S. attack, U.S. officials are now setting the stage for a preemptive strike.

Washington is also pressing its allies for more gestures of support. At the Venice summit meeting that opened June 8, there was little enthusiasm for Washington's military buildup. The most open opposi-

tion has been voiced by Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, who said, "The less military presences in the gulf, the better it is for all."

### Thatcher is 'uneager'

Japanese and German officials stressed that they are constitutionally barred from participating in the U.S. armada in the gulf. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher "appeared uneager to become entangled in a military confrontation with Iran," the *New York Times* reported.

The Thatcher government, however, expelled five Iranian diplomats on the eve of the Venice summit. The government headed by François Mitterrand in France staged roundups of alleged terrorists portrayed as being supported by the Iranian government and is urging French nationals to leave Iran.

The summit meeting adopted a statement declaring, "The principle of freedom of navigation in the gulf is of paramount importance for us and for others and must be upheld." It called on the United Nations Security Council to take "effective" measures to obtain a cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war.

Washington has demanded that the United Nations impose a worldwide arms embargo against Iran, but U.S. officials were unable to convince their allies to include support for this measure in the Venice statement.

The Reagan administration is also pressing other Persian Gulf states to aid its military buildup in the gulf. U.S. and Saudi Arabian officials are discussing whether to extend the area covered by AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control Systems) planes.

Currently, U.S.- and Saudi-piloted AWACS maintain 24-hour surveillance over Saudi territory and its gulf waters. The AWACS are protected by F-15 jets piloted by Saudis. Washington's proposals would have the AWACS, protected by Saudi F-15s or U.S. fighter planes, flying into international airspace over the Persian Gulf.

But Sen. John Warner, who recently returned from the region, warned that U.S. forces would have to "go it alone" in military operations against Iran. He said Persian Gulf regimes had indicated they would not join in any U.S. military action outside their own territories and waters.



# Seattle activists rally to defend rights

BY DAN FEIN

SEATTLE — A rally attended by some 50 people at the Postal Workers Union hall was the high point of several months of activity by supporters of the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) here.

The May 30 rally, titled "Democratic Rights vs. Government Spying, A Rally to Defend the Bill of Rights," was organized to win support for the next stage of the fight in the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance lawsuit against government spying. The meeting also provided a platform for others who have been victimized by government police spying and disruption.

The panel included Barbara Nelson, a leader of the Seattle chapter of the Committee for Justice, who described the national effort to defend the seven Palestinians and one Kenyan whom the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) are attempting to frame up as "terrorists" in deportation proceedings in Los Angeles.

Ross Rieder, a longtime union leader and a member of Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 8 here described a labor-sponsored conference on electronic surveillance in the workplace that he organized last year. "Electronic surveillance, the 'eye in the sky,' is designed to chill the organization of workers," said Rieder, "especially targeting workers who are unpopular with management."

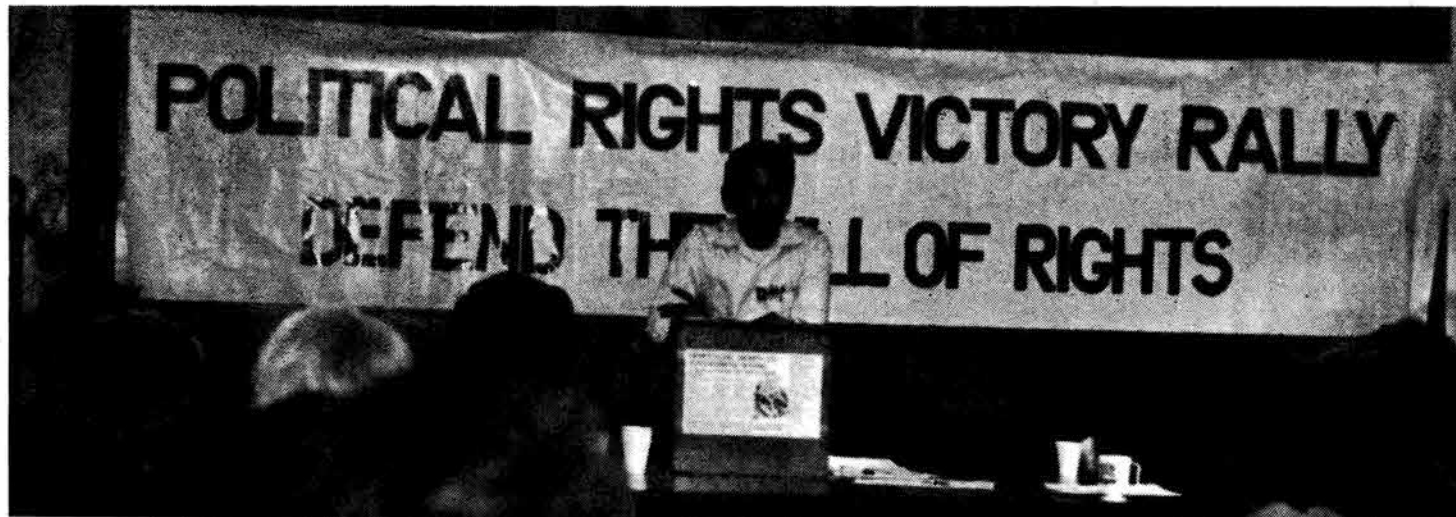
Rieder presented the PRDF with a \$20 check to support its campaign.

John Gilbert, who is Seattle's best-known actor, as well as a leading antiwar and solidarity activist, sounded a main theme of the rally when he stated, "FBI infiltrators are there to disrupt. Anyone who opposes U.S. policy is tarred with the terrorist brush."

Gilbert, who is a cochair of the Seattle Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), described the exposure of FBI stool pigeon Frank Varelli, who spied on the Dallas CISPES chapter.

One of the evening's most popular speakers was Tomas Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State. Villanueva, explaining that in the Yakima Valley "farm workers are guilty until proven innocent," detailed how they are systematically denied basic democratic rights and other gains won by the labor movement. He described the fight farm workers are currently waging and appealed for solidarity.

Terri Mast, president of Cannery Workers Local 37 (International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union), who was unable to speak due to last minute scheduling of contract negotiations, sent best wishes for a successful rally. Along with the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes, Local 37 is fighting



Tomas Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State, speaking to meeting sponsored by Political Rights Defense Fund. Dozens of unionists in Seattle area have recently signed up as PRDF sponsors.

to expose the role of deposed Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos and U.S. government police agencies in the 1981 murders of two anti-Marcos Local 37 union officers in Seattle.

PRDF labor spokesperson Chris Horner, a member of International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 1002, explained the latest stage in the SWP v. Attorney General case, the battle for an injunction to ban the use by the FBI and other police agencies of illegally gathered information against political activists today.

Important new support for the PRDF was won at the rally. Susan Robaina, vice-president of OPEIU Local 8, signed up as a sponsor and wrote out a check for \$50.

A member of the Amalgamated Transit Union, who was already a sponsor, contributed \$35.

Two members of the Seattle Postal Workers Union attended, one of whom contributed \$10 to the campaign.

Gayle Ben Ezra, a Palestinian rights activist who attended, announced that the Seattle chapters of the Committee for Justice for the L.A. 8 and the November 29th Coalition for Palestine had voted to become PRDF sponsors.

The audience also included members of

the International Association of Machinists (IAM), Steelworkers, and IUE, along with activists from local antiwar groups, including the Pledge of Resistance and the Seattle April 25th Mobilizing Committee.

Funds raised at the rally brought to \$1,900 the amount pledged or collected here. Seattle PRDF supporters have taken a goal of raising \$2,000 toward the \$90,000 national fund drive.

Union support and participation in the rally reflected several months of activity by PRDF supporters in the labor movement here. Of about 170 new sponsors signed up this spring 65 are trade union members. The rally was publicized in the monthly newsletters of the Puget Sound Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and the Seattle Labor Committee on Central America, a coalition of antiwar unionists.

PRDF representatives have had success in speaking before a number of unions here. These include locals of the United Food and Commercial Workers, Federation of State Employees, Cannery Workers, IUE, Postal Workers, Service Employees, and CLUW.

Puget Sound CLUW and State Employees Local 433 in Olympia, Washington, contributed financially along with voting to

become sponsors.

The local PRDF campaign has also made a special effort to discuss the case and win support from antiwar activists and groups organizing sanctuary for Central American exiles. These groups have had bitter recent experience with government police spying and disruption. In February news broke here, for example, of a long FBI and U.S. Navy spy operation directed against Seattle Catholic Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen.

Break-ins at area sanctuary churches have been frequent, and recently, members of TecNica, the group that funded Ben Linder's hydroelectric project in Nicaragua, described FBI harassment against them, including visits to neighbors and employers.

Efforts have also been made to take the PRDF case to students. A PRDF forum was held at the University of Washington, at which Rick Olguin, professor of ethnic studies, shared a platform with PRDF labor spokesperson Horner.

Two student groups on the campus, MECHA and Students Against U.S. Intervention in Central America, which has been campaigning to get CIA recruiters off campus, became sponsors after hearing presentations.

## Government replies to socialists on spy files

BY ERNEST HARSCH

The U.S. government has reaffirmed its claim that it has a right to use illegally obtained spy files on the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. Using virtually no new arguments, the government's statement came in a May 29 reply to an earlier court memorandum submitted by lawyers for the SWP and YSA.

This current legal battle comes out of the lawsuit filed by the SWP and YSA against the FBI and other government agencies in 1973. In August 1986, Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that the FBI's decades-long spying and disruption operation against the two socialist organizations was unconstitutional and illegal.

Griesa stated that a further hearing would decide the scope of an injunction barring the government from using material obtained by such methods.

The plaintiffs (the SWP and YSA) proposed to Griesa that the government be forbidden to use any files it obtained after July 1, 1955. The Justice Department and 11 other government agencies responded by filing court documents arguing that barring use of such files would seriously hamper their work. They stated, among other things, that these materials are necessary for "loyalty" investigations of individuals.

On April 21 Leonard Boudin, attorney for the SWP and YSA, filed a memorandum answering the government's arguments. (The full text of the socialists' memorandum was serialized in the May 8 through June 5 issues of the *Militant*.)

In rebutting this memorandum, the May 29 response, signed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Salerno, simply restated the government's position.

Essentially, the government argued that whatever rulings Griesa made regarding the government's investigation and harassment of the SWP and YSA "as groups or organizations," these "do not necessarily apply to the circumstances of individual members."

The government maintained that Executive Order 10450, which provides for investigations of individuals seeking security clearances for government employment, gives it the right to continue to investigate members of the SWP and YSA. This includes the use of mail covers. The govern-

ment claims that mail covers do not violate Fourth Amendment protections against illegal searches and seizures. However, as was noted in Judge Griesa's August 1986 ruling, such mail covers have been held to be unconstitutional.

And, the argument goes, since such security clearance investigations might someday be needed against past or present SWP or YSA members, the government should not be barred from using the information it already has, even though it was obtained illegally and much of it is quite old.

"At the investigation stage all information — even that which is facially stale — is relevant and potentially useful," the government response claimed.

Groping for some example to justify this claim, the statement went on, "The 1987 deportation of Karl Linna for his role in a World War II concentration camp in Estonia and the exclusion of Kurt Waldheim from visiting the United States for his complicity in Nazi atrocities affecting Greeks and Yugoslavs in World War II, both recently in the news, demonstrate the utility of seemingly 'stale' information. . . ."

What does this have to do with the SWP and YSA? They were never involved in setting up concentration camps or carrying out atrocities. In fact, they were active opponents of the Nazis and their U.S. supporters. This is simply an attempt — and a politically lame one at that — to smear the two socialist groups.

The government's argument is also irrelevant. As Judge Griesa noted in his decision, during 40 years of surveillance and investigations, the government could not find a single illegal act committed by an SWP or YSA member.

None of the government's illegally obtained files on the SWP and YSA can have any contemporary value, except to further harass and intimidate members of the two groups and disrupt their activities. That is why they were collected in the first place.

Come to a  
**Rally for Political Rights**  
New York City  
**Saturday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.**

Hear:

**Leonard Boudin**, general counsel of the National Emergency Liberties Committee and counsel for *Socialist Workers Party v. Attorney General* since 1973. **Elombe Brath**, Patrice Lumumba Coalition. **Fred Dube**, member of African National Congress, professor at State University of New York at Stony Brook fighting for tenure. **Gil Green**, veteran Communist. **Héctor Marroquín**, Political Rights Defense Fund, Mexican-born socialist fighting to become a permanent resident of the United States. **Daniel Perez**, a leader of recent victorious strike at Uretek in New Haven; director, Connecticut district, ILGWU. **Angela Sanbrano**, national coordinator of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. **Representative** of the Committee for Justice to Stop McCarran Act Political Deportations, and Network for Peace and Justice in the Middle East.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Labor Center**  
Local 1199 Hospital and Health Care Employees Union  
310 West 43rd Street

Sponsored by Political Rights Defense Fund. Donation, \$5.  
For more information, call: (212) 925-1668 or 691-3270



# 'Militant' circulation takes another big step forward

BY MALIK MIAH

We have taken another giant step forward in the circulation of the *Militant*. As we go to press, our business office has received 5,846 *Militant* subscriptions. The overwhelming majority are from first-time readers who bought their subscriptions from *Militant* supporters at work, on campus, at a picket line, in a working-class community, or at a political event.

We'll know the total number of *Militant* subscribers won during the spring drive when all the mail is received from around the country. As has been the case each week, the business office only counts subscriptions in hand.

Some supporters around the country have already called to let us know they've made their goal — the subscriptions are in the mail. It is not unusual to receive mail from the Midwest and West Coast up to a week after it's sent. The drive officially ended June 6.

The scoreboard in next week's issue will give the final tally.

## PM's bigger advance

As the scoreboard below shows, the Spanish-language monthly magazine *Perspectiva Mundial* made an even bigger advance in its circulation this spring. *PM* made 124 percent of its goal, with 2,244 subscriptions.

Moreover, supporters of the *Militant* in nearly every area of the country sold subscriptions to *PM*. This reflects the growing number of Spanish-speaking people in the United States and their widening geographical distribution.

The drive to make the goal of 8,500 *Militant* and *PM* subscriptions involved the efforts of supporters nationwide and a successful sales performance by 15 national subscription teams organized by the *Militant* and *PM* business office.

## Renewal effort

The completion of the spring subscription campaign puts supporters in a good position to step up efforts to convince first-time readers to renew their subscriptions for a longer period of time — six months, one year, or longer.

Throughout the spring the business office sent sales distributors a list of subscribers in their areas. This let them know who is subscribing and, most importantly, enabled them to begin contacting the new

subscribers about local political events and about extending their subscriptions.

Workers and students who bought *Militant* subscriptions at the beginning of the drive are receiving notices from the business office urging them to renew. Supporters need to follow up this direct-mail approach with one-on-one contact, either by phone or in person.

The most successful way to win renewals is to use the same method utilized in selling introductory subscriptions.

If a new subscriber bought the *Militant* on the job, for example, go back to the person at work. Find out what he or she likes about the paper. Explain why it is important to keep getting the *Militant* week after week to follow what's happening in Nicaragua, South Africa, and the labor movement.

