

Behind Mecca slaughter: Washington's war moves

BY HARRY RING

The massacre of Iranian participants in the pilgrimage to Mecca was perpetrated by the government of Saudi Arabia. But the bloody assault was the product of Washington's provocations against Iran, including the mounting U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf.

The Saudi regime is a key participant in Washington's drive to isolate Iran, and, like Washington, it has been trying to help stave off an Iraqi defeat in the Iraq-Iran war.

The Saudi government claimed that the July 31 bloodletting was triggered when Iranian participants in the *hajj* or pilgrimage tried to "hold a forbidden political demonstration and then attacked security forces that tried to stop them."

But the Iranian representative to the United Nations insisted that arrangements for the demonstration had been approved by the Saudi authorities the day before. He said this even included the slogans for the rally.

UN delegate Said Rajaie-Khorassani declared August 3 that demonstration leaders had met with Saudi officials and "agreed on the time and place and terms of the demonstration" as had been done in previous years.

There were 155,000 Iranians among the 2 million Muslims participating in the pilgrimage. These included relatives of soldiers killed or wounded in the war with Iraq and half the members of the Iranian parliament.

Press accounts said the demonstrators shouted slogans opposing the U.S., Israeli, and Soviet governments.

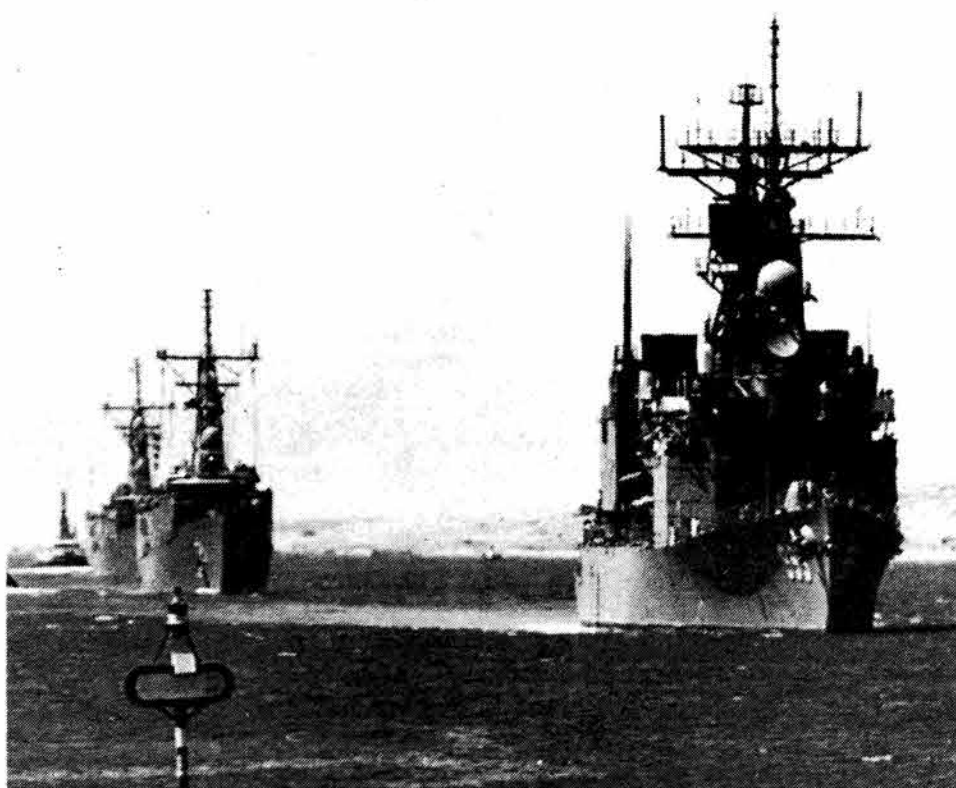
According to the Saudi regime, 402 people were killed in the troop assault, and 649 injured. The Iranian government said its breakdown of the casualties shows more than 500 pilgrims dead and 2,000 wounded.

Saudi officials insisted that not a shot had been fired by their troops. But the Iranian government charged Saudi police had opened fire on peaceful demonstrators and used gas as well.

An Iranian medical officer in Mecca was quoted as saying that most of the injured were wounded by shotgun pellets.

According to the Saudi version of the events, most of the casualties resulted from a mass stampede that occurred as police

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U.S. warships head toward Persian Gulf. Washington's military threats against Iran, which Saudi regime is key participant in, set stage for massacre of hundreds of Iranian pilgrims.

Linder's brother slams Bush on contra crimes

CANTON, S.D. — Vice-president George Bush's refusal to criticize the contras, who murdered Ben Linder, a U.S. volunteer worker in Nicaragua, was challenged face-to-face here July 31 by John Linder, Ben's brother.

The confrontation took place in a school gymnasium where the vice-president was holding an "Ask George Bush" session. It was a sweltering day, and the temperature reached 100 degrees in the gym.

Bush, who had been greeted by a local school marching band and introduced by a former governor of the state, finished his opening remarks and asked for questions from the audience of some 300 people.

John Linder, who sat a few feet from the vice-president, raised his hand, and Bush called on him. Linder was in the area as part of the Benjamin Linder Peace Tour, which is publicizing the facts about Ben Linder's murder and his work in Nicaragua.

John Linder came to the meeting in Canton with Chris Schultz, a regional coordinator of Witness for Peace, one of the national organizations sponsoring the tour.

Linder told Bush that his brother had been killed while building hydroelectric plants in northern Nicaragua, "in an area where people previously had no electricity." He explained that the contras had declared such projects to be targets and had attacked the first power plant Ben had built.

"On April 28," Linder stated, "Ben and six coworkers were attacked while preparing to build another plant near the town of San José de Bocay."

"The facts are that the contras killed Ben and two of his coworkers. They shot him in the head point-blank as he lay wounded."

"Nobody from the administration you represent has condemned my brother's killing," Linder said. He challenged the vice-president to do so.

Bush refused. Although he voiced sympathy with the suffering of Linder's family, he would not criticize the killers.

"You see," Bush said, "the policy of the United States government is to support the contras. Your brother was supporting people, out of conscience I'm sure, on the other side, those who are in that Nicaraguan regime. So he made his choice."

As Linder shook his head, Bush went on to claim that Linder may have been carrying a rifle and that he "owned Sandinista uniforms." Survivors of the attack have stated that Linder was not holding a gun when he was hit.

Bush admitted that the contras had committed atrocities, but he claimed the San-

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Haitian government escalates violence

BY ART YOUNG

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The ruling military junta here is claiming more victims as it desperately fights to hold onto power.

Threats and violence reminiscent of that carried out by ousted dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier have escalated. Many of the Tontons Macoutes, the hated thugs who terrorized the country under the dictatorship, remain active and are leading armed attacks against opponents of the junta.

TV audiences around the world saw the army open fire on a peaceful demonstration here July 29, killing eight people and wounding 15, including three journalists.

In the countryside, where landless peasants have been seizing land, the landlords have organized armed bands led by Macoutes to attack the peasants, whom they accuse of being communists. The landlords' thugs have killed groups of peasants in many clashes across Haiti.

As reported in last week's *Militant*, on July 24 more than 100 poor peasants were ambushed and murdered near the town of Jean Rabel by a band working for local landlords. (Reliable information on the number of victims is still hard to obtain. Some survivors of the massacre were hunted down and killed in the days following the ambush. Many are in hiding in fear of their lives. The weekly *Haiti en Marche* estimates that about 300 perished.)

During the night of July 29-30, six radio stations here in the capital were machine-gunned in a series of attacks spread over a five-hour period. Witnesses said the attackers wore army uniforms. The radio stations that were attacked have supported the protest movement against the junta, known here by its Creole initials KNG.

The lives of those active in organizing opposition to the KNG have been threatened. Leaders of the Committee of 57, a coordinating body composed in the main of moderate groups, have been special targets of the attacks. Shots have been fired at their homes during the night. Death threats have been made over the phone.

But even leaders of conservative groups that have not taken part in the protests against the KNG have fallen victim to these attacks.

On August 2 a mob crying, "We don't want communists" lynched Louis Eugene Athis and two supporters in Légane, hacking them to death with machetes. They then burned their bodies. Athis was presi-

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Militant/Harvey McArthur
Soldiers patrol Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince.

Nicaragua: U.S. 'peace plan' aims to quash regional talks

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaraguan officials warned August 5 that the new "peace plan" for Central America announced by the Reagan administration is aimed at preventing a negotiated settlement to the military conflicts in this region.

The White House announced the plan on the eve of the August 6-7 summit meeting of Central American presidents in Guatemala.

According to press reports here, the U.S. proposal demands that the Nicaraguan government negotiate with the contra mercenaries in Washington's pay. In return the Reagan administration would postpone until September 30 its appeal to Congress for another \$150 million in aid to the contras.

The Nicaraguan government has consistently rejected a dialogue with the mercenaries, pointing out that they are employees of the U.S. government.

Instead, the Sandinistas call for negotiations with Washington itself. The U.S. government has rejected this course and has tried to sabotage all dialogue between Central American governments aimed at negotiating a settlement, including the summit meeting that opened August 6 in Guatemala.

The August 5 Sandinista daily *Baricada* characterized the Reagan "peace plan" as a "U.S. maneuver against the summit." Nicaragua's vice-foreign minister, Víctor Tinoco, warned that the plan could be "a maneuver to slow down the [negotiating] process or to kill the summit."

The very fact that the presidents of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Guatemala are to meet together in the same room is not to Washington's liking. Nor do U.S. officials agree with the proposed agenda of the summit meeting,

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Meeting celebrates life of Julius Snipper

BY NICK GRUENBERG

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Comrades and friends from Toledo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis gathered here August 2 at a meeting to celebrate the life of Julius Snipper. Snipper, 46, died of heart failure here July 25.

Julius Snipper's confidence in the U.S. working class and the Socialist Workers Party, his ability to make lessons of past struggles useful to those who are just beginning to struggle, and his humor were highlighted at the meeting.