People who bought subscriptions off literature tables in working-class communities — for example, hundreds were sold this way in New York — should get telephone calls. Explain why they need to renew, or set up an appointment at their home to discuss the paper, political activ-



Member of *Militant* sales team talks with students at University of South Florida in Tampa.

ities in the area, and the need to extend their subscriptions.

Establishing a long-term readership base is one of the central reasons the *Militant* organizes subscription campaigns. Getting the *Militant* to working people is best advanced through these campaigns.

Working people and students willing to buy introductory subscriptions are the most likely candidates to buy long-term subscriptions — and over time possibly to be-

come distributors themselves.

It goes without saying that *Militant* and *PM* supporters are continuing to sell subscriptions to working people and students we meet in our day-to-day political activities. Protests by supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution, meetings of anti-apartheid activists, and strikes by meat-packers and other working people provide ample opportunities to meet socially and politically aware people and to win new subscribers.

## New wind blowing in Union City, N.J.

BY DOUG COOPER

UNION CITY, N.J. — "What's the name of that book by a Sandinista leader about his experiences fighting to overthrow Somoza in Nicaragua?" a Colombian-born worker asked.

"Do you mean *Fire from the Mountain* by Omar Cabezas?" I asked from behind a literature table.

"Yeah, that's it. Do you have it?"

Although that book was not available, the worker decided to buy a copy of Fidel Castro's *Today We are an Entire People*. He also bought a copy of the monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* and a pamphlet containing the historic decision against government spying and harassment issued by federal District Court Judge Thomas Griesa in the Socialist Workers Party lawsuit against the FBI and Attorney General Edwin Meese.

This exchange was one of many when a team of three supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* set up a literature

table May 16 on Bergenline Avenue, the busiest commercial street running through the heart of this north Jersey city.

The team wasn't sure what the response would be, since the last time *Militant* supporters attempted to sell in Union City ultrarightist opponents of the Cuban revolution forced them to leave.

For over two decades, the organized rightists, who are a small minority, have largely succeeded in intimidating the large Cuban community and others into acquiescence or silence in this city. This is where the Cuban Nationalist Movement had its public headquarters. This outfit was a front for terrorist groups such as Omega 7 that were originally set up by the U.S. government following the victory of the Cuban revolution in 1959.

In 1979 terrorists gunned down Eulalio Negrín in front of his home here. He was a prominent supporter of dialogue between the Cuban community in the United States and the Cuban government.

Today things are changing. Even before team members began to distribute literature, they saw graffiti supporting the Sandinistas spray-painted next to anticommunist slogans on building walls.

The team began by distributing literature on a busy street corner. The response was so positive that we soon set up a table to display newspapers, books and pamphlets. This immediately attracted a lot of attention, with word quickly spreading throughout the neighborhood.

Many immigrant workers from El Salvador, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Ecuador, and elsewhere, stopped to talk. Thousands of people from these countries now live in Union City and the surrounding area.

Cuban immigrants and young Cuban-American workers and students also came by. One teenage Black woman, accompanied by her sister, stopped and said, "Our parents are from Cuba. We've heard there's no discrimination against Blacks there. Is that true?" They left with a subscription to *PM*.

One man we spoke to called the Pathfinder Bookstore in Newark later that afternoon, asking where to get copies of the Cuban newspaper *Granma* so he could keep up with news from home.

Overall the response was excellent. In an hour and a half a total of eight subscriptions — seven *PM* and one *Militant* — was sold, along with 13 single copies.

## Same positive response

Two Saturdays later, a four-person sales team went back to Union City. It met with the same positive response from a broad cross section of people. Five people bought *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions and others purchased Pathfinder literature.

After two hours of successful sales and political discussions, a couple of right-wing Cubans approached the table and began harassing passers-by. When their efforts failed, they called the cops, claiming the team had to have a permit for a literature table.

A small crowd gathered and debates broke out between the handful of right-wingers and several others who defended the right to discuss and distribute socialist literature. A woman who had bought a pamphlet on South Africa came back and angrily asked, "Are these right-wingers harassing you? They have no right to do that."

The cops eventually made the team take down the table.

Supporters of the socialist press, however, plan to be back here again and on a regular basis.

## Spring Subscription Scoreboard

| Area                     | Goals           |                            | Sold            |                            | % Sold     |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------|
|                          | <i>Militant</i> | <i>Perspectiva Mundial</i> | <i>Militant</i> | <i>Perspectiva Mundial</i> |            |
| New Paltz, N.Y.          | 10              | —                          | 13              | 1                          | 140        |
| Houston                  | 75              | 10                         | 90              | 21                         | 131        |
| Baltimore                | 150             | 8                          | 184             | 19                         | 128        |
| San Francisco            | 100             | 60                         | 104             | 68                         | 108        |
| Seattle                  | 180             | 50                         | 193             | 54                         | 107        |
| Des Moines, Iowa         | 100             | 10                         | 98              | 20                         | 107        |
| Chicago                  | 250             | 100                        | 269             | 104                        | 107        |
| Greensboro, N.C.         | 115             | 10                         | 125             | 8                          | 106        |
| Milwaukee                | 100             | 25                         | 113             | 19                         | 106        |
| Pittsburgh               | 90              | 10                         | 96              | 9                          | 105        |
| San Jose, Calif.         | 180             | 100                        | 155             | 135                        | 104        |
| New York                 | 600             | 350                        | 583             | 378                        | 101        |
| Newark, N.J.             | 375             | 175                        | 380             | 175                        | 101        |
| Portland, Ore.           | 125             | 25                         | 105             | 44                         | 99         |
| San Diego                | 85              | 55                         | 87              | 52                         | 99         |
| Los Angeles              | 325             | 200                        | 320             | 187                        | 97         |
| Phoenix                  | 110             | 100                        | 89              | 113                        | 96         |
| Twin Cities, Minn.       | 200             | 15                         | 182             | 22                         | 95         |
| Cleveland                | 125             | 15                         | 114             | 16                         | 93         |
| Oakland, Calif.          | 150             | 50                         | 145             | 31                         | 88         |
| Birmingham, Ala.         | 130             | 2                          | 111             | 2                          | 86         |
| Boston                   | 240             | 60                         | 178             | 77                         | 85         |
| Kansas City              | 120             | 20                         | 110             | 8                          | 84         |
| Atlanta                  | 110             | 10                         | 93              | 8                          | 84         |
| Charleston, W. Va.       | 100             | —                          | 82              | 2                          | 84         |
| Austin, Minn.            | 80              | 10                         | 70              | 4                          | 82         |
| Tucson, Ariz.            | 2               | 3                          | 2               | 2                          | 80         |
| Miami                    | 110             | 40                         | 96              | 21                         | 78         |
| St. Louis                | 250             | 12                         | 195             | 9                          | 78         |
| Denver                   | 100             | 15                         | 82              | 6                          | 77         |
| Capital Dist., N.Y.      | 110             | 12                         | 80              | 12                         | 75         |
| Price, Utah              | 45              | 2                          | 33              | 2                          | 74         |
| Morgantown, W. Va.       | 95              | 5                          | 69              | 4                          | 73         |
| Omaha, Neb.              | 100             | 15                         | 72              | 10                         | 71         |
| Stony Brook, N.Y.        | 10              | —                          | 7               | —                          | 70         |
| Detroit                  | 190             | 20                         | 132             | 14                         | 70         |
| Washington, D.C.         | 160             | 50                         | 103             | 31                         | 64         |
| Philadelphia             | 150             | 50                         | 102             | 25                         | 64         |
| Dallas                   | 120             | 60                         | 69              | 45                         | 63         |
| Salt Lake City           | 115             | 15                         | 62              | 9                          | 55         |
| Cincinnati               | 70              | 5                          | 36              | 4                          | 53         |
| Amherst, Mass.           | 10              | —                          | 4               | 1                          | 50         |
| New Orleans              | 90              | 10                         | 42              | 6                          | 48         |
| Toledo, Ohio             | 100             | 5                          | 48              | 2                          | 48         |
| Honolulu, Hawaii         | 7               | —                          | 2               | 1                          | 43         |
| Oberlin, Ohio            | 5               | —                          | 2               | —                          | 40         |
| Wilmington, Del.         | 5               | —                          | 2               | —                          | 40         |
| Columbus, Ohio           | 25              | 5                          | 9               | 2                          | 37         |
| Annandale, N.Y.          | 70              | 20                         | 20              | 0                          | 25         |
| Ames, Iowa               | 5               | —                          | 0               | 1                          | 20         |
| West Haven, Conn.        | 5               | —                          | 1               | —                          | 20         |
| Clovis, Calif.           | 5               | —                          | 0               | —                          | 0          |
| Edmond, Okla.            | 5               | —                          | 0               | —                          | 0          |
| W. Palm Beach, Fla.      | 5               | —                          | 0               | —                          | 0          |
| Teams                    | —               | —                          | 415             | 397                        | —          |
| Other                    | —               | —                          | 72              | 63                         | —          |
| <b>Totals</b>            | <b>6,700</b>    | <b>1,800</b>               | <b>5,846</b>    | <b>2,244</b>               | <b>95</b>  |
| <b>To be on schedule</b> |                 |                            | <b>6,700</b>    | <b>1,800</b>               | <b>100</b> |



# Nicaragua to lose \$50 million in coffee harvest

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

While Nicaragua came close to meeting its production goal in this year's coffee harvest, income from exporting the crop will be \$50 million less than hoped for. The reason is the sharp drop in world coffee prices.

The loss leaves a big hole in this year's export income, which was

ation (CST) are on a campaign to increase the productivity of construction workers.

Current productivity levels on many construction sites are far below the levels that existed in the 1970s, prior to the Sandinista revolution.

In 1983, under pressure from construction unions, the government slashed hourly productivity norms almost in half. Today, construction projects drag out unnecessarily in a country that must constantly rebuild facilities destroyed by Washington's mercenaries. Labor costs are disproportionately high compared to other industries.

To begin to rectify the situation, the government recently raised productivity norms in construction. The CST, which organizes most construction workers outside of Managua, supported the move.

One construction union, however, is resisting the new norms. It is the Managua SCAAS, which is led by the Nicaraguan Socialist Party.

At a May 30 meeting, hundreds of Managua SCAAS workers met and voted against the new norms, which they said were unrealistic. They declared they would continue working under the terms of their original contracts.

In other parts of the country, CST workers have already begun trying to achieve the new norms, as a contribution to the country's defense effort. CST General Secretary Lucio Jiménez has challenged the Managua SCAAS to a fraternal competition with CST members to see who can increase productivity faster.

Even working under the new



Militant/Yvonne Hayes

Coffee is weighed during 1985 harvest in Matagalpa Province. Declining world prices are deepening economic problems brought on by Washington's contra war.

norms, some skilled construction workers are receiving paychecks close to that of a factory manager and four times that of the average industrial worker.

The people of the Atlantic Coast city of Bluefields danced to the tune of reggae music until late into the night during their annual Mayo Ya festival, which was held May 27-30.

The central theme of the festival was expressed in the slogan "Autonomy now, Mayo Ya," referring to the process of establishing regional autonomous governments

on the coast. Bluefields is about half English-speaking Blacks and half Spanish-speaking mestizos, with a small Indian population.

Thousands lined the streets for a colorful parade with dance and music groups from Nicaragua, Honduras, and Cuba; life-sized puppets; and a gorilla-masked man on stilts.

A highlight of the festival was the performance of a dance troupe of Garifonos from Honduras. The Garifonos, a people that also exists on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, are descendants of African slaves and Carib Indians.

In one of the group's numbers, a Garifono woman described her shame as a child at being called a

"Negra" (Black). As the chorus repeatedly chanted "Negra!" louder and louder, she finally burst out, "So what!" The crowd began cheering as she affirmed "I am a Black woman!" and broke into a lively Afro-Caribbean dance with the rest of the troupe.

On the last day of the festival, a new boat was inaugurated to bring passengers from Bluefields to the town of Rama in central Nicaragua. It is the first large passenger boat ever built in Bluefields.

The contras have destroyed several other such boats. "We know the contras will try to destroy this one," a shipyard worker told the Militant, "but we're prepared to build another one if necessary."

## NOTES FROM NICARAGUA

originally projected to be \$320 million.

Other Latin American countries will suffer from the price drop too, but Nicaragua is also devoting nearly half its national budget to military defense against the U.S.-sponsored contras. This has been one of the major causes of spiraling inflation and a sharp deterioration of workers' standard of living.

According to the Nicaraguan government, workers' wages as of January 1987 could buy only 22 percent of what they bought in March 1986. To partially compensate for this, the lowest-paid workers received wage increases of up to 100 percent in April, while other workers and professionals got increases of up to 60 percent.

The Nicaraguan government and the Sandinista Workers Feder-

## Ortega announces steps to counter fuel shortage

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — On June 6 Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced a 5 percent cutback in the country's consumption of fuel and a tripling of gasoline and diesel prices.

The measures were part of a package of steps to respond to the country's deepening economic crisis, provoked by the six-year contra war run by the U.S. government. Although the Sandinistas are winning the war, the costs of military defense are more than 40 percent of Nicaragua's national budget, placing an enormous strain on agriculture and industry, social services, and the living standards of working people.

To help cope with the sharp deterioration of workers' real wages, Ortega announced a 30 percent across-the-board raise. The new raise comes on top of wage increases of between 60 and 100 percent in April of this year. Inflation was estimated to be as high as 770 percent in 1986.

Ortega said that rather than devaluing Nicaragua's currency, the córdoba, the government will impose a steep tax hike on some imports.

He presented the measures in a speech here in the capital city to more than 1,000 workers and farmers from across the country. The press was invited to his speech, but the discussion that followed was closed to reporters.

### Impact of fuel cuts

The new measures are being explained as a step to reduce the country's huge budget deficit and to cope with a shortfall in oil supplies this year, both of which are caused by the war.

Gasoline is already rationed. Diesel fuel is not. Under the new program, the amount of gas available through ration coupons will be reduced by 5 percent.

The price of gasoline is rising to 500 córdobas a gallon, and diesel to 400. Lower prices will be charged on the more impoverished Atlantic Coast, where most Indians and Blacks live. With the new wage hike, a minimum-wage worker makes about 7,000 córdobas a week.

Nicaragua's fuel prices are far lower

than neighboring countries, however, due to government subsidies. Based on figures in the Sandinista daily *Barricada*, the price of fuel was 51 times higher in Costa Rica and about 44 times higher in Honduras, before Nicaragua raised its prices.

As a further effort to conserve fuel, the Sandinista People's Army and Ministry of the Interior will both reduce consumption by 8 percent. All government departments are being urged to do the same.

The fuel saved through all these measures will be stored for emergency military use.

### Petroleum shortage

In an economic report May 23, Jaime Wheelock, minister of agriculture, had warned that the nation faced a petroleum shortage. "We're going to have problems," he said. "We're looking for petroleum, but it could be that we'll have a drop in gasoline, diesel, and energy [supplies]. It could be that we'll have to take a series of extraordinary measures in the organization of work and workdays."

Until 1984, Nicaragua received most of its oil from Mexico and Venezuela. In 1984 Venezuela stopped selling Nicaragua oil, and Mexico did the same in 1985. The governments of both countries said it was because Nicaragua could no longer meet its payments.

The Nicaraguans appealed for oil from the Soviet Union in 1985, which agreed to supply 80 to 90 percent of Nicaragua's needs that year.

At a news conference here May 28, according to *Barricada*, Minister of Foreign Cooperation Henry Ruiz "explained that the Soviet Union could not totally fulfill its delivery of crude oil, because this socialist country currently has difficulties with its natural reserves."

Ruiz told reporters that Nicaragua needs 765,000 tons of oil this year, but currently has guarantees of only 630,000, coming from the following countries: Soviet Union, 300,000 tons; East Germany, 90,000; Czechoslovakia, 90,000; Cuba, 60,000; Bulgaria, 40,000; and Hungary, 50,000.

Ruiz said that the Nicaraguan government was approaching Latin American countries, such as Mexico and Venezuela, to help bridge the gap. Given the U.S. government effort to bleed the Sandinista revolution dry economically, Ruiz said, it is the duty of Latin American nations to help Nicaragua. "They shouldn't become accomplices of the U.S. policy," he said.

The day after the newspaper reports on Ruiz's press conference, both *Barricada* and *El Nuevo Diario* printed a statement sent them by the Ministry of Foreign Cooperation. *Barricada* headlined the statement "USSR has not broken trade agreement." It read as follows:

"1) Unfortunately, some communications media did not fully understand the statements of Commander of the Revolu-

tion Henry Ruiz about the problems the country has with oil supplies. An erroneous impression has been given that the Soviet Union has failed to fulfill its supply agreement.

"2) Therefore it is necessary to clarify that the USSR made an agreement with Nicaragua to supply 300,000 tons of petroleum. These have already been delivered, completely fulfilling the agreement.

"3) The USSR is not the only supplier of petroleum to our country. The full requirements to satisfy the country's oil needs are still being negotiated with the respective suppliers."

Since May 1985, Washington has maintained a ban on U.S. exports to Nicaragua and on Nicaraguan imports to the United States.

## Mass. prisoners punished for protest

BY MARK EMANATION

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Correctional Institute in Norfolk was the scene of a peaceful protest demonstration by 300 inmates May 13. All 1,230 prisoners stopped work for the day.

For 10 hours prisoners marched six to eight abreast. They chanted, "White and Black solidarity," "No work," and "Attica."

Representatives presented 16 demands to prison officials concerning brutality and abuse by guards, overcrowding, bad and insufficient food, the need for education and testing for AIDS, pay increases for prison work, observance of May 23 as Black Solidarity Day, and more sports, cultural, and educational activities.

The African American Coalition, which staged the protest, demanded that meetings with prison officials include representatives of Irish-American, Italian-American, and Latino prisoners.

But prison officials refused to meet with the protesters. Instead, the Department of Corrections assembled a strike force of 300 officers with shotguns and attack dogs.

On May 14, backed by Massachusetts

State Police helicopters, they invaded the prison.

Seventy-three prisoners, called "troublemakers" by State Corrections Commissioner Michael Fair, were rounded up. They were handcuffed, taken to the prison yard, and forced to lie face down until they were transported to other prisons — some out of state.

Prison officials have refused to tell anyone who was moved or where they were moved to. Even their family members are being denied this information.

For the remaining prisoners, visiting hours and other so-called privileges were canceled for at least three days.

A fact-finding committee from Boston was denied access to the prison. It included Rev. Graylan Ellis-Hagler of the Church of the United Community of Roxbury, Minister Don Mohammed of the Nation of Islam, Peter Fenn of the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union, and Linda Thurston of the American Friends Service Committee. They demanded that Gov. Michael Dukakis set up an independent investigation of the prison.



# Israel: 40 years of colonial-settler repression

BY HARRY RING

This past February, the Gaza Trade Union of Carpenters and Building Workers elected a new executive board. It was the union's first vote in 20 years.

Union bureaucrats had held off elections that long? No. The 71 Palestinian construction workers who participated were voting in defiance of regulations issued by the Israeli army of occupation.

The Palestinian unionists had been trying to organize the vote for months. Two earlier attempts were blocked by the military authorities. The unionists decided to push ahead when they found 400 workers were interested in joining the union.

Calling them "terrorists," Israeli soldiers tried to block their entrance to the union hall, but stepped aside while awaiting reinforcements. Before additional troops arrived, the vote had been held.

Following the carpenters' action, the Commercial and Public Service Workers Union declared it, too, would hold an election. Authorities opposed it, but the vote was held anyway.

The defiant stand by the young Palestinian unionists could be described as a meaningful observance of the 20th anniversary of Israel's occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

## Behind media focus

It is the determined, growing Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation that has brought such broad media focus on the 20th anniversary.

But little of the media coverage has noted another anniversary date, which in a basic sense, is even more decisive. The year 1987 also marks the 40th anniversary of the carving up of the nation of Palestine.

It was in 1947 that the United Nations took it upon itself to "partition" Palestine. It was this partitioning that established the basis for forming the state of Israel in 1948.

The occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are simply the expansion of the original Israeli occupation of the Palestinian homeland — an occupation that has proven as reactionary as it is illegal.

Israel got Gaza and the West Bank as a result of its June 1967 war against Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. Armed by the U.S. government, the Israelis blitzed their Arab neighbors in six days.

They took Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, the Egyptian-administered Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the West Bank area of Jordan.

The Sinai was later returned to Egypt and the Golan Heights formally annexed to Israel. For the past 20 years, the West Bank and Gaza have been ruled under the fiction of "temporary" occupation.

After the takeover, the West Bank and Gaza borders were sealed, a census taken, and ID cards issued. Those who were outside the area — people shopping in Jordan, students in Lebanon, others — were barred from returning.

Twenty years later, many are still waiting to get back. Applications for family reunification are studied carefully, and slowly.

An Israeli official says there are no criteria for approval. "If we had criteria," she explains, "we would have to let anyone who fits the criteria come."

Today, there are 5 million Palestinian Arabs. Only 42 percent, 2.1 million, live in historic Palestine. The remainder were driven into exile and now dwell in the neighboring Arab countries.

Nearly 20 percent of Palestinians still live in refugee camps.

Almost a million live in the West Bank and more than half a million in the Gaza Strip. In Israel itself, there are 645,000 Palestinians.

## Second-class citizens

Those resident in Israel have been legally made citizens. But they are in fact second-class citizens.

Those in the occupied area don't even have that status. Living under military rule,

they are subject to military law, even including "emergency" regulations drawn up under British colonial rule.

The repression in the West Bank and Gaza is directed against all segments of the population. In Gaza this May, all Palestinian fishing boats were docked and forbidden to work until six escaped Palestinian prisoners were captured.

Palestinian land is subject to seizures, homes can be destroyed, curfews are imposed, anti-occupation strikes and demonstrations are illegal, reading material is censored, and various publications are banned. Political parties are forbidden.

The violence of the occupation troops is buttressed by the vigilante attacks of ultrarightists among the Israeli colonial settlers, who now number some 60,000 in the areas of "temporary" occupation.

There is detention without trial, prison terms, and deportation into exile.

A quarter of a million Palestinians have been in jail during their lifetime; 1,215 have been deported. Currently more than 4,000 West Bank Palestinians are in jail. Yet the resistance deepens.

An April 14 *New York Times* dispatch from the West Bank reported that occupation authorities and settlers "seem increasingly angered by the fact that no matter how many Palestinian leaders they expel and no matter what security measures they adopt, the level of anti-Israel Palestinian violence continues to mount."

The Palestinians, the report adds, "are lashing out at every opportunity, irrespective of the price."

There has been scant industrial development in the West Bank or Gaza, so many Palestinians are forced to seek work in Israel. There they constitute an added pool of low-paid labor.

From the West Bank alone, up to 120,000 Palestinians commute into Israel for work.

From Gaza, where little transportation is provided, many are forced to take cabs, which take at least half a day's pay. They are required to return home at night.

Many in the occupied territory become immigrant workers in other countries. But if they are gone for three years, they are not permitted to return.

## Racist victimization

Within Israel proper, many examples can be cited that confirm the second-class status of Palestinians. In the urban areas, Palestinians earn about 67 cents for every dollar earned by Israelis. In the rural areas, the gap is greater.

About 16 percent of the population, one



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat



Arab youths, one holding Palestinian flag, demonstrate in Jerusalem.

person in six, is Palestinian. But in senior government posts, it's one in 60; in university academic positions, one in 300. As of 1980, there was not a single Palestinian in the government ministries of finance, housing, health, industry, or communications. There were one apiece in agriculture, labor, and the national police.

There has never been a Palestinian supreme court justice, and no major enterprise, be it banking, industrial, or farming, has ever been headed by a Palestinian.

A single fact summarizes the discrimination in health care: the Palestinian infant mortality rate is more than double the Israeli.

In the countryside, the situation is even more scandalous. In once-prosperous Palestinian farming communities, as much as two-thirds of the land has been confiscated, and in large numbers Palestinians find themselves working as day laborers on land they once owned.

The victimization of Palestinians within Israel and the oppression of those in the occupied area stems from the very nature of the Israeli state.

It was, from the outset, a creature of imperialism, designed to help ensure imperialist domination of the oil-rich, strategically key Mideast region.

## Promoted by imperialism

The Zionist movement, with its aim of a national homeland for world Jewry, developed at the end of the 19th century. Early on, it found a sponsor in British imperialism.

Britain emerged from World War I with control of Palestine, Jordan, and Iraq.

Seeing its potential as a counterforce to the anticolonial struggles of Arab peoples, the British encouraged Zionist immigration to Palestine and pledged formation of a Jewish homeland there. In return, the Zionist settlers gave avid support to British colonial rule.

But by the end of World War II, British power in the Mideast was on the decline and U.S. imperialist power on the rise.

Hoping to hang onto Palestine, the British government tried to avert creation of the Israeli state. But, gaining the support of Washington, armed Zionist forces compelled Britain to retreat. The issue was handed over to the newly created United Nations, which then included less than two dozen Third World countries.

In 1947 came the UN "partition" of Palestine, arbitrarily carving that nation in two. The UN granted some 55 percent of the country to the Jewish immigrants, leaving 45 percent to the Palestinian people. At the time there were 660,000 Jewish settlers among 1.25 million Palestinians.

This brutal violation of Palestinian sovereignty provoked a war by the neighboring Arab states. By then well armed, the Israelis prevailed. On May 14, 1948, the state of Israel was proclaimed. By 1949, when armistice agreements with the Arab states were completed, Israel controlled not 55 percent of Palestine, but 80 percent.

## The 1967 grab

With the 1967 six-day June war, Israel grabbed the remaining 20 percent and now

occupies all of historic Palestine.

The justification for this theft of an entire nation? *Two thousand years ago*, according to biblical lore, it was the land of the Jews!

Not content with establishing their rule over a nation in which they had been accepted as immigrants, the capitalist settler regime from the outset pursued a policy of driving the Palestinians out. By 1948, a majority of the Palestinian people — 700,000 — had been forced to flee their country.

The new Israeli government brazenly claimed the Palestinians had been incited to leave by their leaders and by neighboring Arab governments.

But the exodus was sparked by massacres, now well documented, committed by the Israeli armed forces and ultraright paramilitary gangs.

One government document recently obtained from the Israeli State Archives bluntly declared:

"The refugees will find their place in the diaspora. Those who can resist will live thanks to natural selection, the others will simply crumble. Some of them will persist, but the majority will become a human heap, the scum of the earth, and will sink into the lowest levels of the Arab world."

That racist prediction is being refuted by history.

## Birth of PLO

With its June 1967 conquest, Israel acquired new territory. But this robbery also gave a powerful stimulus to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The PLO was created in 1964, mainly as an instrument of the Egyptian government. But with the crushing defeat of the Arab regimes in the June war, the Palestinians saw the need for their own leadership. The PLO emerged as the independent leadership of the liberation forces.

Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon aimed at smashing the PLO, whose main base then was in the huge refugee camps in Lebanon.

With the Israeli victory, the PLO forces were dispersed and bitterly divided internally. Yet despite seemingly overwhelming obstacles, they have been regrouping their forces, and at the meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algeria this past April, a major reunification of PLO forces was registered.

The PLO has won broad support in the occupied areas with its demand for Israeli withdrawal and for independent Palestinian rule. And it continues to press for its overall objective — the dismantling of the state of Israel and its replacement by a democratic, secular Palestine where Jews and Arabs alike will live in equality and peace.

That perspective will be of as great a benefit to the majority of Jews as it will be to the Palestinians.

Backed by the power of U.S. imperialism, Israel has given the appearance of invincibility. But the Israeli state, with its population of 4 million, remains surrounded by 150 million Arabs.

From every vantage point, a democratic, secular Palestine is the only meaningful, progressive solution to the profound problems created by 40 years of reactionary Israeli rule.



# Fact vs. myth: how AIDS is transmitted

BY MARGARET JAYKO

One factual question above all lies at the heart of the international debate and discussion over what to do about acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS): how is AIDS transmitted from one person to another?

How fast the disease will spread and to what sectors of the population; what kind of testing can and should be done for AIDS; and, most importantly, what can be done to slow down the spread of AIDS while all possible resources are put into finding a cure and a vaccine — the answers to all these burning questions hinge on knowledge of how human beings become infected with the AIDS virus.

## What is AIDS?

AIDS is actually a syndrome, or series of health problems, not a disease. It is caused by a virus that attacks a person's immune system and damages their ability to fight disease. Without a functioning immune system, the person becomes vulnerable to a myriad of infections, including ones that would rarely cause illnesses in a person with a healthy immune system.

AIDS-related complex (ARC) is a condition caused by the same virus as AIDS. ARC patients' symptoms are often less severe than those diagnosed as having AIDS. However, it often develops into full-blown AIDS. Estimates of how many people with ARC will ultimately get AIDS range from 10 to 50 percent.

Not everyone infected with the AIDS virus will develop either AIDS or ARC. Estimates are that at least one-third to one-half of those carrying the virus will develop AIDS and another 25 percent will develop ARC. For the rest, it appears their health will not be affected.

Every person who is infected, however, can infect other people even if they themselves are healthy. And short of finding a way to kill the virus, they will remain infectious for the rest of their lives.

AIDS is fatal. Most people who contract it die within a few years.

In a study that examined 2,489 cases in San Francisco, the median survival from time of diagnosis was 11 months. Only 13 percent of the patients were alive three years after diagnosis.

There is no cure for AIDS, and there is no vaccine. This is not simply a result of the political obstacles placed in the way of vigorous research because its victims are primarily poor, Black, Latino, and gay. There are several physical features of the AIDS virus that pose big problems in developing a cure.

## Who gets AIDS in U.S.

As of May 4, according to the National Centers for Disease Control, 20,352 people in the United States had died from AIDS since June 1981. That's 58 percent of the more than 35,000 cases of AIDS that have been diagnosed in this country. Estimates are that 1.5 million people are infected with the virus.