The main presentation was given by Joel Britton, a national committee member of the Socialist Workers Party. He discussed how Julius came to join the socialist movement and his activity in building the Young Socialist Alliance and SWP in Los Angeles, Atlanta, and St. Louis.

Julius' parents were long-time members of the Los Angeles SWP. Britton drew on notes from Virginia Garza in describing how Julius joined the revolutionary movement. In the early 1960s, he was a summer volunteer for Pioneer Publishers in New York, where Garza was the business manager. Pioneer was the predecessor of Pathfinder Press.

There, in addition to packing and shipping books, he had long discussions about what was going on in the world and what could be done about it. Many discussions were about the Cuban revolution. "Julius didn't just take his parents' word or point of view," Britton said. "He respected their experiences and opinions, but learned to think for himself." He joined the YSA in New York.

"Julius exuded confidence that we could regenerate the party by reaching the new generation of rebel youth and building the YSA," Britton noted. He exuded confidence that we, everyone working together,

could do it, linking our youngest teenage YSAers with all the intermediate generations, all the way to some great old-timers.

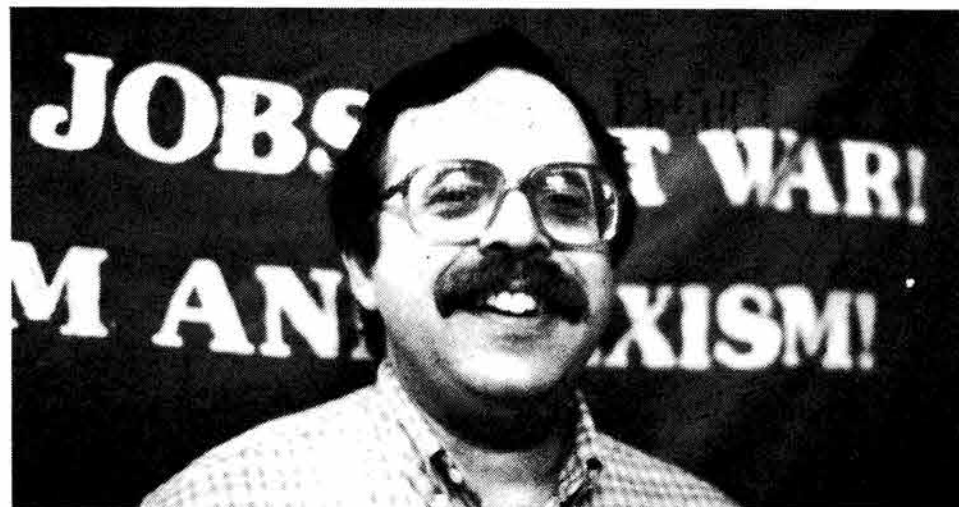
"He was always offering to lend you a book or pamphlet from his extensive library. Julius, who was very much a man of the present, talked politics, studied, in order to organize and participate."

In 1969 Julius moved to Atlanta to help in the challenging task of establishing the first SWP branch in the South since World War II. Britton referred to notes written by John Staggs, who was a relatively new member in Atlanta. "What impressed me about Julius," Staggs wrote, "was his confidence in the party as the vehicle that could lead the fight. It was a matter-of-fact approach that made being in the party the only way to live your life."

From Atlanta, Julius moved to St. Louis, another branch with many new members. He helped newer members by talking about books they should read. He played tapes of Malcolm X speeches for new recruits and prospective members of the movement.

Julius worked as a typesetter for newspapers in Los Angeles, Atlanta, and St. Louis, helping to win to the party one of his coworkers in Atlanta.

From St. Louis, Julius moved to Toledo with his companion Lynn Edmiston. Britton concluded his remarks by saying, "The last eight years of Julius' life, spent in Toledo, was one of the most important parts of his life. He helped to maintain the party's presence in northwest Ohio, at a



Julius Snipper in 1985

Militant/Robbie Scherr

time of severe economic problems, during a period of rout for the trade union movement when many saw no way out except to take big concessions. Julius was never politically discouraged or demoralized by what was happening to his class. He was an example for all of us."

Alan Epstein, a member of United Auto Workers Local 12 at the Toledo Jeep plant, spoke about Julius' years in Toledo. "The last eight years for Julius Snipper involved a personal struggle to maintain political activity while recuperating from stretches of ill health," Epstein said. He noted that "the backyard of Lynn and Julius' was the site of dozens of political activities. Julius was known among his friends as an excellent

cook and would "show his expertise at the barbecue grill."

"In the fall of 1986," Epstein continued, "Julius played a big role heading up the branch IAM fraction. A series of regional antiwar demonstrations were slated for October." Julius placed a motion in his union for endorsement and money to send union members. The lodge voted for his motion, and a couple of IAM members signed up. It was their first demonstration ever, as well as their first time in Chicago. Julius played an indispensable role in getting to know them and making them feel comfortable with strangers."

The meeting was chaired by Scott Ware, organizer of the Cleveland SWP.

Striking Pa. miners set August 22 rally

PITTSBURGH — Miners on strike at Canterbury Coal will be hosting an "Old Fashioned Labor Rally" August 22.

Members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Locals 2456 and 6986 have been on strike at Canterbury's western Pennsylvania mines for more than two years. Canterbury is owned by Canada Development Corp. (CDC).

A leaflet publicizing the event, to be held in Avonmore, Pennsylvania, explains, "We are holding this rally to demonstrate in an old-fashioned way to Canterbury and CDC that today's labor movement will continue to wage battle for improved working conditions and a better way of life for all members of our communities."

UMWA President Richard Trumka will speak at the rally. The activities will also include a "songfest" and an update on the strike.

U.S. aims to quash Central America talks

Continued from front page
which will take up another "peace plan" put forward by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

The Arias plan calls for an end to aid to "irregular forces" fighting in Central America, which refers mainly to Washington's contras and to the Salvadoran liberation fighters battling the regime of President Duarte. Arias ties the aid cut-off to a cease-fire and mandated elections in all five countries.

"By contrast," said today's *Barricada*,



Daniel Ortega

"the Reagan proposal attempts to impose on Nicaragua a dialogue with the contras, a cease-fire, and the departure of [foreign] military advisers as a prerequisite for postponing his contra aid requests to Congress for one month."

The Nicaraguan government has taken the position that the Arias plan offers a constructive framework for discussion at the Guatemala summit. But it has also insisted that the Contadora Group be involved in whatever negotiations take place. (The Contadora Group, made up of the governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, has a stated position of favoring a negotiated settlement to the Central American military conflicts.)

In preparation for the Guatemala summit, all five Central American foreign ministers plus Contadora representatives met in Honduras. They drafted a common document whose entire text has not been released publicly. According to *Barricada*, an attempt will be made at the Guatemala summit to merge this document with the Arias plan.

Nicaraguan officials said the document was a step forward. It calls for "a halt to aid to irregular forces" in the area as "an indispensable element for the achievement of a

stable and lasting peace in the Central American region."

It calls for an end to interference by "governments outside the region." *Barricada* commented that "while the document does not explicitly mention the U.S. government by name, the allusion is obvious."

The document proposes an end to the use of the territory of any Central American country to attack another country in Central America. Washington's mercenaries attacking Nicaragua are based in Honduras and Costa Rica.

It makes "a vehement appeal to irregular forces to suspend their military actions in the area" and proposes "arms control and reduction in Central America."

It also puts forth collaboration among Central American governments as a way to facilitate the voluntary return of Nicaraguans to their homeland. Thousands of Nicaraguan Indians in Honduras have been prevented by the army there from returning to Nicaragua.

A proposal from the Honduran government was rejected in the final drafting of the document. Honduras had proposed that U.S. aid to the contras continue for six months after the signing of any settlement.

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The *Militant* is written in the interests of workers and farmers. Every week it tells the truth about the war Washington and the employers are waging against working people at home and abroad. We provide first-hand coverage of events in other countries, such as Cuba, Burkina Faso, and the Philippines. In addition, regular on-the-scene reports come from our Nicaragua Bureau.

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The Militant

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'Fate of Nicaragua and U.S. farmers are tied together'

BY PAT GROGAN

MILWAUKEE — "Ben Linder, not Oliver North, is the true American hero," declared Wisconsin dairy farmer Craig Adams to more than 400 people at the University of Wisconsin July 25. The meeting featured John Linder, brother of the U.S. volunteer worker murdered by contras in Nicaragua.

Adams, who is a member of the board of directors of the Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance, continued: "Tonight, I want to explain why I have come to believe that the fate of the Nicaraguan people's revolution and the fate of the family farmer in this country are tied together."

Adams described visiting Nicaragua in 1984, as thousands of U.S. farm families were being driven off their land. "Imagine my exhilaration," he said, "to find myself in this beautiful, fertile land: a land where farmers are not second-class citizens, where farmers are seen as heroes."

He recalled attending a rally of 50,000 farmers and finding to his amazement that the pieces of paper they were waving in the air were titles to land they had just received.

"And along with the land distribution, the Sandinista government is handing out rifles," Adams noted. "This isn't the act of a government that distrusts its people."

The contras, said Adams, "haven't been able to establish a social base among the farmers. That's why they just step up their terrorist attacks against the people. That's why we lost Ben Linder."

Bob Forrer, a construction worker from Madison, urged participants in the meeting to go to Nicaragua and work side by side with the people there, as Ben Linder did.