- Almost 75 percent of those who have died were homosexual or bisexual men. Some of them were also intravenous drug users.

- One in six of those who have died were heterosexual IV drug users.

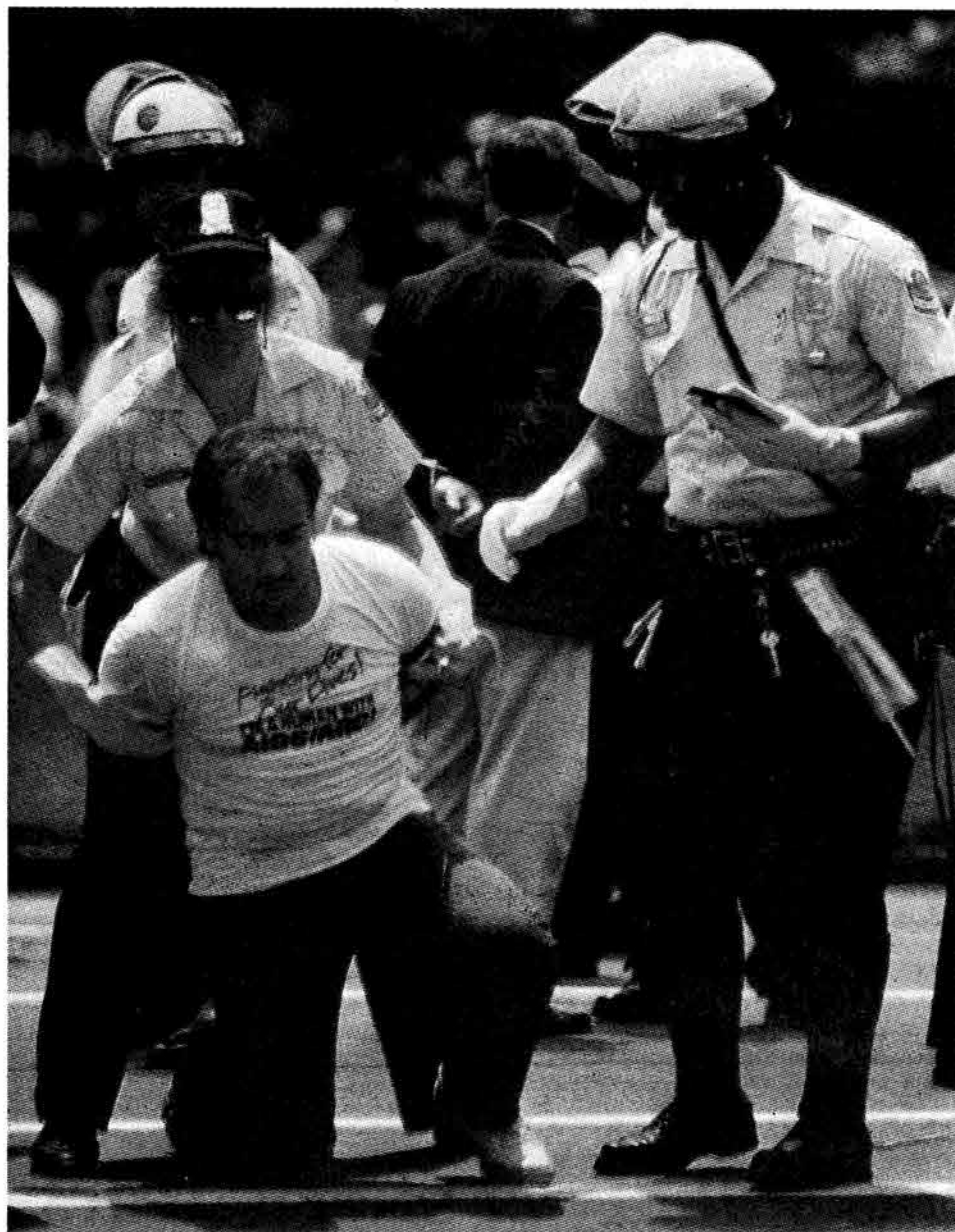
- Among adult victims, 2 percent contracted AIDS from transfusions with infected blood or blood components.

- Of those who died, 494 were children. Some 80 percent of them contracted the disease prenatally through an infected mother.

- Blacks make up 12 percent of the U.S. population but they represent 24 percent of the AIDS cases that have been diagnosed nationally. Hispanics, who make up 8 percent of the population, represent 14 percent of the AIDS cases. And 80 percent of the children born with AIDS are Black or Latino.

- Only 7 percent of those who have contracted AIDS in the United States have been women. Half of them are Black. Most of the women with AIDS in New York and New Jersey, for example, are IV drug users.

Why does AIDS affect these specific categories of people? And why are victims of racist discrimination hit disproportionately hard? To answer these questions, it's



Washington, D.C., cops arrest participant in protest demanding government help for AIDS victims. Cops' use of rubber gloves perpetuates myth that AIDS is more infectious than it really is. AIDS virus cannot be transmitted through casual contact.

necessary to see how the AIDS virus is transmitted.

## Transmission through blood and semen

Because the AIDS virus is fragile, it dies quickly outside the body. *It can only be transmitted through infected blood and semen being brought into direct contact with the bloodstream.*

This is quite different than the mode of transmission of the microorganisms that cause venereal diseases like gonorrhea and syphilis. Those organisms can thrive in any bodily fluid and can enter the body through mucous membranes.

That's why VD spreads more uniformly throughout the population, with those who have many sexual partners having the highest risk. The most impoverished layers of working people — who are the least likely to have regular blood tests and medical care — are the most likely to suffer from venereal diseases, as they are disproportionately the target of other medical problems in this class-divided society.

But there is no substantial evidence that the AIDS virus is passed through any other bodily fluids — vaginal secretions, saliva, tears, or mucus; only semen and blood. Thus the oft-repeated statement that AIDS is passed through "sexual intercourse" or "sexual contact" or "exchange of body fluids" is misleading and, therefore, false. It is only passed through *certain* kinds of sexual activity and *certain* body fluids.

Those who engage in repeated anal intercourse are prime victims of AIDS because anal intercourse often breaks the skin, and the rectal area has many blood vessels near the surface. The chance of semen to blood or blood to blood transmission during anal intercourse is very high. This is why gay men are the primary victims of AIDS.

Of course, it's not only gay men who engage in anal intercourse. It is likely that among the women who have contracted AIDS, some have gotten it through anal intercourse with infected partners. And the more partners a person has anal intercourse with, the more likely they are to contract AIDS.

It's much more difficult to transmit AIDS during vaginal intercourse. The walls of the vagina are not thin surfaces that have a rich network of capillaries be-

neath them, as is true of the rectum. The vaginal walls are thick, and the skin is not normally broken during sexual intercourse.

Most doctors and researchers agree that the chances of a woman passing AIDS to a man during sexual intercourse are very small indeed. And there is no documented case of a woman getting AIDS from another woman during sexual activity.

Because of the way AIDS is transmitted, there is no sign that there is a major spread of the disease among heterosexuals and women in the United States, despite the dire predictions appearing in the media lately.

"Those who are suggesting that we are going to see an explosive spread of the virus into the heterosexual population have to explain why this is not happening," argued Harold Jaffe, the chief AIDS epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control, in a June 4 interview with the *New York Times*.

## Impoverished IV drug users hard hit

Intravenous drug users who share needles without sterilizing them are the second largest category of AIDS victims. Infected blood left in the syringe can easily infect the next user.

Not all those who shoot drugs are equally at risk, however. It's only impoverished drug users — a high percentage of whom are Black and Latino — who share needles. Middle-class and ruling-class drug addicts aren't likely to have to use someone else's dirty needle.

Many of the women who are infected with AIDS are impoverished prostitutes who use drugs. According to an article in the June 4 *Washington Post*, studies show that "middle-income prostitutes were less likely to be carriers of the virus than their poorer inner-city counterparts, where high infection rates may be due to drug abuse."

"One study showed that of inner-city prostitutes in Miami, 39 or 41 percent of 90 women were infected with the virus. None of the prostitutes working for an up-scale escort service were infected."

A high percentage of working-class women forced into prostitution are drug addicts; a high percentage of their clientele also shoot drugs; and they are often the victims of traumatic sexual acts which break the skin.

In addition, the very poorest women who are forced into prostitution are more likely to have other health problems.

The open lesions in the genital area that are symptomatic of some venereal diseases, for example, greatly increase the chances of getting AIDS because they provide a transmission route directly into the bloodstream from an infected partner's blood or semen.

In addition, men who have had venereal disease are more likely to have white blood cells in their semen (because those are the cells which fight off infections), which are the cells that the AIDS virus attacks.

Once again it's the poorest layers of society — which in the United States includes a disproportionately high number of Blacks and Latinos — who are the most likely to have venereal diseases, thus increasing their chances of contracting AIDS.

The general state of a person's health seems to have an impact on their vulnerability to both becoming infected with the AIDS virus and to then developing AIDS. People who have an immune system that is already weakened — one of the consequences of repeated exposure to other sexually transmitted diseases as well as other harmful microorganisms — appears to be a contributing factor in increasing one's chances of contracting AIDS.

According to an article in the May 31 *Washington Post*, "Doctors who treat minority AIDS patients say that the patients usually die much more quickly than whites and are much sicker when they do seek treatment."

"Some 'blacks tend to put health care on the back burner' because they cannot afford it and have no health insurance," [AIDS researcher Wayne] Greaves observed. That is reflected in the rate of tuberculosis, an infection that sometimes accompanies AIDS, which is five times higher among nonwhites than among whites."

## Casual contact not an infection route

There are no documented examples of getting AIDS from casual contact with a person who has it. Studies of family members of AIDS victims and health-care workers who take care of AIDS patients turn up no examples of spread of the infection due simply to prolonged close contact with the carrier.

In May the Centers for Disease Control announced that three female hospital workers contracted AIDS from their patients. All three, however, came in contact with the blood of the infected person, and all had small breaks on their skin through which the virus could pass.

The New York dentist who recently got AIDS, apparently through contact with a patient he was working on, often stuck himself with dental instruments, rarely wore gloves, and treated patients while he had cuts on his hands.

## Africa

Unlike in the United States and other imperialist countries, in Central Africa AIDS is spreading among heterosexuals and men and women in some countries are afflicted in roughly equal numbers. However, the basic mechanism for transmission of the disease is the same as in the United States.

An article in next week's *Militant* will discuss the spread of the disease in Africa and the criminal refusal of Washington and other imperialist governments to take the simple steps necessary to slow down the rise of AIDS in the semicolonial world.

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# Social conditions of Puerto Ricans in U.S. deteriorating

BY SAM MANUEL

The 1987 report of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights (NCPRR), entitled *The Status of Puerto Ricans in the United States*, opens, "The situation of the 2.7 million Puerto Ricans living in the United States has become more turbulent and uncertain than ever before. . . . In the past two years, there has been no fundamental change in the second-class status to which Puerto Ricans have been relegated in this country nor in the colonial relationship between our homeland of Puerto Rico and the United States."

The report takes on added significance in light of the increasing numbers of Puerto Ricans migrating to the United States.

It reveals that during the 1980s there has been a net migration of 157,000 Puerto Ricans to this country, reversing a migration trend back to Puerto Rico in the 1970s. This is the greatest migration of Puerto Ricans here of any decade since the 1950s.

This numerical growth has been coupled with a continuing decline in the social conditions of Puerto Ricans. The median family income of Puerto Ricans compared with white families has plummeted. In 1959 it was 65 percent of a white family's income, down to 54 percent in 1980, and in 1987 it is estimated at only 46 percent of a white family's income. More than 40 percent of all Puerto Rican families in the United

States live below the poverty level.

Unemployment statistics for Puerto Ricans are the highest of all Latinos in the United States — officially 16.6 percent. In New York City, which has the largest concentration of Puerto Ricans living in this country, unemployment is officially estimated as high as 30 percent.

The report also cites attacks on the civil rights of Puerto Ricans, including racist violence and right-wing legislation aimed at gutting educational and employment gains made in the previous two decades.

Puerto Ricans have been the victims of violent attacks in many northeastern cities, including New York. Most of them have gone unpublicized. The Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund is currently investigating about a dozen instances of racial violence against Puerto Ricans during the past year.

The NCPRR statement adds that the laxity of police and government authorities in enforcing civil rights laws means a message is "sent to individuals with racist inclinations that violence against Puerto Ricans and other people of color is, if not officially sanctioned, less punishable than other crimes of violence."

The report condemns several cases of racist attacks on Puerto Ricans involving police agencies at various governmental levels and at least one elected official. It



Militant/Michael Baumann  
**Protest outside New York court against detention of Puerto Rican activists. Report of National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights cites violation of civil rights of Puerto Ricans in United States.**

highlights the case of 15 Puerto Rican independence activists and a U.S. lawyer currently facing charges of conspiracy in a 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot, and being members of a group called the Macheteros.

## Bilingual rights

The declaration points to the broad threat to Puerto Rican rights posed by groups seeking to make English the official language of the United States. As of April, 12 states have declared English their official

language, seven of them in the past two years.

The statement explains, "The English-Only movement is not merely an attack on bilingual education programs. If English were adopted as the official language of the country, the most rabid supporters of this idea would do away with bilingual ballots, bilingual drivers licenses, language interpreters at all levels of municipal and federal services — the courts, police, health and social services." The Philip-Morris Tobacco company has been sued in California by English-only advocates, who charge that its Spanish-language ads violate the newly approved English-only referendum in that state.

The NCPRR notes that while 12 states have adopted English as their official language, such legislation was also defeated in 12 states in 1987. It also makes clear that while the NCPRR opposes such English-only initiatives, it does not oppose learning English. The report states, "Learning to speak English is necessary for all people who live in this country. However, learning English does not have to come at the sacrifice of our native tongue."

The statement scores attacks on undocumented workers and Latinos in general by immigration authorities. Puerto Ricans, though "U.S. citizens" since 1917, are often arrested and even deported by the immigration police.

The report explains that the employer sanctions provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which would fine employers who hire undocumented workers, increases the leverage of employers to discriminate against Puerto Ricans and all Latinos.

The Puerto Rican rights organization stresses the need for mass education programs and access to adequate health services for Puerto Ricans and Latinos in the fight against AIDS. There are no separate figures for Puerto Ricans, but Latinos accounted for 14 percent of the 24,576 AIDS cases reported in the United States as of September 1986. Latinos are 6 percent of the population.

## Opposes war in Central America

The declaration strongly condemns U.S. military intervention in Central America. It states, "If the U.S. engages in direct warfare with Nicaragua, whether declared or undeclared, Puerto Rican and Chicano youth will be most at risk to participate in that war and to be called upon to fight and kill other Latinos. That is why it is crucial for Puerto Rican leaders to begin now to educate our youth and the community in general against continued U.S. intervention in Central America."

Puerto Ricans have continued to play an important role in the labor movement in the United States. The report cites several important labor struggles involving Puerto Rican workers in the last two years. Among them are the 1985 New York City hotel workers' strike, a successful organizing drive of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and a strike by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Lorain, Ohio.

# Cuban immigrants still in jail after 7 years

BY LIZ ZIERS

ATLANTA — Some 1,800 Cubans, most of whom are Black, have been held for as long as seven years in Atlanta Federal Penitentiary without being charged, tried, or sentenced. One federal judge said they could stay there "until they die."

One prisoner, Santiago Peralta, was killed in February. Witnesses say prison guards murdered him, using a chokehold. Two coroners' reports concur that his death was caused by suffocation, possibly due to a chokehold.

The prisoners are among 125,000 people who left Cuba in 1980 from the port of Mariel. They came to the United States believing the stories they had heard of rich opportunities and limitless individual free-

dom in this country.

Hundreds were jailed immediately upon their arrival. Because other Cubans raised hearsay and allegations that some of the Marielitos, as they were called, had been prisoners or criminals in Cuba, the Immigration and Naturalization Service called them "a potential threat" and "excludable aliens." The majority of the prisoners were characterized as "excludable" later, after being charged with illegal activity in this country.

Because of this label, they have been denied their constitutional rights. None of them know how long they'll be in prison. Until recently, they were under lock-down, caged for 23 hours a day.

A few hundred other Marielitos are

being held in other prisons, including Oakdale, Louisiana.

The Atlanta Coalition to Support Cuban Detainees has been holding vigils outside the prison to protest this denial of democratic rights to the prisoners. Black rights activist Dick Gregory and Atlantic City Councilman Hosea Williams were recently arrested by FBI agents during a protest against the Cubans' detention. They were charged with "trespassing" outside the prison.

Congressman Pat Swindall (R.-Ga.) calls for the prisoners to be released and immediately deported to Cuba. He places blame for the barbaric treatment of the Cubans not on the INS, but on Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Joseph Fahy of the Coalition to Support Cuban Detainees and the Archdiocese of Atlanta visited the prisoners and witnessed most of the Cubans confined two to a cell built for one person. Twelve murders and eight deaths attributed to suicide have occurred since 1980. Fahy wrote to the local paper about the Cuban prisoners' conditions and was subsequently banned from the prison by the warden.

"The worst thing for them is the indefiniteness," said Fahy. "Many of the detainees have already finished one sentence. They were returned to the prison after committing minor crimes, like driving under the influence, or parole violation. The INS says because they're 'excludable aliens,' they have no right to due process. They've received no sentence, and they don't even have parole hearings."

The coalition has taken the Cubans' case to Amnesty International, the secretary general of the United Nations, and the Organization of American States.

Carla Dudek, the coalition's coordinator, says, "We've done this because we want to put some pressure on the U.S. government to act. Because the U.S. government is always talking about other countries' human rights violations, we hope it will help when others' eyes are turned upon us."

"This wouldn't be happening if they were white Europeans," Dudek said. "Normally, when someone leaves a communist country, they're given a hero's welcome by our government. This is racism."

Dudek says the Cubans need a public outcry. She urges greater participation in the vigils outside the prison.

## Do you know someone who reads Spanish? Follow Ben Linder's example

"Ben was murdered on April 28. You know who's responsible for that? Your government," stated Elisabeth Linder, mother of the young U.S. volunteer who was murdered by the U.S.-backed contras in Nicaragua.

Members of Ben Linder's family are beginning a national tour to tell his story and the truth about Nicaragua. The family hopes to inspire people to join work brigades, material-aid campaigns, and fact-finding tours to Nicaragua.

The June issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* features articles on the nationwide protests triggered by his death, the tribute to Ben Linder by the Nicaraguan people, and the need to build the Linder family's tour and more brigades to Nicaragua.

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

## Perspectiva Mundial

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# India airlifts food to Tamils in Sri Lanka

BY MALIK MIAH

On June 4 five Indian air force transport planes flew across the 30-mile-wide Palk Strait to drop nearly 25 tons of food and medical supplies to Tamil residents in northern Sri Lanka, an island-country off India's southern coast. The operation, called "Operation Eagle" by the government of India, was protected by Indian jet fighters.

Only 24 hours earlier, the Sri Lankan navy turned back 19 unarmed Indian fishing boats carrying relief supplies to Tamils under siege by Sri Lankan government troops.

A spokesman for Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said the air drop was prompted by "the continuing deterioration of the conditions of the civilian population" in northern Sri Lanka. This, he stated, was of "legitimate concern to India and a threat to peace and security in the region."

"By mercilessly bombing a defenseless people and spreading misery, on the basis of only ethnic difference," Gandhi said before the airlift, "Sri Lanka is itself putting its unity and integrity in jeopardy."

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed sharply denounced India's action as a "naked violation of our independence and an unwarranted assault on our territory and sovereignty."

"Everyone knows there is no food shortage in Jaffna," asserted Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali referring to the region of the Indian air drop. "We are the ones aiding people, not the Indians."

## New stage in civil war

The Indian government's intervention beyond normal diplomacy marks a new stage in Sri Lanka's civil war.

Since 1983 the Indian government has sought to mediate the conflict between the government of President Junius Jayewardene and the Tamil militants fighting for an independent homeland in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces.

Sri Lankan Tamils are 18 percent of the country's 16 million people. They have faced decades of discrimination from the government, which is dominated by the much larger Sinhalese population. Sri Lanka won its independence from Britain in 1948.

In May the Sri Lankan government launched a major military offensive in the Tamil militants' stronghold, Jaffna Peninsula. The openly declared objective of this offensive that began May 26 was to register a "military solution" to the civil war. The goal included killing all the Tamil leaders.

So far, hundreds of civilians have died in

indiscriminate government bombing of the Jaffna region. The government claims only 200 people have died, with 75 percent being "terrorists."

## India's intervention

Even before this new wave of state terrorism, Gandhi was under pressure to help the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

For example, Gandhi's political rival in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, sent \$3 million in "humanitarian" aid to Jaffna Tamils in early May. There are 50 million Tamils in India, most of them in Tamil Nadu.

In addition, Gandhi's popularity is reeling from corruption scandals. He is also in a standoff with the Pakistani regime. India says Pakistan is fueling religious-based violence by Sikhs in Punjab state, and between Muslims and Hindus in other parts of India.

The Sri Lankan government's refusal to make major concessions to the Tamils, Jayewardene's continuing "pro-West" shift — closer ties to Pakistan, South Korea, and other U.S. allies — along with India's internal instability, led to Gandhi's decision to airlift aid to Tamils in northern Sri Lanka.

But Sri Lankan officials fear the airlift is the first step toward an invasion. In 1971 the Indian government sent troops into what was then East Pakistan to help establish the independent country of Bangladesh.

Sri Lanka's combined military force is a little over 35,000. While India's army alone is 1.1 million.

India denies that it is planning to militarily invade Sri Lanka. It has requested a new round of talks with Colombo to resolve their bitter dispute.

## Sri Lanka's deepening crisis

The Jayewardene government not only faces a potential threat from India and the Tamil insurgency. The Sinhalese population is also wracked by divisions.

The main capitalist opposition party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, is agitating for new elections so a stronger pro-Sinhala government can deal with the "terrorists." The last elections were held in 1977.

The banned People's Liberation Front (JVP), an ultraleft Sinhala chauvinist group that led an aborted insurrection in 1971, is winning disgruntled youth to its anti-India, antigovernment, anti-Tamil, and pro-Sinhala-Buddhist perspective. Most Sinhalese are Buddhists. Tamils are generally Hindus.

The Sri Lankan paper, the *Island*, reports that some 500 suspected JVP activists

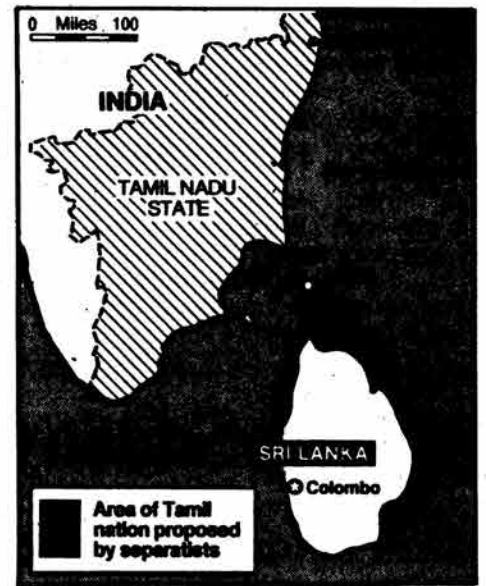
are held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. JVP supporters are very active among Sinhalese students.

While the paramount guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, clearly suffered major setbacks in the army's offensive, support for self-determination remains strong among the Tamil people.

In one town "liberated" by the Sri Lankan army, a resident pointed out, "The army behaved like an army. That meant looting, shooting — those kinds of things."

Another resident said, "India is our savior. We want India to help us."

On the other hand, the ambassadors to India of Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh have all expressed "solidarity" with Sri Lanka's government. They fear the Indian regime is pushing for regional domination.



## —WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

### Protests, rebel actions rock San Salvador

Since late May, El Salvador's capital has been hit by a wave of demonstrations, strikes, and guerrilla actions by left-wing opponents of President José Napoleón Duarte.

On May 31, protesters rallied outside the Mariona prison to demand a general amnesty for political prisoners held there. Inside, more than 300 prisoners were on a hunger strike.

Julio César Portillo, secretary-general of the Salvadoran teachers' union, ANDES, was shot in the back by gunfire from the prison. "This criminal act is part of a plan of repression directed by

airborne radar planes.

The planes are to operate along Pakistan's mountainous border with Afghanistan, where clashes have been frequent. Pakistan provides refuge and military assistance to the rightist Afghan guerrilla forces.

The crews of the Hawkeye planes, manufactured by Grumman Corp., may include U.S. "civilian" radar technicians employed by the company.

Originally, the Pakistani regime requested advanced AWACS surveillance planes from Washington, and U.S. officials were seriously considering the request. But with the buildup of U.S. air and naval forces in the Persian Gulf, none of the air force's AWACS are now available.

### Ivory Coast can't pay foreign debt

Officials of the Ivory Coast, in West Africa, revealed May 28 that their government is unable to maintain its foreign debt payments. This was announced by Economy and Finance Minister Abdoulaye Koné in Paris during a meeting of the Ivory Coast's creditors.

The Ivory Coast's total foreign debt stands at around \$7 billion, one of the highest per capita debts in the world. This year it would have owed \$1.2 billion in interest and debt service payments alone.

The world's largest exporter of cocoa and a key coffee-exporting country, the Ivory Coast has been hard hit by the drop in the world market prices of those two crops.

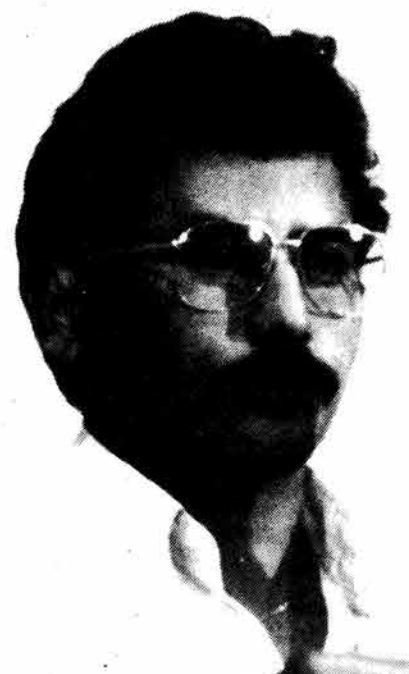
Coming from a government that has generally sought to meet its debt payments and that closely follows the foreign policy dictates of France (the Ivory Coast's former colonial ruler), the announcement came as something of a shock in Paris. A front-page commentary in the May 30 Paris daily *Le Monde* called Koné's declaration "particularly disturbing."

### Singapore regime detains 16 activists

Nine women and seven men were detained by security police in Singapore May 21, accused of engaging in "communist subversion."

Some were charged with discussing "Marxist-Leninist" ideas during Bible study sessions. Chung Lai Mei was accused of studying the *Communist Manifesto* and visiting a training camp in India of one of the Tamil guerrilla groups fighting against the government of Sri Lanka.

Most of those detained were known as vocal critics of the government of Lee Kwan Yew, who has been in power in that Asian island state since it gained its independence in 1965. They included student activists, supporters of the opposition Workers Party, journalists for the *Catholic News*, and members of the Third Stage, a theater group.



Militant/Don Gurewitz Salvadoran unionist Julio Portillo was shot during antigovernment protest.

the U.S. embassy and carried out by the Duarte government," ANDES officials said.

In response to the shooting, thousands of students marched on the National Assembly June 2. The following day, the teachers' union called a protest strike.

May 31 was also the first day of a three-day traffic stoppage called by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) "to repudiate three years of the Duarte government." The Associated Press estimated that the stoppage affected 95 percent of all buses and private vehicles in the country, including many in the capital itself.

On June 2, FMLN guerrillas attacked power pylons and electrical stations, blacking out 60 percent of San Salvador and much of the eastern provinces of San Miguel, Usulután, La Unión, and Morazán.

### Pakistan to receive U.S. radar planes

U.S. officials revealed in late May that Washington has agreed to supply the Pakistani government with Hawkeye

## Workers, peasants protest in Haiti

BY LINDA JOYCE

MIAMI — Almost daily during May, workers and peasants marched past the National Palace in Haiti in Port-au-Prince to protest the closures of the biggest sugar mills in Haiti.

In a systematic dismantling of the Haitian National Sugar industry, the National Council of Government (CNG) has closed down the Haitian-American Sugar Co. (HASCO) and the sugar mills of Darbonne, l'Enaol, Centrale Dessalines, WELSH, and Centrale Sucriere des Cayes. More closures in the sugar industry are imminent. Other national industries have been affected by shutdowns.

Students are also demonstrating, protesting the government's intervention in the universities, which are supposed to remain autonomous under the new constitution. The students closed down the National Nurse's School in protest.

These protests came in the aftermath of May Day demonstrations of thousands of workers, peasants, unemployed, and students, which occurred all over Haiti.

In an historic departure from the past practice of government-organized May Day parades, the workers demanded that May Day should be a workers' and peasants' holiday. For the first time, no official representative of the government or the bosses were invited, and none appeared.

The May Day rallies were organized by the Autonomous Federation of Haitian Workers (CATH), the largest and most

representative of the workers' federations in Haiti.

The Latin American Workers Confederation (CLAT) and the Organized Workers Confederation (FOS) joined CATH in organizing the rallies.

The biggest May Day rally took place in Charlemagne Peralte Park. Previously called Christopher Columbus Park, it was renamed to honor Peralte, Haiti's early 20th century national liberation hero.

Thousands participated in the May Day rallies under the slogans of "Unity!" "Against the Duvalierist National Council of Government!" and "Against the program of Finance Minister Leslie Delatour!" Delatour's ministry has been heading up the plant closings.

The workers, whose minimum wage is \$2.65 a day, and even less for agricultural workers, are demanding a minimum wage of \$6.00 a day. They also are pressing for a new labor code to replace the one put into effect under ousted dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier.