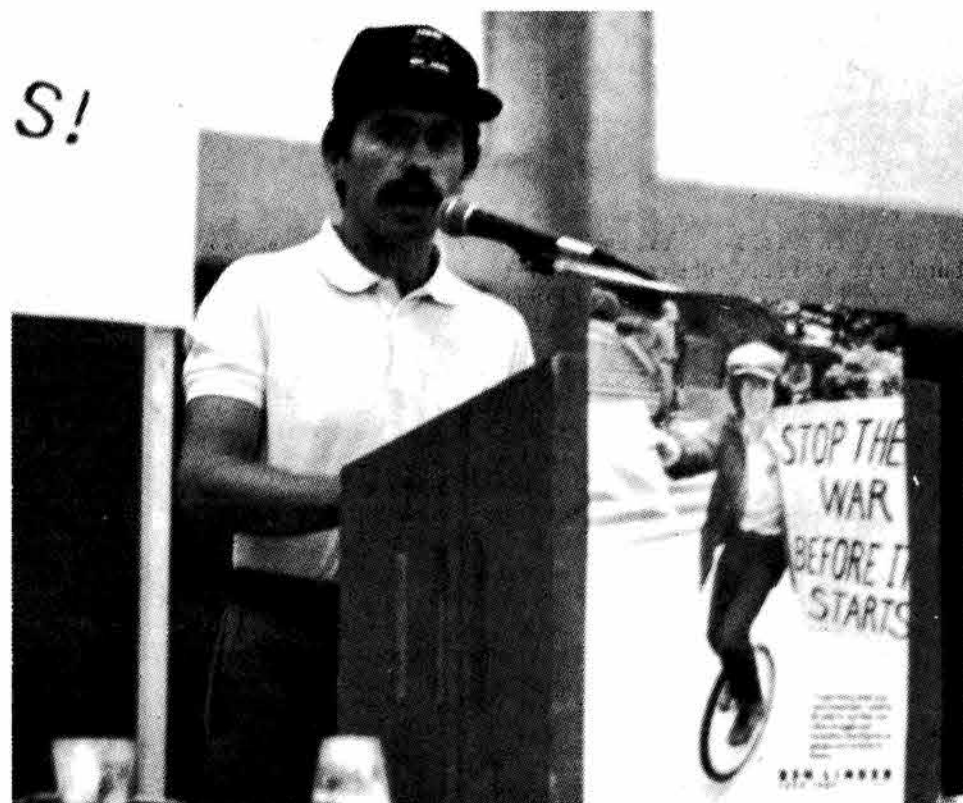
Forrer has organized several construction crews to go to Nicaragua. Work is almost completed on a building to house an

agricultural laboratory.

Bruce Colburn, president of the Amalgamated Transit Union in Milwaukee, commented on the continuing union-busting assault on the workers at the Patrick Cudahy meat-packing plant near here. Workers in the United States, Colburn told the rally, are beginning to learn that "when the U.S. government talks about freedom, they're talking about the right of the corporations to do whatever they want, whenever they want. And they will use naked violence to defend that freedom."

John Linder predicted that the attempts to use the congressional hearings on the Iran-contra arms deals to win support for the contra war "will backfire, because the hearings have shown not just an outlaw colonel, but an outlaw government."

Earlier that day, Milwaukee Alderwoman Marlene Johnson presented Linder with a proclamation by the Common Council welcoming him to the city. Milwaukee Mayor Henry Maier issued a proclamation supporting the Benjamin Linder Peace Tour and declaring July 19 to be "Mil-



Craig Adams, leader of Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance, speaks at Benjamin Linder Peace Tour meeting in Milwaukee. Adams described advances won by Nicaraguan farmers because of the revolution.

Militant/Tony Prince

waukee-Nicaragua Day."

On July 27 Linder joined the Patrick Cudahy workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-40, on their strike picket line.

Further information about the Benjamin Linder Peace Tour can be obtained through the tour offices at 2025 I St. N.W., Suite 208A, Washington, D.C. 20006, (202) 331-7675.

Political rights are backed at rallies

BY FRED FELDMAN

"We need to tell Ronald Reagan, 'The civil rights movement is not dead, the workers' rights movement is not dead, and we still have our rights,'" declared Al Edden, business agent for Local 291 of the Transport Workers Union. He was the concluding speaker at a July 16 rally in Miami to support the Political Rights Defense Fund.

The PRDF publicizes and raises funds for the expenses of the suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against illegal government spying. The rally was held at the Haitian Activities Center.

Local 291, with a membership that is largely Black and Hispanic, is under attack by the Dade County Commission, which aims to place big sections of the local bus system under private ownership and control. One objective of the move is to make it possible to replace union workers with low-paid, nonunion workers.

Rita Vega of the Association of Workers of the Community, an organization of Cuban-Americans that wants the U.S. government to normalize relations with Cuba, also spoke. "We want the right to visit our families," she said. "We want the Cuban government to be respected, and we don't want any wars — military or economic."

Marty Anderson of the SWP reported on

the civil liberties victory won recently when a federal appeals court in Atlanta ordered a Florida district judge to hear arguments in the case of SWP v. State of Florida. The party seeks an injunction barring the application of financial disclosure laws to its election campaigns. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that such laws cannot be constitutionally applied to the SWP because of the history of government harassment and disruption against the group.

Héctor Marroquín spoke at the meeting in Miami, as well as to a gathering of 150 opponents of the military junta in Haiti. He discussed the importance of his fight for permanent residency rights in the United States and described the government's 10-year effort to deport him because of his socialist views.

A June 27 rally in Philadelphia sponsored by the PRDF denounced police infiltration and disruption of antiwar organizations here. Speakers included Dallas Graham, vice-president of the Pennsylvania Social Services Union, and Lance Rodgers, district chairman of Local 1472 of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks.

Rodgers hailed the August 1986 ruling in the suit brought by the SWP and YSA against the FBI, which held that the spying on and disruption of the socialist groups

had been illegal. He said it was precedent-setting and promised the continued support of his local.

Norm Koerner, a representative of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), described the police operations against his organization. The collection at the meeting exceeded \$1,700.

Speakers at a public meeting held in Baltimore June 27 included George Lach of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in this area.

A representative of the African National Congress of South Africa denounced measures before Congress that would restrict the movements of representatives of the African National Congress, South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia, and shut down offices of the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO.

"It's not only the SWP, but democratic rights in general that are under attack," said Carl Snowden, a city councilman from Annapolis, Maryland.

The rally capped a local drive in which 111 new PRDF sponsors were signed up and \$1,200 was raised.

This story is based on reporting by Alan Gummerson, Bob Stanton, and Bob Quigley.

S.F. socialists launch campaign

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

SAN FRANCISCO — Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party here have launched a petitioning drive to place their

Attention readers

The Militant will not be publishing next week so that our staff can attend the Socialist Educational and Active Workers Conference. We will resume publication with the issue dated August 28.

candidate for mayor, Peter Anestos, on the November 3 ballot. Anestos, 33, is an electronics assembly worker at the Lockheed plant in Sunnyvale, California, and a member of International Association of Machinists Local 2228.

Candidates for mayor of San Francisco are required to pay a filing fee of more than \$2,200, which is 2 percent of the current mayor's salary. The alternative is to collect 9,000 signatures of city residents. Anestos has pointed out that both the fee and the signature requirement effectively prevent most working people from running for mayor.

Supporters of the Anestos campaign collected 4,000 signatures in the first few days of petitioning. Many petitioners who have participated in previous efforts for socialist candidates report an even more positive response this time.

"I don't know where all the 'Ollie maniacs' we're reading about are," commented Anestos. "We aren't running into them in the working-class neighborhoods of San Francisco. When I say I'm against all contra aid, most people start reaching for their pens."

The petitioning drive lasts until August 20.

Join the fight for democratic rights . . .

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

- ☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$500 _____ \$100 _____ \$10 _____ other \$ _____
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- ☐ Send me _____ copies of the federal judge's decision against FBI spying and harassment (\$1 each).
- ☐ Send me _____ copies of an 8-page tabloid containing the Justice Department's attack on the decision. Reprints government agencies' statements claiming "right" to spy.

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Organization _____
Signature _____

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

Haitian peasants organize fight for land

Murder, violence mark resistance by landlords and government

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MILOT, Haiti — Last March 29 many peasants here went to the polls to vote "yes" in a referendum on a new constitution that includes several provisions for possible land reform.

A few hours after the polls closed, members of the Milot Peasant Movement (MPM) occupied about 170 acres of farmland — land stolen from them 20 years ago under the Duvalier dictatorship.

"The constitution talks about land reform, but it's up to the peasants to apply it," a leader of the MPM told the *Militant*. "If the state doesn't give us land, it's up to us to take it."

This reporter visited Milot, about 15 miles south of the northern city of Cap-Haïtien, for two days late in July. I met with leaders and members of the MPM.

The MPM began to organize immediately after dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled Haiti Feb. 7, 1986. Five days later the MPM carried out its first land occupation.

St. Cius Dély, a 53-year-old native of Milot who is president of the MPM, told me the organization now has between 600 and 700 members. So far the peasants have taken back more than 210 acres and divided the land into individual plots. Women as well as men received land to work.

Today the land is ours

"Before, we had nothing," St. Cius explained. "No land and our children died of hunger."

"Today the land is ours. Look what we get from it," he said. He took me to a room in the back of his house where corn was piled up. "We can't possibly eat all this," he said with a smile. "That means that when we need money, we can sell some in the market."

The Milot peasants' story is not unusual in Haiti today. Similar movements, sometimes involving thousands of peasants over a wide area, have developed in other parts of the country.

The 170 acres the MPM occupied March 30 was land they had worked for decades, growing food crops for subsistence and sale. In 1968 François Duvalier — father of Jean-Claude — declared that the peasants' lands were property of the National

Bank. The bank in turn sold the land to a Canadian agricultural development group known as CRUDEM. This group run by the Canadian-based religious order Frères du Sacre Coeur was ostensibly organized to help the peasants.

However, St. Cius told us, CRUDEM plowed under the peasants' crops and planted sugarcane, which they sold to the U.S.-owned Welch sugar mill.

Milot peasants couldn't even get jobs as laborers on their former land. "They only hired peasants from other zones," St. Cius said. "That way they could cheat them on the wages more easily."

Today, back in the hands of the peasants, the occupied farmland is a flourishing cornfield. Overhead flies a small red and blue Haitian flag, a symbol of the peasants' determination and pride.

Haiti's tropical climate allows for several crops a year. Besides corn, the peasants are planting potatoes, plantains, beans, and manioc. They plan to use some land for fruit trees. This makes them self-sufficient in basic food, St. Cius said.

Landlords strike back

The peasants are meeting stiff resistance from the landlords and the ruling military junta. On March 30 and again on April 15, army troops came to Milot to drive the peasants off their land once again.

"The first time, they shot at us in the fields but we wouldn't leave," St. Cius said. "The second time, they shot up the whole area. They killed three men and wounded many more. Some are still in the hospital and we are trying to get donations to pay for their care."