In the city of Cap-Haïtien, peasants and workers got together on May Day to protest the "American plan" for the Haitian economy being carried out by the CNG. Among other things this policy allows the importation of foreign sugar and rice at lower prices than offered in Haiti, gutting the local market.

Peasants are refusing to pay taxes, and some 1,000 took over 54 acres of church lands in Milot in late April.



# THE GREAT SOCIETY

Where else but America — Survivors of the tornado in Saragosa, Texas, may not qualify for federal relief. Because the victims were mainly impoverished



Harry Ring

farm workers, a Red Cross official explained, the value of their lost homes and belongings may not be enough to meet federal criteria.

Colonialism, it's wunnerful

— "GOOD NEWS: Puerto Rico, the Caribbean island whose nearly 3.3 million people are U.S. citizens, recently and happily announced that its unemployment rate had dropped 1.1 points to 17.3 percent — the lowest level in seven years." — May 24 *Parade* magazine.

**A brighter future** — Because Soviet missiles are now more accurate, they will presumably be smaller, U.S. civil defense officials say. Therefore, in a nuclear war only about 112 million people in target areas would die immediately, not the 156 million previously estimated.

Balanced view — Even with

the smaller numbers, a civil defense official cautions, "The end result would be that all major cities and state capitals would be gone." But, he adds, the new figures do show that it would pay to sink more dollars into civil defense.

**Oh** — "It says, well, yes, is the first thing that comes out of my mouth, not well no — well yes — and it goes on at somewhat greater length." — Elliott Abrams responding to congressional question on his earlier testimony covering up Brunei contragate donation.

**'The check's in the mail'** — Maybe Abrams will be assigned to deal with the demand by the sultan

of Brunei to return the \$10 million.

**Science-serving-society dep't** — European chocolate makers are using a robot that can decorate or stuff up to 60 pieces a minute, discarding the ones stuck together or misshapen. We wondered how those Fifth Avenue specialty shops could sell them for as little as \$30 a pound.

**How could anyone guess** — Bostonians lined up in droves for a lottery to qualify for federally subsidized apartments. Said a startled housing official, "We had 1,000 applicants in the first 90 minutes. It's pretty startling to see there's this much need for housing in Bos-

ton."

**Win a few, lose a few** — There will be 1,200 winners in that Boston housing lottery. Of these, maybe 50 percent will actually find a landlord ready to accept the subsidy arrangement. "The housing is just not out there, and we can't help them on that," philosophized the housing chap.

**The Lord said, 'Let there be joy!'** — For one Xmas bash for PTL execs. \$9,000 worth of truffles were flown in from Brussels.

**Sort of like Master Charge** — "The PTL is carrying out a master plan for people that love." — Reagan, in 1984.

## CALENDAR

### ALABAMA

#### Birmingham

**The Fight to Defend Affirmative Action Today.** Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**The Myth of the Happy Japanese Workers: How Big Corporations Use It Against Us.** Speaker: Ken Honda, Socialist Workers Party, former factory worker in Japan. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

#### Oakland

**Cuba: A Living Revolution.** A report-back from a recent Venceremos Brigade dedicated to Winnie and Nelson Mandela given by three members of the brigade. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

#### San Diego

**Nicaragua: Brigadistas Speak Out.** Panel including Dave Brown, Los Angeles Harvest Brigade Organizing Committee; others. Fri., June 19, 7:30 p.m. 2803 B Street. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

#### San Francisco

**The "Baby M" Case and Women's Rights.** Speakers: Maura Rodriguez, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 565; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 21, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

**U.S. War Threats Against Iran.** Speakers: Ayoub Talhami, Arab-American Congress for Palestine; Don Davis, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 100. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 20, 8 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

tion: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Crime and Prisons Under Capitalism. Say No to the Death Penalty.** Speakers: Virginia Monroe, Aid to Incarcerated Mothers; Mark Emanation, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**From Southeast Asia to Central America: No More Vietnam Wars!** Speakers: Edward Damato, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, recently returned from fact-finding trip to Vietnam; Priscilla Schenk, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Anti-apartheid Protest and Concert — Remember Soweto.** Program of speakers from the African National Congress of South Africa, South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia, and Labor Committee Against Apartheid and performances by ANC Sechaba Singers and 4 Parts of the Movement Chorus, Human Condition, and Woman's Song. Tues., June 16, 4:30-7 p.m. Citibank headquarters, 399 Park Ave. at 53rd St. Sponsors: American Committee on Africa, New York Anti-apartheid Coordinating Council, Wespac, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, TransAfrica, Labor Committee Against Apartheid. For more information call (212) 962-1210.

**Julius and Ethel Rosenberg 34th Annual Commemoration — Remembering Friday, June 19, 1953.** Demonstration Fri., June 19, noon to 2 p.m. at United States Courthouse, Foley Sq. Memorial Meeting, Fri., June 19, 6:30 p.m. New York University Law School, 40 Washington Sq. S. Sponsor: National Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case. For more information call (212) 228-4500.

## Rallies to Defend Democratic Rights Against Government Spying

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, Political Rights Defense Fund; Michel Shehadeh, Committee for Justice, Palestinian immigrant, one of eight fighting McCarran-Walter Act deportation proceedings in Los Angeles; Don White, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES); representative from International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; others. Sat., June 27, 7:30 p.m. 675 Park View. Sponsor: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

Speakers: John Studer, executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund; Lance Johnson, regional president of Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks; representative of Philadelphia Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 27, 7:30 p.m. SEIU Hall, 1313 Vine St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

### NEBRASKA

#### Omaha

Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, Political Rights Defense Fund; Anne Begay, Native American Indian activist with the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee; Buddy Hogan, president of Omaha National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; representatives of the Omaha Indian tribe. Sun., June 21. Reception, 5 p.m.; program, 6 p.m. St. John's A.M.E. Church, 2402 22nd St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

### TEXAS

#### Dallas

Speakers: Fahim Minkah (Fred Bell), founder Dallas Black Panthers; Linda Hajek, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; Salvador Ibarra, director of Proyecto Adelante; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. Bethany Presbyterian Church, 4523 Cedar Springs. Sponsor: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (214) 824-4943.

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Greensboro

**The Continuing Struggle in the Philippines.** Speaker: Tim McGlawn, Friends of the Filipino People; representative of the Socialist Workers Party. Sun., June 21, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

### OREGON

#### Portland

**U.S. Out of the Persian Gulf! The Role of the U.S. Government in the Iran-Iraq War.** Speaker: Jim Miller, Socialist Workers Party, member of International Association of Machinists Local 63. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

(503) 287-7416.

### UTAH

#### Salt Lake City

**Youth Speak Out.** A panel discussion of young activists. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**United States Out of the Persian Gulf!** Speakers: Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Lodge 289. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

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# Are there too many babies in the world today?

**Too Many Babies? The Myth of the Population Explosion.** By Joseph Hansen. Pathfinder Press, New York, 43 pages. 1987. 95 cents.

BY ALICIA MEREL

This recently reissued pamphlet was first published in 1960 and reprinted in 1970. But it has been out of print for a number of years.

Its author, Joseph Hansen, was an editor of the *Militant* and *Intercontinental Press*

## PAMPHLET REVIEW

for many years. An accomplished Marxist journalist, he brings both wit and clarity to his arguments, making the pamphlet enjoyable reading.

Hansen argues against the view that the cause of poverty and starvation is overpopulation — that there are too many babies born, especially in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

In many ways, this pamphlet is more relevant today than it was 27 years ago when it first appeared. Recently there has been an especially voluminous outpouring of dismay that the population is increasing too fast.

According to a United Nations report, "The State of the World's Population," issued in May of this year, world population will reach the 5-billion mark sometime in 1987 and will top 6 billion by the year 2000. And the growth rate in Third World countries, the report states, is higher than in industrially developed capitalist countries.

This study contends that continued high growth rates will force an increasing proportion of the world's residents into poverty.

In an editorial on May 9 the *New York Times* lamented the Reagan administration's abandonment of funding for population control programs. Citing Ethiopia and Mexico as examples, the editors stated that 91 percent of the anticipated world population growth will occur in countries unable to feed their people.

In 1985 the Children's Defense Fund in its conference report "Preventing Children Having Children," stated that in the United States in recent years, half of all teen mothers raise their children as single parents, facing almost certain poverty. Teen mothers, they worried, are not only less likely to marry than those who delay child-

bearing, but are more likely to have larger families, thus straining their already low incomes with more children to feed and clothe.

### 'America faces new enemy'

Hansen begins by making fun of similar expressions of fear of the population explosion that were widespread in the 1950s.

"America faces a new enemy," he writes. "This enemy is insidious. He is not armed with H-bombs, rocket missiles, deadly nerve gases, nuclear submarines, tanks, submachine guns, rifles, or even bayonets. This enemy's major means of attack is nothing but a mouth, and at a certain stage, a set of teeth. . . . He uses infiltration and subversion. . . . This enemy has already occupied the cribs, nurseries and playgrounds of America."

Hansen points out that the problem of too many babies was discussed nearly 200 years ago by Thomas Malthus in his pamphlet *On Population*. This 1798 essay was part of the reactionary propaganda against the French and American revolutions, which were carried out under the banner of democracy and equality for all people. Malthus's view, cheered by the British ruling class, was that it is harmful to seek a better society.

He attempted to give a scientific veneer to his notion by arguing that the human population increases geometrically, doubling itself every 25 years: 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, etc. The food supply, on the other hand, increases only at an arithmetic ratio: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. So the number of babies increases faster than the food supply does. If this is the case, then the poor and hungry will be with us forever. It is futile, even harmful, to help the poor, Malthus said, because charity will only encourage them to reproduce.

### Capitalism responsible for hunger

The Malthusian view is that humanity is simply "a gullet and a set of reproductive organs," Hansen explains. Marxists have a different view. They note that humans have hands, brains, the capacity to use tools, and an inclination for teamwork. We are food producers, not merely devourers.

If we look at the starving poor in isolation from the rest of humanity, we will get a lopsided view of what the roots of poverty are. We must look at the world as a whole. When we do this it becomes clear that what exists is starvation for many in the midst of plenty. "Under capitalism, the distribution of hunger in the population is not due to the abundance of the poor but to the poor distribution of society's abun-



Massive famine in Ethiopia in 1983-1985. Recently reissued pamphlet explains imperialism, not "overpopulation," condemns hundreds of millions to death by starvation.

dance," Hansen explains.

As the population increases, productive capacity, including productive capacity on the land, increases too. Malthus's prediction that the food supply will always grow arithmetically has proven to be false. It turned out to have no scientific basis at all.

Modern agricultural technology, the development of new plant varieties using plant genetics, and improvements in irrigation methods to combat droughts and floods have vastly increased farm production today.

During the past 25 years, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization *FAO Production Yearbook 1984*, increases in food production have outstripped the world's unprecedented population growth by about 16 percent. Enough grain alone is produced to provide every human being on the planet with 3,600 calories per day. This is more than the average resident in the United States consumes daily.

The World Bank, in September 1986, noted that even though enough food exists and the price of cereals had fallen, the poor were still unable to purchase enough food.

Hansen explains that hunger and poverty are not part of the natural order of things. It is imperialism, he says, that "has plundered our planet, annihilated entire populations, condemned hundreds of millions of human beings to death by starvation, and doomed the majority of mankind today to chronic hunger."

### Famine in Ethiopia

A recent example of this was the massive famine in Ethiopia. More than 300,000 died, and many more may face a similar fate.

As the European colonial powers began to plunder Africa, more than 400 years ago, they changed the native economic and agricultural structures. Land that had been used for traditional food crop raising was converted to raising single cash crops such as peanuts, cocoa, or cotton for export. The poverty and underdevelopment that resulted from this can still be seen today. Sub-Saharan Africa was the only area of the world where per capita food production decreased in the decades from 1965-1985.

This was not always the case. Sub-Saharan Africa was once a productive farming area. The country of Mali, for example, was known as the breadbasket of Africa, because it always had surplus grain to provide for the needs of its neighbors.

A drought that ruined crops was blamed for causing the Ethiopian famine. But natural disasters like droughts and floods occur worldwide. They damage crops in rich countries such as the United States without causing massive starvation. It's poverty created by imperialist oppression that turns a drought into a famine in today's world.

During the drought years of 1970-1974, nearly every Sub-Saharan country produced enough grain to feed its total population, but this was exported for cash. The

big grain monopolies were the chief beneficiaries.

Under a rational plan of land cultivation and distribution, Hansen explains, the world could easily feed many more billions than already exist. And we can expect farm productivity to continue to increase as science and technology show still more ways to increase crop yields.

What if someday there is a need to limit population? Hansen explains that our job is to solve the problems of our time, and this isn't one of them. He cites the 19th century communist leader Frederick Engels, who noted, "There is of course the abstract possibility that the human population will become so numerous that its further increase will have to be checked. . . . It will be for those people to decide if, when and what they want to do about it, and what means to employ. I don't feel qualified to offer them any advice or counsel in this matter. They will presumably be at least as clever as we are."

Today, as the economic and political crisis deepens for imperialism, the same arguments first used by Malthus can still be heard. We read that it's teenage pregnancy that is responsible for poverty, and that people are poor because they don't want to work.

Hansen's pamphlet is a valuable tool to use and to share with workers, farmers, and progressive political activists. It not only provides educational and thought-provoking answers to the arguments, but makes a strong case for why we need to fight for a socialist society.

## —10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
June 17, 1977

The outcome of Miami's June 7 referendum — repealing that city's law protecting homosexuals from discrimination in jobs, housing, and public accommodations — is a major defeat for gay rights. It is a defeat for all human rights.

The repeal of the antidiscrimination law is a blow against freedom from government interference in personal lives. It is a victory for a Bible-thumping minority seeking to legislate its view of "morality." And it creates an atmosphere of prejudice for right-wing forces to further their attacks on all civil and human rights.

In Miami Anita Bryant and her "Save Our Children" outfit mobilized the most reactionary, antigay, antilabor, antiwoman, anti-Black forces in highly visible actions. These were the same forces that had campaigned against the Equal Rights Amendment and abortion rights. The Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard added his support to the anti-gay rights crusade.

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the interests of the Working People  
June 18, 1962 Price 10c

The House Un-American Activities Committee rode roughshod again last week

— this time over people from Ohio. In the wake of its "probe" of alleged Communist activity in that area, one person lost his job and another's small business was verging on ruin. At the witch-hunt hearings, held in Washington, D.C., June 4-7, most victims refused to be intimidated and protected themselves under the Fifth Amendment.

When HUAC announced the hearings on May 12 the names of 16 people to be subpoenaed were "leaked" to Cleveland newspapers. This advance publicity build-up at the witnesses' expense, supposedly contrary to committee rules, roused a storm of indignation. The Cleveland chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union wired HUAC chief inquisitor, Francis Walter, charging that the committee was denying due process of law "by creating hysteria and fear."

Witness James Smid lost his job before the hearings even began, and Martin Chaney from the witness stand charged HUAC with "ruining my little business." Alfred Nittle, committee counsel, replied, "You are a hard-core communist and the tears in your voice are not becoming." This was the second time in a year that Chaney had been subpoenaed. "Why do you drag me here again?" he asked. "I don't think it's human. I don't think it's decent."