Despite the attacks, he said, the peasants vowed they would never leave their land again.

Most peasants we talked to liked the new constitution and said that it gave them greater confidence to take over and defend their land. St. Cius, however, said he had boycotted the constitution vote because the charter was a "constitution for the bourgeoisie and the army," and because the junta "would not abide by it anyway."

St. Cius has long had a small plot of land in the village and there he built his house. Like others in the area, the house has a concrete floor and walls, and a tin roof. It has six small rooms and a kitchen shed out

guards and video cameras are present at all times. Their correspondence, family visits, and recreational activities are severely restricted.

The conditions Torres has been subjected to have resulted in the serious deterioration of her health. She has developed a heart ailment and has partially lost her sight.

In addition, the women were required to submit a list of 15 correspondents who would be subject to investigation and the approval of the Bureau of Prisons. They refused to submit the list. Some 5,000 letters of protest received by the bureau forced it to back down on this rule.

An article in the current issue of *The Insurgent*, newsletter of the Committee to Fight Repression, reports that public protests have resulted in some improvements in prison conditions.

Last March 8, in commemoration of International Women's Day, more than 350 people from around the country waged a protest in front of the Lexington prison against conditions there.

The National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, the Committee Against Repression (CUCRE), and other groups are conducting a campaign to free Torres and to shut down the Lexington high-security unit.

They are urging that letters of protest be sent to: J. Michael Quinlan, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20002.



Militant/Harvey McArthur

July 29 march in Port-au-Prince for ouster of junta. Demonstrators carry placard reading, "Solidarity with peasants of Jean Rabel."

back. It has electricity but no running water.

Many of the houses had radios and people were listening to the news on the Catholic church network when we arrived. St. Cius also has a horse, though he — like most other peasants — usually worked the land only with hand tools — mainly machetes and hoes.

He said there were peasants much worse off than him in the area — those without a home or land to build on. Many still do not have land to farm and struggle to survive as sharecroppers or day laborers.

The MPM was discussing plans to occupy more than 60 acres of land owned by a wealthy absentee landlord, he said. "When the land is owned by one person, he's the one who benefits," St. Cius told us. "Now when it's in the hands of all the peasants, it benefits us all."

One of his big concerns is education for his children. There is no state school in the area, and all the private church-run schools charge money. St. Cius' oldest three children now go to school but the younger ones wait at home "until I can get more money," he said.

Bring back creole pigs

Another pressing problem is the lack of creole pigs, he explained.

"Everyone used to have a creole pig and raise piglets," he said. "They could save our lives. If you had an emergency and needed money, you could always sell a pig." Today we saw no pigs at any of the homes we visited.

The creole pigs were slaughtered on orders of the government in the early 1980s, when swine fever was reported in Haiti. The program was planned by U.S. government advisers, and peasants were supposed to be paid so that they could replace the pigs.

"They paid us \$10 for three little piglets, but it cost \$12 for just one new piglet," St. Cius said. Furthermore, the imported pigs were a new breed requiring special feeds, medicine, and other care that few peasants can afford.

The MPM has joined hundreds of thousands of other peasants in demanding that the government import and distribute creole pigs.

While in Milot we attended a meeting of the MPM. About 60 peasants, mostly men, gathered at the edge of a shady country road near their new cornfield. One blew loudly on a conch shell while others visited nearby houses to invite peasants to the meeting.

One of the first questions raised was when and if the military junta would go. Peasants said that they feared more repression as long as it remained in power.

"The junta, the army, and the Macoutes all kill peasants," St. Cius told us. The Macoutes, short for Tontons Macoutes, are thugs who were organized and given police powers by the Duvaliers. "The state should help us, but instead it crushes us."

MPM organizers told the peasants that they should keep organizing as the only way to "get rid of the whole system and establish a people's government."

Much of the meeting took up fears spurred by rumors that MPM leaders were communists. It appeared from the discussion that the peasants were not motivated by hostility to communism, but by the knowledge that charges of communism are used today, as under the Duvalier dictatorship, to justify murder and repression.

One of the MPM leaders spoke about the rumor. What has happened since the fall of Duvalier, he asked. "The small peasants are organizing, we are taking back the land. This worries the big landlords and the bourgeoisie because they are losing their power. Every time we speak of the land, of education for our children, of a health clinic, they say we are communists. But the real question is do we have the land and are we going to keep it. For that we have to keep organizing more peasants."

The peasants also discussed whether I could take a picture of the group. They eventually decided not to permit it, saying that publication of a photo could invite reprisals by Macoutes or the government.

The peasants discussed the fact that four members had sold their plots of land to other peasants who already had land.

"We can't allow this," one said. "We don't want another bourgeoisie to start."

"Anyone who sells should be expelled and their land given away," another said, as many shouted, "Expel them."

The leaders of the MPM proposed a local march to demand creole pigs. The date chosen was July 28, the anniversary of the U.S. occupation and invasion of Haiti in 1915.

One leader made a speech telling the story of Charlemagne Peralte, who led a peasant army against the U.S. occupiers until he was killed in 1919.

The peasants also decided to send a delegation to Jean Rabel to meet with peasants there who had survived a massacre organized by local landlords and government officials.

Puerto Rican activist in maximum security prison

BY SELVA NEBBIA

An important campaign is currently under way to demand the immediate release of Alejandrina Torres from the high-security unit at the federal prison in Lexington, Kentucky, and the shutting down of that unit.

Torres, a Puerto Rican proindependence activist, was convicted of seditious conspiracy by a U.S. court in 1985. She was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

The Lexington high-security unit was opened in October 1986, and its first inmates were Torres and Susan Rosenberg, a North American political activist. Two other prisoners are now being held in this facility too: Silvia Baraldini and Carol Manning.

Since her arrest, Torres has been subjected to mistreatment by prison officials.

Before her trial, she was held at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City, where she was kept in an all-male area with no privacy. There she was physically and sexually assaulted by a male prison guard, who was also present when she was strip searched. Later, she was seriously injured by the same guard and as a result, lost the full use of her right arm for more than a year.

The day Torres and Rosenberg were moved into Lexington Prison, they were subjected to searches of their vaginal and rectal cavities. They are victims of constant harassment and abuse, such as strip searches every time they leave and return to their cells. They are denied privacy:

Will India-Sri Lanka pact end oppression of Tamil people?

BY MALIK MIAH

Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed a historic, if risky, agreement July 29 aimed at ending a popular rebellion by Sri Lanka's oppressed Tamil minority.

The pact, if implemented, will grant semiautonomous status to the areas where most Tamils are concentrated, the northern and eastern provinces of the island-state. (Sri Lanka is on the southern tip of India and is about the size of West Virginia.)

The accord calls on the Sri Lankan government to pull its troops back from recently captured territory in the north and to create a unified provincial government in the northern and eastern provinces.

Overall, Tamils are 18 percent of the 16 million people in Sri Lanka. Sinhalese, the largest ethnic group, are 75 percent, with ethnic Muslims being 7 percent of the population.

The Tamil militants, in turn, are to lay down their arms and give up their fight for an independent homeland — Tamil Eelam.

Elections to government posts in the new provincial government are to be held this year.

India has agreed to enforce this "peace treaty."

The Sri Lankan parliament still must approve the accord. If it is rejected, Jayewardene pledges to call new elections.

Indian troops move in

On July 30, at the request of Jayewardene, the first of 5,000 to 6,000 Indian troops landed in northern Sri Lanka. Indian planes transported Sri Lankan troops to the south and began enforcing the pact. Two Indian navy frigates docked off Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. According to India's army commander, if the weapons of the armed Tamil groups are not turned in voluntarily, "my charter is, yes, to go and look for them."

Jayewardene has also requested military aid from the governments of the United States, Britain, China, and Pakistan. The U.S. State Department says Washington is ready to provide logistical support, including helicopters and troop transports, to help enforce the treaty.

The response by anti-Tamil forces was quick. "Jayewardene the dictator is going against our whole country," said a Buddhist monk protesting the pact. "We can't trust Gandhi. This is not Jayewardene's land to give away."

A majority of Sinhalese are Buddhists, while most Tamils are Hindus. The clergy have been the most adamant against granting "concessions" to Tamils.

"Hundreds of buses, government vehicles and buildings have been burned in mob violence that has left parts of Colombo looking like battle zones," *Washington Post* correspondent Richard Weintraub reported August 2. "The government's hold in the southern part of the country seems tenuous."

The government reports some 60 deaths

Nicaraguan baseball team to play in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — The Nicaragua national baseball team will participate in the 1987 Pan American games here.

It will play against teams from the Antilles, Canada, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Aruba, and the United States, beginning August 10.

The Indiana-Río San Juan Sister State Project is urging supporters of Nicaragua to attend the games to help advance Nicaragua's goal of "peace with all of their neighbors in the hemisphere."

Indiana peace groups will host several hospitality and solidarity events that will offer the opportunity to meet Nicaraguan athletes, team officials, and diplomats.

Baseball tickets range from \$3 up and a network of local residents are assisting with budget housing accommodations.

For information call the Indianapolis Peace Center, (317) 924-1553.

so far. It claims the banned Sinhalese chauvinist group the People's Liberation Front is behind the violence. The government has placed virtually the entire country under an army-enforced curfew and censorship.

However, opponents of the pact include the Buddhist clergy as well as prominent government figures, such as Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa and National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali.

Response of militant groups

The most important guerrilla organization, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), initially opposed the agreement, as did others, calling the pact a betrayal of Tamil rights.

The LTTE's main leader, Vellupillai Prabhakaran, went to New Delhi, India's capital, for discussions before Gandhi flew to Colombo to sign the accord. "Only when I arrived in New Delhi did I learn about the accord," Prabhakaran later told a rally in Jaffna. "The Indian government said, 'Whether you accept it or not, we are going to sign this accord.'"

Prabhakaran's main objection, according to press accounts, was the demand that the militants surrender, including giving up their arms. He also rejected the pact's call for a referendum to decide if the old eastern province should remain in the new province. The referendum is scheduled to take place in one year. Prabhakaran favors a five-year wait.