The star witness of the proceedings, Julia Brown, an FBI undercover agent, listed names and addresses of more than 100 people who, she declared, "will do anything . . . anything at all for the [Communist] Party."



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# What Iran-contra hearings show

Washington's dirty war against Nicaragua continues. The contra terrorists are suffering blows and making no headway toward the U.S. rulers' goal of toppling the Nicaraguan government. But every day they continue to take the lives of Nicaraguan workers and peasants — just as they brutally murdered U.S. volunteer Ben Linder.

Despite the damning facts about the contra war that continue to seep out of the congressional committee hearings on the Iran-contra arms scandal, not a single member of the committee has suggested that appropriations for the contra killers should be cut off now.

On the contrary, the committee members — including the liberals — are signaling that they may be willing to back more money for the war when the administration asks for it.

That was the clear meaning of their response to testimony by Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams on June 2 and 3. He was shown to have consistently made misleading statements to congressional committees about the administration's role in funding and organizing the contra war.

After Abrams testified, a top State Department spokesman assured the media that Secretary of State George Shultz fully supported Abrams and thought he was doing a "sensational" job.

No committee member drew out the obvious point that Shultz and his boss in the White House were directing the policy of lying to the people of the United States that Abrams had been caught carrying out.

Instead, committee members hinted that Congress might not back another round of funding for the contras unless Abrams was replaced. They were signaling that Congress may continue bankrolling the war against Nicaragua if Reagan cleans up the image of the administration a little bit.

The congressional committee's performance highlights the bipartisan character of the U.S. government's foreign policy. The liberals in Congress share the administration's goal of containing and rolling back the Nicaraguan revolution.

Although the contras have been dealt big setbacks, the liberals have presented no alternative to the administration's policy of using the mercenary army to attempt to terrorize and grind down the people of Nicaragua.

No leading Republican or Democrat proposes the alternative of recognizing the right of the Nicaraguan people to determine their own future in peace.

That is why the committee members — Democratic

and Republican alike — are seeking to avoid a head-on clash with Reagan.

"The Democrats on the select committees have not even hinted at presidential misconduct," noted Mary McGrory in the May 28 *Washington Post*, even though key witnesses have pointed to Reagan as the ultimate authority behind the secret White House operations to arm and finance the contras.

This testimony forced Reagan to modify his claim to have known nothing about all this. He finally admitted that the policy was "my idea" and insisted that it was legal.

Since Reagan's statement, the congressional committee has sought to turn the spotlight away from the president. A major focus has been the corrupt practices of the relatively small fry who did the administration's bidding.

The testimony has further exposed the mercenary war on Nicaragua — and other aspects of U.S. foreign policy as well — to be a cesspool of corruption. But no committee member has suggested the obvious: the trail of crooked dealing begins in the Oval Office.

An aide to Rep. Lee Hamilton, the Indiana Democrat who chairs the House side of the hearings, explained, "Congressman Hamilton has stated repeatedly that he doesn't want to debate the merits of contra policy at the proceedings."

As a result of the liberals' performance, the administration's backers are acting more cocky for the moment. "We have two predictions," declared an editorial in the May 29 *Wall Street Journal*. "One is that there will be no impeachment. The other is that no one will come up with a better strategy for dealing with Managua than helping to arm the Contras."

The Nicaraguan workers and farmers have thus far been able to defend, consolidate, and advance their revolution in the face of the bloody six-year war that Washington engineered against them. This fact helped precipitate the crisis that continues to shake up the U.S. government.

The liberals' inability to come up with a "better strategy" against Nicaragua shows that the crisis of the Reagan administration is a crisis for them as well.

Opponents of the dirty war against Nicaragua must combat this bipartisan crime by taking the truth — including the facts that the congressional committee and special prosecutor are forced to make public — to tens of millions of U.S. working people, youth, and others who have an interest in stopping the war.

# A country where farmers are urged to produce more

BY DOUG JENNESS

In the past three issues, I've discussed how the problems of working farmers are intertwined with international politics and connected with the struggles of working people in other countries.

We live in a world where the productive capacities of farmers can feed everybody; yet hundreds of millions are

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

hungry and malnourished. The international capitalist market, dominated by profit-hungry traders, isn't set up to get food to those who need it most. And it victimizes independent farmers for supposedly producing too much.

Many "friends of farmers" are advising agricultural producers to cut back production in order to reduce the "surplus." This, they contend, will drive up prices and increase farmers' incomes. But most farmers know that more food is needed, and since they can produce a lot of it, they feel they should at least be awarded the right to make a living doing it.

But is this possible? Does a marketing system exist in which all working farmers can produce as much as they are able and still get paid enough to meet production costs and make a living?

I believe that such a system exists and that the experience of farmers in Cuba since 1959 proves it.

Shortly after the revolutionary government was established in Cuba, it took steps to cut farmers' costs. Interest on loans was sharply reduced, rents and mortgages were eliminated, and the costs of implements, fertilizer, seeds, etc. were lowered.

Moreover, as the result of a radical agrarian reform, many landless farmers or those with too little land received enough land to farm. And the virtual elimination of buying and selling the land and ending its use as collateral for loans, got rid of the main ways farmers were deprived of land.

The government also nationalized food processing and most of food purchasing and established control over all foreign trade.

Individual farmers and farmers' cooperatives agree to fulfill specified production costs at prices guaranteed by the government. The government purchasing agencies then retail the food to consumers through government-owned stores. In order to help equalize distribution, a rationing system is in effect for many products.

The government also buys produce from farmers that exceeds their government quotas. Farmers are paid substantially more for this extra output, which the government may sell at government-run nonrationed markets.

This system does not penalize farmers for producing more and provides them with a stable market with payments high enough to make a decent living. Moreover "surplus" food isn't allowed to rot in the fields or pile up in government warehouses.

Government control over foreign trade also means that international merchants can't come in and sign contracts with individual farmers or groups of farmers and pressure them to buy their seeds and fertilizers in exchange for their produce. They aren't permitted to destabilize prices in Cuba's domestic market and profit at the expense of working farmers like they do in so many Third World countries.

The government trading agencies in Cuba, however, must still face a world market dominated by monopoly pricing. On the capitalist market they are forced to sell sugar and other agricultural products at very low prices. But they must pay dearly for manufactured products from industrially developed capitalist countries.

Cuba has been able, however, to make trade agreements with the Soviet Union and East European countries to sell Cuban sugar at prices well above the prevailing world market price in exchange for manufactured goods, oil, etc.

If Cuba, a small country much less developed than the United States, has been able to accomplish what it has for working farmers, why can't it be done here?

It can, but we first have to do what the Cuban people did — throw out the landlords, bankers, and industrialists.

That will not happen here tomorrow. It will require big economic and social convulsions that will jolt millions of working people to take action and develop a clearer view of their common interests. But we should have this goal firmly in mind today as we engage the employers, the bankers, the food trusts, and all exploiters in struggle.

The only way we can mobilize a movement powerful enough to overturn capitalist political rule is to recognize that wage workers and working farmers have common interests that are the basis for united action.

When workers and farmers establish their rule here, the world market will never be the same. The big international grain merchants like Cargill and Continental, the oil trusts, and the banks will be taken over by the government and run in the public interest, not for the benefit of a handful of billionaire families.

# No to mandatory AIDS testing!

Continued from front page

immigrants and prisoners, therefore, doesn't have much medical justification. And, since there's no cure for AIDS, it's not clear what use there is for the test results.

The one kind of mandatory testing that does make sense and has saved lives is testing of donated blood, which has been in effect since March 1985.

The only possible function of mandatory testing at this time, therefore, is harassment and discrimination.

The fact is that to test positive for the AIDS virus, whether you actually have the disease or are simply a carrier of the virus, means that you become subject to discrimination in every aspect of life — employment, housing, education, health care, insurance coverage.

Those soldiers who test positive for the AIDS virus, for example, are a ready-made hit list for the military brass. In addition, the Pentagon is in a hurry to get rid of someone who might soon contract a disease that will cost the government a lot of money in medical bills.

And what will happen to prisoners who are known to be infected with the AIDS virus? The brutality against them can only increase in a system that already treats prisoners like animals.

And Meese's proposal to perhaps not give parole to those with AIDS is a dangerous first step toward quarantining AIDS victims, something that could only be medically justified if the disease could be spread through casual contact.

Adding undocumented immigrants to the list of those to be tested will be one more reason for many to decide not to apply for amnesty under the new immigration law.

Mandatory testing is a further handle to restrict the rights of immigrants and prisoners, thus narrowing the democratic rights of everybody.

The other proposals to deal with AIDS — abstain from sex; only engage in "socially acceptable" kinds of sex; everyone use condoms all the time — are similar to the mandatory-testing proposals in that they all attempt to create the atmosphere that AIDS is a disease that is spreading in epidemic proportions among the entire population. If that were true, however, people like Reagan would be showing a lot more concern about doing something about it.

All the talk about condoms does serve a purpose — and a reactionary one at that — in relation to AIDS. It

covers up the fact that the ruling families of this country refuse to take any serious measures to slow down the spread of AIDS because they aren't concerned about saving the lives of a bunch of gays, drug addicts, and prostitutes.

What can be done about AIDS?

First of all, it's necessary to junk the idea that it hits everyone equally: heterosexual and homosexual; male and female; middle class and working class. It doesn't, as the article on page 9 explains.

Those who engage in repeated anal intercourse and impoverished intravenous drug users who share dirty needles are by far the highest risk categories. And people with poor health are more likely to contract the disease. These facts explain why Blacks and Latinos are hit disproportionately hard by AIDS.

There is growing evidence that the most successful anti-AIDS work to date has been by gay men's groups, who explicitly target their peers and offer calm, factual educational material on what AIDS is and how it can be avoided, including explaining the medical danger of anal intercourse with many sex partners. The government should finance such educational activity in every major city and on a national level.

All those who do contract AIDS should be cared for in free, government-funded centers located in neighborhoods where they have access to friends and family.

The cynical call for free needles for IV drug users as the way to slow down the spread of AIDS assumes that nothing can be done about drug addiction among the poorest layers of society. Ruling-class politicians and movie stars can go to Betty Ford's fancy rehab center; addicts in Harlem get a couple of free needles — if they're lucky.

The government should pay for drug rehabilitation programs for all those addicts who want them.

In addition, the profits should be taken out of AIDS care and research.

All medical care for AIDS victims, including drugs, should be free, financed by the government.

There should be massive government funding for AIDS research, with efforts centralized and knowledge pooled so that discoveries can be made as quickly as possible to save the maximum number of human lives.



# Workers get cake for 12-hour days, 7-day weeks

BY RICHARD GAETA

In March the owner of Good Lad, a Philadelphia children's clothing manufacturer, gave each department in the plant a cake with "Thanks a million" written on it.

The "million" refers to the amount of goods shipped in one week. The "thanks" was for employees who had just

## UNION TALK

finished putting in a number of 12-hour days and seven-day weeks.

For many workers the presentation was followed by a month's layoff. When they returned, the boss explained that the company had just completed "our" most successful season in history. But, he said, four so-called problems needed attention. They were production, quality, theft, and drugs.

The meeting was a forewarning of attacks to come. Good Lad workers get paid according to production. Part of the boss's scheme has been to have us do rework on

garments for free. This is true for assemblers and pressers. Some workers had their earnings slashed between \$2 and \$3 an hour.

On Fridays the mood used to be upbeat as workers anticipated their weekends. Lately, the mood has been quiet as everyone contemplates how to stretch a shrinking paycheck. Recently, a group of assemblers walked off the job after getting paid. Some had received checks as low as \$50. The company claimed it was a computer error and said it would be adjusted the following week.

After two months of these attacks, many workers have found other jobs. To keep up production, Good Lad has been hiring new people and has increased overtime. One presser explained, "They want to starve us into submission." But even with the overtime, most do not earn as much as they did two months ago.

Many explanations have been offered as to why the bosses are lowering wages and demanding increased quality and production. One worker said, "The owners are probably Jews." But the religious orientation or background of the owner has nothing to do with the attacks. In fact, raising this can become an obstacle to achieving sol-

idarity within the working class. The owner is a capitalist, and that's what requires him to steal from us.

Sewing-machine operators have held discussions about what to do. Many are ready for a fight. Recently, 25 operators met with the shop steward to demand action against the company.

Our strength would increase if we had departmental or shopwide meetings without supervisors present. And a full, open discussion among union members can steer us on to a course of action.

These are the kinds of serious problems that need to be discussed at the coming national convention of our union, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). The delegates should address themselves to preparing a fight for maintaining a national contract with substantial pay raises. And we need to demand an end to union-weakening schemes such as lump-sum bonuses, piecework, and homework.

Richard Gaeta is a presser at Good Lad and a member of ACTWU Local 170.

## LETTERS

### March in Puerto Rico

On May 24 the Committee of the Voice of the Beacon sponsored a march here to protest installation of a Voice of America radio transmitter in Cabo Rojo.

Close to 2,000 people participated. Chanting, "Voice of America means war — we don't want it on our shores," we set off on the march in groups of 200 each, led by a member of the committee. The event culminated in artistic performances, including by Los Sapos del Caño.

It was well organized. And there was unity throughout the activities, between different sectors of the left and various community groups — working together in a united front to say no to the Voice of America.

Magda Moreno

Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico

### Delighted

For a few years I had a subscription to *Intercontinental Press* through Pathfinder Press in Sydney.

When *IP* stopped publishing last year I was profoundly disappointed. It was so very informative on a range of issues around the world. I felt I was in touch with such distant lands as Burkina Faso.

But, I did not stop my subscription. In fact, I started receiving the *Militant*.

Well, I try to read each issue of the *Militant* as soon as possible, and I want to say how delighted I have become with the *Militant* so far.

I was particularly pleased with an article around International Women's Day this year, March 8, 1987, on the emerging political role of women in Burkina Faso, and now, in the latest issue, May 22, there is a great spread on women in Nicaragua.

On the day I come home from work to find the *Militant* in the letter box I always feel that "workers of the world unite" will one day really happen.

M.M.

Queensland, Australia

### April 25 protests

The leadership, from the top down, of the April 25 actions in Washington and San Francisco deserves high praise. The demonstrations were a clear expression of the will of the vast majority of Americans — no U.S. involvement in Central America, South African apartheid must go.

Also, the organizational principle of nonexclusion, which proved so successful in the anti-Vietnam War actions, was correctly followed in spite of AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland's and Albert Shanker's divisive efforts.

Hopefully, we will not overlook

the need for national actions this fall, when contra aid will come up again in Congress. The April 1985 actions stopped contra funding. But the failure to act in 1986 resulted in funding by a very small majority vote. Only another demonstration this fall will force Congress to carry out the will of the people to stop funding the contras.

Joe Carroll

Newark, New Jersey

### Alternative press

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Peggy D'Adamo

Alternative Press Center

### Hopeful

I especially enjoy your magazine when it is positive, hopeful. News can be so depressing, I like it when you interpret it in a hopeful light.