(The proposal for a referendum is based on the fact that the three major ethnic groups are equally divided among the eastern province's population. However, the Muslims, like Tamils, are Tamil-speaking and of the same socio-economic background — mainly poor farmers and fishermen.)

On August 2 Prabhakaran decided to back the pact, including the guerrillas giving up their arms. He was flown on an Indian plane to Jaffna from New Delhi, where it was reported he had been staying under heavy guard in a hotel. Some said he was in virtual detention.

After arriving in Jaffna to consult with other LTTE leaders, Prabhakaran delayed



Struggle of Tamil people in Sri Lanka against denial of basic rights forced government to sign pact with India and pull back troops. Now Indian military is attempting to collect arms of Tamil fighters such as these.

the surrendering of arms.

But on August 4, Prabhakaran told a rally in Jaffna that his men would surrender their arms. "If we do not hand over our weapons," he said, "there will be a confrontation between the Indian army and us. We have no choice. We have to toe the line of the Indian government. The mode of our struggle may change, but we will still be fighting for Tamil Eelam."

Behind India's intervention

The ultimate refusal of the Sri Lankan government to end the second-class status of Tamils, including recognition of their national rights, as well as the government's failure to militarily defeat the Tamil militants, is the root cause of the Indian government's intervention.

The Indian government was concerned about the Jayewardene government's closer political ties with Washington and with the military rulers of arch-rival Pakistan. Moreover, New Delhi was publicly opposed to the breakup of Sri Lanka and openly rejected the Tamil militants' demand for an independent homeland. It feared the situation was getting out of hand.

In addition, over the last four years, at least 6,000 people, mostly Tamil, have died. Tens of thousands more have fled the island.

The country's economy is in crisis. The military is taking more and more of the budget as export earnings decline.

Jayewardene's move to request Indian troops was a bold one — and an abrupt policy shift. It is a recognition of India's dominant role in the region.

At the same time, sending troops to Sri Lanka is pregnant with dangers for Gandhi. Although Gandhi's opposition at home has generally praised his move, especially in south India where more than 50 million Indian Tamils live in the state of Tamil Nadu, there is no guarantee that the "peace pact" will work. This could deepen the ruling Congress Party's own internal crisis.

In fact, for Gandhi and Jayewardene the best hope for success is the fact that most Sinhala and Tamil people are war-weary. As one Sinhala shop owner said of the accord, "What does it matter, a little land? At least our boys won't be killed. There will be peace."

Unanswered questions remain

Many unanswered questions remain to be settled.

Will the militants be pardoned? Will Prabhakaran be given a government post? Who will oversee the provincial elections? Will all political prisoners be freed? Will Indian Tamils (some 6 percent of Tamils) be granted their full citizenship and voting rights? Will the Tamil language become an official language along with Sinhala?

Moreover, how long will Indian troops remain on Sri Lankan soil? Will Sri Lanka's national sovereignty be in jeopardy as Sinhalese chauvinists charge?

Reagan move targets abortion rights

BY MARGARET JAYKO

When Reagan took office, he pledged to do everything in his power to roll back women's right to legal abortion. While the administration hasn't been successful in turning back the clock to the days when thousands of women died at the hands of back-alley abortionists, with millions more forced to carry unwanted pregnancies to term, it hasn't been for lack of trying.

And the White House has no intention of slacking off from its political assault on the right of women to control their own bodies. That's the meaning of Reagan's July 30 announcement, delivered to a cheering crowd of right-wing foes of abortion rights, of a proposed new set of regulations that would severely limit the ability of family-planning clinics that get federal funds to either counsel clients about abortions or provide abortion services. The main victims of these restrictions would be working-class and young women.

The guidelines were denounced as illegal by abortion rights supporters. The editors of the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and other big-business dailies have criticized them.

"We believe this is an outrageous assault on the women of this country and specifically the poor women and the young women of this country whom this program is designed to serve," said Faye Wattleton, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Planned Parenthood, which operates 769 clinics in the United States and receives about \$30 million in federal funds each year, will be hard hit if the regulations

pass. The National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association and Planned Parenthood have announced they will file a lawsuit to block the proposals.

This latest battleground over access to abortion is the federal Family Planning Program, which began in 1970. Under this law, Washington makes financial grants to local health departments, hospitals, and private organizations to operate clinics that provide information on contraception and birth control.

The bill included a provision forbidding use of the federal funds for the performance or advocacy of abortion. This was at a time when restrictive state antiabortion laws were beginning to be reformed under the impact of the growing demand for the repeal of all abortion laws. The law did not prohibit organizations that received federal funds, however, from using other sources of income to do abortion-related work.

In 1986 about 4.3 million women — 3.7 million of them officially classified as poor — received services at 4,500 federally funded clinics. About one-third of the patients are adolescents.

Under the proposed new regulations, clinics that receive federal funds could not counsel clients about abortions. An editorial in the July 31 *New York Newsday* termed this "a cruel attempt to deny access to a legal medical procedure."

Other changes Reagan is proposing are:
• Family planning clinics that receive federal money would have to be physically separated from clinics that perform abor-

tions. This would result in less availability of abortion clinics.

• Clinics could not tell pregnant clients that abortion is a possible alternative to carrying their pregnancy to term.

• Surgeon General Everett Koop was directed to develop a report on the effects of abortion that would serve the administration's argument that access to abortion hurts, rather than helps, women. "Growing numbers of women who've had abortions now say they have been misled by inaccurate information," claimed Reagan in motivating this proposal.

The final wording of the rules are slated to be published in the *Federal Register* within the next month. They are then open for public comment before becoming final.

This move against the clinics is of a piece with Reagan's nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court, an ideological right-winger who calls the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion a case of "judicial imperialism."

This puts a premium on all supporters of women's rights loudly answering the reactionary barrage of antiabortion propaganda emanating from Washington.

Barricada Internacional, the weekly official voice of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, is available in Spanish and English. The price is 6 months for \$12.

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Plainview, Texas, meat-packers buy 196 'Militant's

BY KATY KARLIN

PLAINVIEW, Texas — The Excel meat-packing plant here in the Texas panhandle, 50-miles north of Lubbock, employs 1,200 meat-packers working two shifts. A *Militant* sales team on July 27

Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 540, were facing a July 30 recertification election to choose between the UFCW and the North American Meat Packers Union (NAMPU).

The majority of workers here

also work in the plant.

With the starting base pay of \$6 per hour, Excel is considered one of the best jobs in the Plainview area. But we found in discussions that the workers are angry about concessions they've made in the past few years and are searching for a way to fight the company.

There was particular interest here in the *Militant's* analysis of the Oliver North testimony and the paper's coverage of Washington's mercenary war against Nicaragua, the battle of coal miners in Colorado, and the drug-testing of rail workers.

Jessie Muñoz, a fired Excel worker who is now active in or-

ganizing NAMPU, said he liked "a lot of what the paper said." He was particularly interested in the *Militant's* article on the harassment of Salvadoran solidarity activists in Los Angeles.

Our first sale was at the 6 a.m. shift change where we sold 72 *Militants*. We found people eager to discuss their situation at work.

That afternoon we sold to the incoming shift. Some people coming out of the plant had heard about the paper during the day and bought copies. A middle-aged man in a cowboy hat came out of the plant late in the shift change and said, "I hope you saved one of those papers for me. I need that."

We sold him the last of our *Militants*.

The following morning we returned only with copies of the Spanish-language monthly magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*. With these more prominently displayed we were able to reach more of the workers who spoke only Spanish. They were interested in what *PM* covered, especially an article on the victory in the Watsonville, California, cannery workers' strike.

We handed subscription blanks to the many workers who told us they had already bought a paper. Several workers were carrying the *Militant* in their car.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

and 28 sold 196 *Militants* and 28 *Perspectiva Mundials* at the Excel gate during the morning and afternoon shift changes.

The meat-packers, who have been represented by the United

are Chicano or Mexican immigrants. Most are bilingual. Many Blacks work here too, and because of the constant turnover at the plant, there is a large number of young workers. A few women

Why working people oppose Bork court nomination

BY FRED FELDMAN

President Reagan's nomination of federal Judge Robert Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court was the subject of an article I wrote that appeared in the July 17 issue of the *Militant*.

I think that article was in error in some respects. The main mistake was the implication that the placing of an ultrareactionary like Bork on the Supreme Court was a matter of little legitimate concern to working people.

But it's clear that working people have a real interest in opposing the Bork nomination. Similarly, they should oppose any move by the Reagan administration to place Bork on the court while the Senate is in recess. Republican Senate minority leader Robert Dole suggested July 27 that the White House might make such a move if Senate confirmation of Bork was delayed.

For many years, Bork has campaigned — in speeches, articles and court rulings — for a view of the Constitution that aims to reverse the democratic rights working people have won over the last three decades and more and that have been codified by Supreme Court rulings.

Socialists wind up successful summer renewal campaign for 'Militant,' 'PM'

BY JIM WHITE

This is the final report on the *Militant's* seven-week summer campaign to convince readers to renew their subscriptions.

When we return from our break in two weeks, we'll be reporting on plans for our fall drive to win thousands of new subscribers.

In the last seven weeks, 281 subscribers have renewed. Some 129 people who bought a 12-week introductory subscription during the spring have decided to keep reading the *Militant*. The figures are not complete enough to compare to the renewal drive we carried out in the winter, but there is one very encouraging trend. More than 60 percent of these 129 readers have extended their subscriptions for six months or longer — a total of 78. In the winter drive, our final figure for this category was just over 40 percent.

Winning long-term readers is exactly what we have been aiming for in the two large subscription campaigns and two renewal drives we have run in the last year. Over the last year, our long-term readership has increased by 80 percent.

In another way we have not done as well as in the last renewal drive. Our 40-per-week rate is lower than the 50 per week we averaged in the winter.

However, there are still some 3,000 new *Militant* subscribers who are down to their last six issues. To the extent that supporters of the paper in cities all over the country can organize to get in touch with these readers during the first few weeks of the fall subscription campaign, we will gain more long-term subscribers. This can both help boost the fall drive and advance our main goal of building up our long-term subscription base.

Bork has denounced *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 decision recognizing the right to abortion, as an "unconstitutional decision" and "judicial usurpation of state legislative authority." Overruling *Roe v. Wade* would legally empower states to attempt once again to make abortion a crime or impose other restrictions on it.

Bork justifies this stand by claiming that there is no such thing as a right of privacy, the grounds on which the court had ruled that the government cannot interfere with a woman's right to decide the question of abortion for herself.

On similar grounds, he rejects any constitutional right of gay people to protection against discrimination and persecution for their sexual activities.

Free speech

Bork has called for reversing a long line of court rulings that set some limits on the government's authority to suppress views it disagrees with. Bork claims that the First Amendment to the Constitution, which explicitly bars Congress from restricting free speech rights, applies only to what he calls "explicitly political speech."

He has argued that legislatures may bar revolutionary ideas, calls for civil disobedience, or scientific or literary works they disagree with. According to Bork, these are not protected by the Constitution as they do not constitute legitimate "political speech."

Bork has denounced court decisions establishing the principle of "one man, one vote" and barring poll taxes — decisions that were important consequences of the civil rights struggle in which Blacks in the South won the right to vote. He also denounced the 1964 Civil Rights Act barring discrimination in public accommodations as concessions to a "mob coercing and disturbing other private individuals" — his description of the civil rights movement that abolished such segregation.

Bork has called for reversing court decisions barring enforcement of racist provisions in housing contracts that bar resale to Blacks, Jews, or others.

And he has consistently ruled in favor of prosecutors and against defendants — whom he readily labels "criminals." He favors reversing or further weakening limits on the use of illegally obtained evidence in court cases. He has voiced opposition to court actions restricting or barring the use of capital punishment.

'Original intent'

Bork justifies his call for the overturn of rights won in decades of struggle by working people by saying these rights were not "actually intended" to be included by those who drafted the U.S. Constitution in 1787 or by the "framers" of subsequent amendments.

While he claims to regard the main body of the Constitution as sacrosanct, he dismisses the Bill of Rights as a "hastily drafted document upon which little thought was expended." Bork similarly criticized the framers of the Fourteenth Amendment, adopted after the U.S. Civil War, which barred the states from violating constitutionally protected rights.

Of course, Bork's views have nothing to do with the real or imagined "original intent" of the "framers." This is simply a de-

magogic cover for the antidemocratic political agenda of the extreme right wing.

President Reagan appointed Bork to the court in the wake of a series of setbacks to his administration that hit his extreme right-wing supporters especially hard. The revelations about the Iran-contra arms deals forced many of these ultrarightists out of their positions on the National Security Council and elsewhere in the government.

Supreme Court decisions in the last few years upholding affirmative action programs and abortion rights registered the fact that the administration had failed to make headway in reversing these gains won as a result of the victories of the civil rights movement.

Attempt to bolster rightists

By appointing a vocal ultrarightist to the court, Reagan attempted to help the rightists take the offensive and to try to legitimize their claims that the democratic gains of the 1960s and 1970s were outrages against the Constitution.

The rightists have responded with an enthusiastic campaign in support of Bork. As I noted in the previous article, Daniel Popeo of the rightist Washington Legal

Foundation crowed, "We have the opportunity now to roll back 30 years of social and political activism by the Supreme Court."

Popeo and others are miscalculating. They make the mistake of assuming that the elimination of legal segregation, the winning of women's right to abortion, and the maintenance of democratic rights such as the separation of church and state were gifts from liberal courts that can be overturned by putting rightists like Bork on the bench.

As I pointed out in my previous article, and as most working people know, "The court cannot roll back the fundamental gains won by working people in the last 30 years."

"Laws and court rulings reflect the class relationship of forces — the outcome of battles fought on the streets, picket lines, and elsewhere. An attempt by the rulers today to sweep away affirmative action, abortion rights, or other conquests would spark massive battles with huge political risks for the rulers."

The wide and justified opposition among working people to the nomination of an avowed foe of their rights like Bork to the high court is a reflection of this fact.

Participants in Havana Biennial discuss art and revolution



Militant photos by Holbrook Mahn

Juan Sanchez and Eva Cockcroft spoke at a July 31 *Militant* Labor Forum in New York City about their participation in the Second Havana Biennial, a showcase for Third World art. Held in Cuba in December 1986, the biennial drew participants from 58 countries. Sanchez, a Puerto Rican living in New York, had some of his paintings exhibited in Havana. Cockcroft, a muralist and art critic, was the curator of an exhibit of the works of 59 U.S. artists in Havana. She showed the 90 people in the forum audience slides of some of the art works presented in Havana. Mike Alewitz, director of the Pathfinder mural project and another participant in the Havana biennial, also spoke.

Union representation election held at Texas packing plant

BY BERNIE SENTER

PLAINVIEW, Texas — Workers at the Excel meat-packing plant here voted July 30 to retain the United Food and Commercial Workers union as their bargaining representative.

The North American Meat Packers Union (NAMPU) challenged the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) in the election. The vote was 496 to 347. Twenty-nine workers voted for no union.

Located in the Texas panhandle, the Excel plant employs 1,200 meat-packers. They slaughter and process nearly a million head of cattle a year. Excel is owned by Cargill Inc., one of the world's largest grain-trading monopolies.

UFCW Local 540, which represents the Plainview workers, is an amalgamated local based in Dallas, which is 400 miles from Plainview. NAMPU was formed by former members of UFCW Local P-9 who participated in the strike at the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota, in 1985-1986.

Workers at Excel here feel the need for a strong union. The company has imposed concession contracts on them, cutting starting wages to \$6 an hour. The top pay scale after two years is \$8.40 an hour.

Excel subjects its workers to a murderous line speed resulting in a high injury rate. Many workers are routinely fired or disciplined. Similar conditions have provoked numerous other meat-packers' struggles in the past few years.

There is substantial disgruntlement in the plant over how UFCW officials have responded to the attacks.

"You never see the union representative," one Excel worker complained. "We have nothing to show for our union dues. There has been no communication and bad representation from the UFCW."

The NAMPU organizing drive began late last year. Jessie Muñoz, formerly the UFCW chief steward, spearheaded the effort.

Fired unionists win reinstatement at Nebraska packinghouse

BY CHRIS HOEPPNER

OMAHA, Neb. — Meat-packers in Fremont, Nebraska, won a victory July 22 when Geo. A. Hormel & Co. was forced to reinstate 23 of the 24 unionists it had fired there in January 1986.

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 22 members were victimized for honoring roving pickets set up at Hormel's Fremont meat-packing plant by unionists on strike at the company's Austin, Minnesota, plant.

Eleven of the 23 exercised their right to return to work. Two others are ill but will be returning soon. The reinstated workers have their full seniority rights intact.

"It has been hard going back in and facing company harassment," Sherman Thurlow explained.

"They placed us on the extra gang, not our regular jobs, and they gave us all a warning letter. But, we'll fight it," Thurlow added. "It was our legal right to honor that picket line."

Bob Langemeier, one of the 24 who honored the picket line, was the only one not called back. Hormel has been trying to fire Langemeier, a leader who built support in Fremont for the Austin strike. A National Labor Relations Board arbitrator, however, recently ordered Langemeier put back on the plant's recall list, which would make him eligible for immediate reinstatement. Hormel is contesting the ruling.

"The recall is a terrific victory," Langemeier said, "because the workers got back in the plant. The company said we'd never get back in."

Meanwhile, workers from Hormel's plant in Ottumwa, Iowa, are beginning to transfer to Fremont. Hormel says the Ottumwa facility will be permanently closed August 26.

On January 14 this year, Muñoz and 31 other workers were fired. Some of the fired workers began circulating a petition calling for a recertification election. Seven hundred workers signed the petition.

Both UFCW and NAMPU sent numerous representatives to Plainview to talk to workers, distribute flyers, and organize meetings.

NAMPU and UFCW flyers

The literature distributed by both unions focused on the so-called "inadequacies" of the other union. Nothing distributed by either side discussed the company's attacks or related those attacks to the broader national fight of meat-packers.

One NAMPU flyer was titled, "UFCW—'The strike happy' union." It says, "The UFCW now has over 6,000 meat-packers 'on the pavement' while scabs are doing their job. These include workers at Patrick Cudahy in Cudahy, Wisconsin; John Morrell & Co. in Sioux City, Iowa, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and IBP in Dakota City, Nebraska. This does not include the hundreds of workers abandoned by UFCW failures in countless other communities."

UFCW leaflets, on the other hand, emphasized, "NAMPU isn't worth the risk."

"You now have your insurance, wages and benefits guaranteed in your UFCW union contract. NAMPU is asking you to risk your UFCW guarantees. But all they have given you is cheap promises and fancy, misleading words. Protect yourself and your family against their phony pie-in-the-sky promises."

Large rally backs Maine paper workers

BY AARON RUBY

JAY, Maine — "Scabs out, union in" was the chant heard here August 1 as 8,700 participated in a march and rally in support of unionists on strike at International Paper Co.'s mill.

Strikers and their families were joined by workers from all over New England, and many different unions were represented in the largest labor demonstration in recent history in Maine.

Members of United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 14 went on strike June 16. The company is trying to gut seniority and combine jobs.

UPIU members are also on strike at In-

Trusteeship lifted at Minn. Hormel plant

Top officials of the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) lifted their trusteeship over the meat-packers' local at the Austin, Minnesota, Geo. A. Hormel & Co. plant on July 16.

UFCW Local P-9 was put in trusteeship in May last year when union members refused to heed the officials' demand to call off their militant strike at Hormel's flagship plant. As part of imposing the trusteeship, the UFCW tops removed P-9's elected officers and seized control of the Austin Labor Temple where P-9 was headquartered.

The strike ended in September 1986 when the officials negotiated a sweetheart settlement with Hormel. The pact excluded more than 800 of the former strikers from getting their jobs back. Instead the unionists were placed on a "preferential recall" list. To date, none have been called back.

Before lifting the trusteeship, the officials had the name of the union changed from Local P-9 to Local 9.