And I like review articles that explain the big picture about national-international events and history to those of us who have not studied enough to make sense out of many occurrences.

Gail McDonald

Salt Lake City, Utah

### Veterans' brigade

The message below from Harry Meserve was read to a May 31 meeting in San Jose, California, protesting the murder of Ben Linder. The event was sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum. Meserve also sent a copy to the *Militant*.

Meserve is a member of the Veterans Peace Action Team, which departed for Nicaragua on May 29. The veterans will be cooperating with Nicaragua's National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) in helping on projects in the El Cuá-Bocay region where Linder and two Nicaraguans were murdered.

Their first project will be rebuilding a health center which has been burned down by the contras.

\* \* \*

I am going to Nicaragua with the Veterans Peace Action Team because I believe that it is important for Americans to demonstrate their determination to stop the criminal war that is being waged by the U.S. government on the people of Nicaragua.

By going to Nicaragua to restore some of the damage done by the contras, we are expressing our

solidarity with the people of Nicaragua. Like Ben Linder, we do this without any motive except the simplest: we stand with the oppressed against the oppressor, even when that oppressor is our own government.

As veterans we have a special obligation to do what we can to stop another generation of young men and women from being maimed and killed in a war not of their making. We must do what we can to stop this war in Central America from becoming a greater conflagration, stop its destruction of Nicaraguan lives (some 20,000 have already died), stop its inexorable march toward the introduction of American combat troops.

In the midst of war, we try to sow the seeds of peace. And we call upon our fellow citizens to do what they can to do the same. Join a brigade, help rebuild Nicaragua.

Harry Meserve

Felton, California

### Salvadoran unionists

Salvadoran trade union leaders are touring the United States to get support for the release of union and political leaders who have been jailed by the U.S.-backed government of President José Napoleón Duarte. Francisco Acosta, an international representative of the Salvadoran trade union federation FENASTRAS, and Adrian Esquino, leader of the National Association of Indigenous Salvadorans, spoke in Detroit recently.

Esquino, a former supporter of the Duarte government, said, "There are now four times as many political prisoners as when Duarte first took power, and the kidnappings are taking place in broad daylight."

Esquino explained that the AFL-CIO's American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) aids the Duarte government in trying to under-cut the growing strength of the militant and independent National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS).

Both speakers noted the increase in marches and protests in El Salvador in response to the Duarte government's increase in taxes on working people to pay for the war and against the forced conscription of youth into the army.

They urged unionists here to send a delegation to El Salvador.

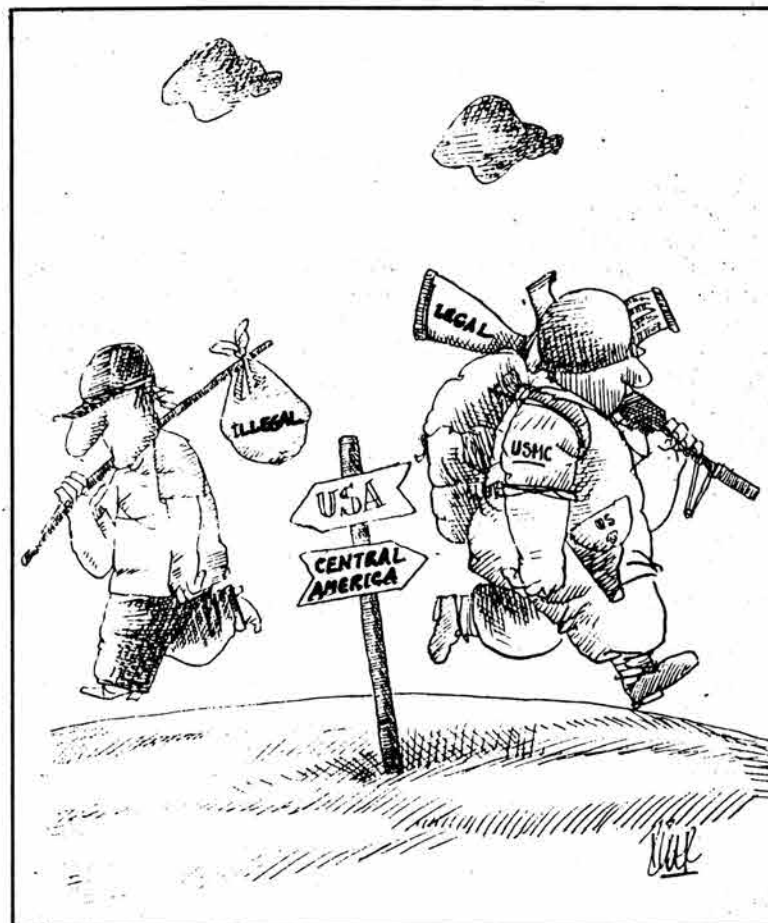
For more information on UNTS contact the National Union of Salvadoran Workers, c/o the Machinists Building, Room 808, 1300 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Mark Friedman

Detroit, Michigan

### Political awareness

Having just read the latest issue of the *Militant*, I noticed you have



a new book on Fidel Castro, *Fidel Castro's Political Strategy: from Moncada to Victory*, by Marta Harnecker.

Would it be possible to provide me with a copy of this new book?

I've been in prison since the age of 17, and one thing that has helped me maintain (I'm in a disciplinary unit) in face of the turmoil and repression in here is political awareness, and the fact that there are millions of people the world over in the same situation, struggling to rid themselves of the same imperialist oppressor.

I became aware of this through reading the *Militant*, which instilled me with a desire to learn more, study, and struggle.

Thanks indeed!

A prisoner

Pendleton, Indiana

### Drug bust

Members of United Auto Workers Local 122 who work at Chrysler's Twinsburg stamping plant near Cleveland were dealt a big blow when 14 employees were arrested on drug charges recently. Several more workers were arrested in the days following. A couple of foremen were also arrested, but most victims were union members. All have been suspended by Chrysler.

The arrests came as the result of a 7-month undercover operation in the plant carried out by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, with the blessing (if not at the initiative) of Chrysler officials.

When the arrests occurred, the president of Local 122, John

Rach, told the media that the union had not known anything about the operation. Since then, local officials have taken a hands-off approach.

The union has a big stake in actively opposing such spy operations, and in defending any members who are victimized by them.

The truth is that if cop agencies are allowed to get away with moves like this one using the pretext of "going after drugs," it will only make it easier for the company and cops to spy on union members for other alleged "violations" of company policy. Such spy operations can be used to set up union militants and other "troublemakers" the company doesn't like.

Many of the workers arrested are Black, which is being used by the company to try to exacerbate divisions between Black and white workers.

Susan LaMont

Cleveland, Ohio

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

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



## Massive strike in western Canada challenges union-busting bills

BY ILONA GERSH  
AND CHRIS HORNER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — A massive one-day protest strike June 1 paralyzed British Columbia, Canada's most western province. Some 350,000 unionists participated in the action against two antiunion laws that are being rammed through the BC provincial legislature.

Bill 19, the Industrial Relations Reform Act, was introduced by Premier William Vander Zalm in early April. It would establish a government commission with virtually unlimited powers to bust unions and break strikes.

Right-to-work clauses would open closed shops, gut seniority provisions in contracts, and provide special privileges to nonunion workers.

Strikers could be ordered back to work anytime it is deemed "in the public interest." During contract negotiations or a strike, the bill would give employers the right to compel workers to vote on the boss's last contract offer at any time. The commission could formulate the wording of strike authorizations. Scabs hired during a strike would also be eligible to vote on the offer.

Secondary boycotts and picketing, which are now legal, would be banned. Companies would have the right to sue unions for lost income caused by strikes and slowdowns.

Bill 20, the Teaching Profession Act, makes teachers subject to all the provisions of Bill 19. In addition to eliminating compulsory membership in the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, it would require the union to reregister all members as of Jan. 1, 1988.

School Boards have the right to fire a teacher for any reason on 30 days' notice. Teachers' tenure and benefit rights under the contract are wiped out.

Bill 20 was adopted in May. Bill 19 is still pending approval. The object of both is to gut the unions of their power to bargain collectively, and fight government and company attacks on wages, benefits, safety, and rights on the job. Canadian workers, like working people in the United States, are facing takeback contracts and a general assault on their unions.

The strike cost the employers in basic in-

dusty upwards of \$100 million.

Unionized paper and pulp mills and the forest industry, which employ more than 30,000 workers, were shut down. The docks were shut down by maritime unions. BC's largest coal export terminal ended a 17-year run without strikes.

Most organized coal, copper, and silver mines were closed. Freight operations of the British Columbia Railway, Canadian Pacific, and Canadian National were halted. Meat-packing plants were barely producing.

Government offices closed. Scores of unionized bars, restaurants, and shopping markets were struck. The telephone company was staffed by supervisors. At hospitals, all elective care was canceled. And scores of newspapers, including the main Vancouver dailies, did not get printed.

An important exception to government offices being closed was the postal service. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers and the Letter Carrier Union of Canada are special targets of the government union-busting drive. Postal workers, who anticipate a strike soon over their next contract, were warned that participation in "unlawful work disruptions" twice in any 12-month period will result in dismissal. They faced a possible five-day suspension for not showing up at work. The two unions voted not to strike, but to donate their day's wages to the BC Federation of Labour strike fund.

Because union leaders and pickets were threatened with reprisals for the one-day walkout, many union members participated in picketing other unionists' work sites.

Two central picket dispatch centers were organized at the headquarters of the International Woodworkers Association (IWA) and the Maritime Labour Centre to facilitate the cross-picketing. Unionists, as well as activists from community organizations, reported there for picket duty. They were sent to scores of hotels, bars, schools, smaller union shops, and industrial parks.

### Greeted at border

On the way to Vancouver we were greeted at the Canadian border by members of the BC Government Employees Union, who were picketing the tourism center.



Pickets in June 1 strike that paralyzed British Columbia

Militant/Ilona Gersh

While driving along commercial streets here, we saw picket squads of two or three at libraries, hotels, bars, liquor stores, and print shops. Pickets from the Hospital Workers Union covered every entrance and driveway of the hospitals. Industrial parks were like graveyards.

Friendly passers-by honked their support, or came to chat. Fire fighters were not on strike, but their bus brought coffee and food to the pickets all over this city.

Seventy percent of the teachers' federation joined the strike. They were supported by the students, the great majority of whom did not show up for school. A member of Students Opposing Unjust Legislation (SOUL), who was among the pickets at Vander Zalm's family business at Fantasy Gardens near here, explained that "the unions aren't just fighting for today — they're fighting for tomorrow. For us. And that's why we came out; because we shouldn't let the unions defend us without being part of the fight ourselves."

Womens groups and farm workers have also joined the fight against bills 19 and 20.

An elderly bank teller told us she is nonunion "because none of the banks are organized. I brought up my whole family

union," she said. "I always told my children that if it weren't for the union struggles of the past, no one would have decent wages, homes, or education today. They're trying to get rid of the unions." She said the one-day walkout is a good beginning, "but it'll take a lot more."

There was widespread support here for the New Democratic Party (NDP), the Canadian labor party. Most felt that if elections were called now, the NDP would push out the big-business Social Credit government presently in office.

### Heels of a strike victory

The one-day action came on the heels of a victorious 17-week strike by the woodworkers' union against a concession contract. Most people interviewed by the *Militant* felt that the antiunion legislation was designed to prevent another labor victory.

During the afternoon of the strike, the Vander Zalm government petitioned the BC Supreme Court for an injunction against future labor actions. The proposed injunction is based on the seditious section of the criminal code, but goes much further in attempting to silence opposition to government policies.

The Social Credit government is seeking a ban on "advocating the use of force . . . as a means of accomplishing a governmental change in the province."

"Force" is defined as work stoppages, slowdowns, study sessions, breaking contracts, intimidation, picketing, strikes by private as well as public employees, and general strikes.

"Accomplishing a governmental change" is defined as "resisting legislative change, showing Her Majesty [the queen of England, nominal head of the Canadian government] has been misled or mistaken in her measures, pointing out errors in the government of the province . . . or otherwise interfering with, intimidating, or subverting the democratic and Constitutional law-making process in the province."

Sweeping opposition to this broadside attack on freedom of speech and assembly was immediately registered by the BC Federation of Labour and the NDP. Both daily papers in Vancouver blasted it as an attack on democratic rights.

The injunction, which was published in the *Vancouver Sun* on June 2, named several union officials as defendants, along with "anyone having notice" of the writ.

This latest move by the BC provincial government follows an April 9 ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada that the right to negotiate and strike are not guaranteed by the Charter of Rights in the Canadian Constitution.

## Pa. mine fire exposes dangerous conditions

BY KATHY MICKELLS

KIRBY, Pa. — "It was just like in the movies. The black smoke was pouring out of the fans. You could put your arm in front, and it was like putting it in a 30-gallon drum of oil."

George Schmidt, mine committeeman for United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2300, was describing the fire that broke out around noon on June 4 at the U.S. Steel Mining Co.'s Cumberland mine here. The fire had still not been brought under control nearly a week later.

More than 100 miners, working underground at the time of the fire, were safely evacuated from the mine.

The fire currently raging was not the first at Cumberland that day. A fire on one of the belt lines had ignited earlier that morning, but was successfully extinguished.

Because of that fire, a federal inspector from the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and Emory Pelkey, head of Local 2300's safety committee, were outside in the offices when the call came from underground reporting the fire.

Pelkey ordered management to immediately evacuate, shut down the electrical power in the mine, and establish a check-in, check-out system that would ac-

count for all miners with absolute certainty.

One miner who had been assigned to shoveling a belt line, not in the immediate vicinity of a phone or intercom system, was the last miner to get out from underground. When it was noticed that he was still in the mine after all the others were out, two section foremen were dispatched to get him out.

Miners pointed out that this situation could have been avoided if individuals required to work alone had some means of communication.

"As of yet, no one knows the exact cause of the fire, and we may never know, because the fire is burning so hot and may destroy all evidence," said Pat Burns, president of Local 2300.

One of the miners involved in fighting the fire said the heat was so intense that the foam used to fight the fire was evaporating before it reached the flames.

All fire fighting underground was stopped when methane readings between 5 and 6 percent were registered around the fire area. Methane is the cause of mine explosions. It becomes explosive when it registers between 5 and 15 percent in the air.

All efforts to extinguish the fire are now being conducted from above ground.

The main concern is that the fire does not spread to an adjoining "gob area" — a mined out area with concentrations of methane that can be ignited, causing an explosion.

One miner expressed what most members of Local 2300 feel, that this mine was "an accident waiting to happen, and it finally did."

The company laid off 134 miners in December 1986 and has continued to push for production of the same amount of coal. This speedup and the resulting lack of maintenance of equipment and upkeep of belt lines has created the conditions that led to the fire.

Burns explained, "We've learned from this experience and need to educate others about the situation here."

"It's coal miners and their safety that has to come first, not coal production," said one miner expressing the sentiment of miners at Cumberland.

Kathy Mickells is a member of UMWA Local 2300 laid off from the Cumberland mine.