UFCW locals at meat-packing plants have traditionally had a "P" in front of their number. Packinghouse unions were incorporated into the UFCW through a succession of mergers.

John Anker was elected president of Local 9 on July 15.



Militant/Katy Karlin

Nearly a million cattle a year are slaughtered at Excel plant in Plainview, Texas. Company speedup of cut-and-kill operations has caused high injury rate among workers.

On July 8 workers at the Excel plant in Friona, Texas, voted to accept a new UFCW contract. Friona is 60 miles northwest of Plainview. Some 900 workers are employed there.

The new contract provides for an immediate wage increase of 20 cents an hour. Some workers at Friona were upset at how the UFCW contract was ratified.

The union took two to three workers off the production line at a time. They were escorted to a room occupied by a half dozen UFCW officials who explained the contract provisions to them for a couple of minutes and then told them to vote. No general union meeting was held to discuss the contract. NAMPU has submitted 420 signatures to decertify the UFCW at Friona. No date for an election has been set.

Workers' response

Of scores of workers interviewed in the days leading up to the Plainview election, the overwhelming majority didn't know who they would support.

ternational Paper IP plants in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, and De Pere, Wisconsin. Workers at the Mobile, Alabama, IP plant have been locked out by the company.

IP has hired BE&K, a well-known strikebreaker, for the Jay mill. Some 250 professional BE&K scabs are currently being housed within the plant to avoid pickets. The company has also hired other replacements and now claims more than 600 people are working.

Local 14 has stated no settlement will be made until all the strikers have their jobs back.

IP has obtained an injunction that limits the number of pickets to 30. One striker said, "They want to do to us what they've done in the Philippines, drive us all the way down."

After receiving notice that he would lose his job if he did not return to work, Tim Hiscock broke ranks and crossed the picket line. He was paraded on local television and in the papers as an example of a demoralized striker. After only five days

"Whatever the outcome, hopefully this will make the UFCW stand up and take notice," one worker said.

Sylvia, a NAMPU supporter who has worked in the plant seven years, said, "No matter which union wins the election, in a sense, we have already won. Now the company knows they can't walk all over us."

Now, with the recertification election behind them, the Plainview workers are thinking about how to strengthen themselves for the pending contract fight. The UFCW contract with Excel in Plainview expires August 14.

Union member Santos Martinez said, "Ain't nothing going to change overnight. We've proved a point through this election, though, about how we need a strong union."

"Hopefully," he said, "Excel workers will be able to stand united in the face of continued company abuse and brutality."

Bernie Senter is a meat-packer at Sunland Beef in Phoenix, Arizona, and a member of UFCW Local 99R.

Strong support for Wis. paper strike

BY TONY PRINCE

DE PERE, Wis. — Unionists have been on strike at International Paper's Nicolet subsidiary here since June. The 370 paperworkers are fighting the company's attempt to eliminate premium pay for Sundays and holidays.

Tom Burke, a member of United Paperworkers International Union Local 6288, explained that the unionists work seven days, then have four days off followed by rotations of seven on, two off, and seven on, one off. "I work 39 out of 52 weekends in the year," Burke said. "The company's proposal could cost me \$3,500 to \$4,000 in a year."

The strikers are holding membership meetings every Wednesday. Spouses attend the meetings. Picket captain Jim Madix explained that the local also has twice-weekly rallies.

There are a number of paper mills in this

back at work, Hiscock and several others, angered over safety conditions, walked out of the plant again and asked to be readmitted to the union.

The 30 Local 14 members who are still working are referred to as "super scabs." But several workers expressed hope that they will win them back to the union.

At the entrance to the rally, a picket sign read, "As Jay goes, so goes the nation."

In 1986, in nearby Rumford, some 350 workers lost their jobs when their 11-week strike at the Boise Cascade paper mill was defeated. Local 14 members are quick to point out that they are not as isolated as the workers at Boise-Cascade were.

Nationally, the paperworkers' union is levying a \$10 assessment on all union members to aid the strikers.

Local 14 members say their strike is also stronger because it is coming at a time of increased labor resistance and fightback.

"There is a time to die and a time to be born," a Local 14 striker told the crowd. "This is the moment for a new labor movement to be born," he said to loud applause.

area, and unionists in Green Bay and other nearby cities are backing the strike.

Workers at the James River mill are donating \$1 a week per member to the strike. Workers at Consolidated Paper are each contributing \$5 a month. On Wednesdays, unionists from other locals join picket lines outside the International's Nicolet plant.

Two thousand Green Bay-area unionists attended a July 5 picnic for the strikers.

The company has brought in 170 scabs. Only four union members have crossed the picket line.

Several weeks ago, a thousand unionists blocked streets near the plant for several hours, temporarily keeping the scabs out.

Tony Prince is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 64 in Milwaukee.

Latin American and Caribbean unions call protest against debt

The following is the text of the final declaration adopted at the May 18-21 Latin American and Caribbean Trade Union Conference on the Foreign Debt. It is known as the Campinas Declaration, after the industrial suburb of São Paulo, Brazil, where the conference was held.

Conference participants represented 56 trade union organizations, with a combined membership of 135 million workers in 25 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, including Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Cuba, Colombia, Panama, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

This conference was one of a series of trade-union conferences on the foreign debt in the past couple of years. Like a similar conference held in Havana in July 1985, it has issued a call for a continental day of action against the foreign debt, set for this October 15. On the previous such day of action, Oct. 23, 1985, union-sponsored demonstrations, strikes, meetings, and other actions were held throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Provisional Coordinating Committee mentioned at the end of the declaration is composed of the United Workers Federation (CUT) and General Confederation of Workers (CGT) of Brazil, the Interunion Workers Assembly/National Workers Convention (PIT/CNT) of Uruguay, the Bolivian Workers Federation (COB), the United Federation of Workers (CUT) of Colombia, the Authentic Federation of Independent Workers (CATI) of Panama, and the General Workers Federation (CGT) of the Dominican Republic. In addition, each of three regional union groupings — the Latin American Workers Federation (CLAT), Permanent Congress of Trade-Union Unity of the Latin American Workers (CPUSTAL), and the Inter-American Regional Workers Organization (ORIT) — are to nominate a member federation to be represented on the committee.

The text of this declaration has been taken from a compilation of documents of the conference, published in São Paulo. Subheads are by the *Militant*.

We, the representatives of 56 trade union federations and trade unions of 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting from May 18-21, 1987, in Campinas, in the state of São Paulo, Brazil, agree to address all the workers and broad sectors of the people, all social political organizations, with the following declaration:

The consequences of the gigantic foreign debt for the working class and the peoples of our continent — the \$382 billion of the \$1 trillion of Third World countries' foreign debt — are expressed in the harsh reality of the living and working conditions, health, and education of the large majorities of the people.

In 1985, 150 million Latin American and Caribbean people lived below the absolute poverty line, on a monthly income of less than \$40. Policies of recession in Latin America have thrust great masses of workers into unemployment. This has created an army of unemployed and underemployed, in 1980 estimated to be approximately 34 million people, i.e. 30 percent of the working-age population.

In five years (1982-86) the Latin American and Caribbean countries made a net transfer of resources worth \$132 billion, i.e. this amount represented payments greater than the loans and investments received. The banks and the IMF [International Monetary Fund] have turned Latin America, an impoverished region, into an exporter of capital to the "rich" countries.

Between 1975 and 1986, the total foreign debt of Latin America and the Caribbean grew 400 percent, going from \$75 billion to \$382 billion.

Such an intense appropriation of resources by banking methods alone is unknown in the recorded history of financial capital.

A decisive factor in the exaggerated growth of the foreign debt was the abrupt, criminal rise in interest rates. In 1981 some

countries paid over 21 percent interest, i.e. several times the rate applied when the loan was contracted. By financing the U.S. government budgetary deficit, its enormous military spending with the riches generated all over the world, this policy of U.S. imperialism has caused unbearable increases in the foreign debt.

Unequal trade relations

At the same time, the looting and despoiling — a result of unequal trade — is obvious in the 20 percent drop in the region's trade terms between 1981 and 1986 and is worsened by a massive flight of capital. The gigantic increase in the debt is exacerbated by the deterioration of the situation.

Therefore, the struggle against the calamity of foreign debt is closely tied to the struggle against unequal trade and economic relations, against the domination of big monopolies and transnational banks (export subsidies and dumping policies, etc.), for the achievement of a new international economic order which would overcome the present conditions of domination and exploitation. This struggle must create the conditions for achieving Latin American integration, the great aspiration of our peoples.

The IMF's requirements and recipes, based on reduction of consumption and employment, are accompanied by drastic cuts in social spending and education, by the privatization of state firms, and by the reduction of public investment, the remainder being used to strengthen foreign domination, thus provoking a legitimate popular reaction in defense of elementary rights. The IMF policies of hunger and recessive readjustment have led to strikes, demonstrations, and, in some cases, to real uprisings.

The creditors' most recent idea for extracting payment of the debt is its capitalization. They want to convert it into investments, implying the expropriation of our factories, mines, and land, in a process of growing denationalization and alienation of the national patrimony. We reject this procedure, as it brings with it the loss of sovereignty, boding ill: the recolonization of our countries and their transformation into fiefdoms of the metropolis. Creditors' proposals which come under pretense of an illusory aid perpetuate the looting of our countries, for example, the Baker Plan of the U.S. government.

Workers should take energetic stand

The Latin American and Caribbean Trade Union Conference on the Foreign Debt, after discussing the structural causes and consequences of the economic crisis and the debt, has come to the conclusion that, in the search for a political solution corresponding to the interests of sovereignty and democracy, with economic and social justice, the workers are those who should take an energetic and responsible stand.

The foreign debt is the sharpest proof of present-day imperialist exploitation. It is international usury, illegitimate and illegal because of its contractual conditions, particularly the rate of interest determined and changed unilaterally by the international banks and their governments. It is illegitimate also because the interest and amortization payments, with losses due to unequal trade and flight of capital, are well above the amount loaned. On the other hand, considering the pillage of colonial domination, our peoples have already paid more than the debt now being collected from them.

Furthermore, it cannot be forgotten that the present foreign debt was usually contracted by military regimes and by civilian governments which did not have the consent of the people.

The colonialist policy of the IMF, using the weapon of the debt, has been a cause of unrest and sabotage of our peoples' struggle for freedom and democracy with social justice. This policy is used to justify economic, military, and terrorist attacks and



Demonstration in Brazil. Banner in foreground reads, "Out with IMF."

even military intervention against the right to self-determination. In many countries, using the result of this policy as protection, there is human rights abuse and violation of trade union rights.

The Latin American and Caribbean Trade Union Conference on the Foreign Debt is against payment of the debt and commits itself to working so that the peoples freely adopt this goal and find ways to reach it. United action of workers and peoples is a legitimate reply which should radically cut voracious imperialist appetites, demand solidarity of the workers of developed countries and the unity of all Third World peoples.

The various trade union forums and conferences, those of Cuernavaca, Havana, Lima, and most recently Buenos Aires, as well as different actions at the national level, are significant efforts to confront the problem of foreign debt.

The movement of struggle unfolding on our continent, expressed during several days of continent-wide mobilization, is increasingly united and coordinated. It has seen the working class take a leading role, as the national dominant classes have vacillated and submitted.

In this resistance the trade union movement has a prominent role and should devote all its efforts to the achievement and consolidation of unity and to finding means of cooperation and unity with other social organizations, parties and political movements, sectors of the church, and the low-income sectors of the population so that together we can confront and change this unbearable situation.

March of the dispossessed

The Latin American and Caribbean Trade Union Conference on the Foreign Debt declares its unswerving participation in this march of the dispossessed in search of effective action and organization for liberating struggle. With the aim of achieving the goals described herein, we commit ourselves to the united and firm accomplishment of the following proposals for action:

The foreign debt is an impasse in the history of Latin American and Caribbean peoples. Therefore, the advance of the workers' united ongoing struggle against payment of the foreign debt is an absolute priority and essential to the future of the working class. In this light, we propose and commit ourselves to:

1. Carry out a constant campaign against payment of the foreign debt in Latin America and the Caribbean;
2. Carry out Continental Days of Struggle Against Payment of the Foreign Debt during the period from October 11-17, 1987 — October 15 being the Continental Day Against Payment of the Foreign Debt — with public meetings, demonstrations, debates, and strikes, involving the whole population in this struggle; recognizing the importance of October 23, [1985] as a day of struggle against the foreign debt;
3. Support and develop practical solidarity with the national and international

initiatives against the payment of the foreign debt;

4. Propose and prepare the year 1988 as the International Year of Struggle Against Payment of the Foreign Debt;

5. Hold another international conference on the foreign debt in 1988;

6. Present and defend this conference's resolutions at the 73rd International Labor Conference of the ILO-[International Labor Organization] to take place from June 1-24, 1987;

7. Constitute a provisional committee to coordinate the actions approved here and the Latin American and Caribbean Campaign Against Payment of the Foreign Debt, until the 1988 conference.

Activities of the Latin American and Caribbean campaign against the payment of the foreign debt to be organized by the provisional committee:

1. To ensure the publication of the resolutions of this conference in the newspapers of each country during the first week in June;

2. To present and discuss this conference's resolutions with the world trade union confederations and the regional federations, as well as with the national confederations that did not participate in this event;

3. Present the resolutions of this conference to the ILO and the UN;

4. Coordinate and follow the presentation and discussion of this conference's resolutions with the governments and parliaments of each country;

5. Coordinate the solidarity of the workers of the industrialized countries for the campaign against the payment of the foreign debt, through their trade union confederations;

6. Promote the convening of public audits of the foreign debt in each country to check the exact scope of the frauds and currency flight, and to bring to justice those responsible.

7. Create a working group to make extensive studies of the foreign debt and of information relating to the situation in each country;

8. Promote wide circulation of information on the foreign debt and its consequences, by publishing pamphlets, fliers, posters, bulletins, etc.;

9. Stimulate a permanent discussion on the foreign debt, in different ways to involve all the population in an awareness of the debt, its consequences, and the importance of struggling against its payment;

10. Promote the creation of an International Permanent Tribunal to judge and morally sanction those responsible for the foreign debt;

11. In each country, work to create a united front of debtor countries in order to implement together a policy against the payment of the foreign debt;

12. Promote and motivate public censure of those governments persisting in their policy of submission to the IMF and to international creditors, thereby weakening our countries' sovereignty and our peoples' interests.

'We face the same enemy — imperialism'

Oliver Tambo of South Africa speaks at 8th anniversary of Nicaraguan revolution

Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, was the featured guest speaker at Nicaragua's July 19 rally celebrating the eighth anniversary of the Sandinista revolution. Tambo spent three days in Nicaragua as part of a trip to Latin America, which also included stops in Venezuela and Cuba.

At a joint press conference with Tambo on July 18, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto announced the formation of the Nicaraguan Anti-apartheid Committee. D'Escoto is the chair of the committee, which will work to educate Nicaraguans about the struggle in South Africa and collaborate with opponents of apartheid around the world.

D'Escoto told the press, "There is no greater shame or blot on the conscience of humanity than the existence of the diabolical racist system [of apartheid], which never should have existed and must now disappear."

At the July 19 celebration of the Sandinista revolution, held in the city of Matagalpa, Tambo was awarded the Order of Carlos Fonseca, the highest honor given to distinguished members of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Fonseca was the central leader of the front until he was murdered by troops of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1976.

The award was presented in recognition of the fact that "Comrade Oliver Tambo, together with Nelson Mandela, has fought the segregationist system since the 1950s, a task that has meant persecution, imprisonment, and exile. The relentless revolutionary activity of Comrade Oliver Tambo, at the head of the African National Congress, has made valuable contributions to the struggle all of humanity is waging for the definitive elimination of racial discrimination."

The ANC leader then gave an acceptance speech to the crowd. The following is the text of his remarks.

* * *

Comrade Daniel Ortega, president of the

London meeting hears Grenadian revolutionary on Maurice Bishop

BY BRIDGET ELTON

LONDON, England — More than 100 people, a third of them Black, attended a forum here entitled, "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop — a reply to the slander campaign against the Grenada revolution."

The speakers included George Louison, former minister of agriculture in the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Grenada and currently a leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. The meeting also heard Ben Bousquet, a Black activist and Labour Party candidate in the recent elections, and Celia Pugh of *Socialist Action* newspaper, which sponsored the July 14 meeting.

The speakers defended the achievements of the Grenada revolution and the political legacy of its central leader, Maurice Bishop.

Supporters of the political views of Bernard Coard, former deputy prime minister of Grenada, attempted to disrupt the meeting with shouts of "CIA agents!", attacks on Cuba, and accusations that supporters of Bishop were responsible for his murder.

Coard led a faction in the ruling party and army of Grenada that organized the overthrow of the PRG in October 1983 and the execution of Bishop and other leaders of the Grenada revolution.

Seventeen copies of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist theory and politics, were sold. The current issue contains an article entitled "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop," by Steve Clark.

Nothing Can Stop the Course of History, a book published by Pathfinder that includes an interview with Fidel Castro, and other material on Cuba, Central America, the Caribbean, and South Africa were also sold.

Republic of Nicaragua and coordinator of the Executive Commission of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front;

Comrade members of the National Directorate of the FSLN and commanders of the revolution;

Heroic and fraternal people of Nicaragua;

This is indeed an historic day for the people of South Africa as we join with the people of Nicaragua in celebrating the eighth anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinista revolution — a day on which we can bring directly to you fraternal and revolutionary greetings from the African National Congress and the entire mass, democratic movement in South Africa.

Your struggle to defend revolution

From our townships under racist, military occupation; from children and youth who face the army and police in the streets; from militant workers and peasants; from women who continue to fight even as they bury their dead; from the many thousands of all ages who have been imprisoned and tortured but remain resolute; from the cadres of the people's army — Umkhonto we Sizwe — who are engaged in an escalating and ever more effective offensive; our greetings, comrades, and our solidarity to you in your struggle to defend your revolution.

We greet you also in the name of all the people of southern Africa. It is a most fitting climax for us to end our working visit to this region by participating in this celebration of the victory of your struggle to end the oppressive and exploitative rule of the U.S.-imposed Somoza dynasty.

It is especially significant for all of us to be together on this occasion on the site of some of Augusto Sandino's greatest battles against U.S. imperialism [in the 1920s and early 1930s]; in a place where Commander in Chief of the Revolution Carlos Fonseca was born and among the hills where he died — in Matagalpa, a place where people are renowned for their courage and heroism.

In the eight years since victory, imperialism has not allowed you to enjoy your freedom in peace. You remain a people in struggle. Thus, it is only natural for you to reaffirm the best qualities of your distinguished tradition of struggle. You have done this, most fittingly, by holding these celebrations in Matagalpa. We are proud to be with you.

Comrades, we thank the National Directorate of the FSLN and the FSLN, as well as the people of Nicaragua most profoundly for bestowing on us the prestigious Nicaraguan award, the Order of Carlos Fonseca. We accept this honor on behalf of all our fighting people, including patriots like Nelson Mandela [sustained applause] and thousands of others who are detained or imprisoned and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for South African freedom. In their name we accept this honor with humility and with great pride.

We face the same enemy

This award is more than a recognition of the fact that we share a community of objectives, which are freedom, the right to self-determination, democracy, peace, and progress. It is a recognition also of the fact that our peoples are both facing the same enemy: imperialism. While the people of Nicaragua have to confront U.S. imperialism directly, the people of South Africa and Namibia are confronting the U.S.-allied Pretoria regime.

Instead of being able to consolidate your revolutionary gains and devote your resources and efforts to bringing direct benefits to the daily life of the Nicaraguan people, you have been forced to defend your revolution against imperialism's local surrogates and backward, opportunistic, and mercenary contras.

In a similar way, the peoples of southern Africa have to defend their independence against the direct aggression of the racist regime and also fight imperialism's other surrogates, the Pretoria-backed renegades



Militant/Roberto Kopec African National Congress President Oliver Tambo, right, was featured guest speaker at July 19 rally in Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

of MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] and UNITA [in Angola]. Thus, this award constitutes a bonding of an historically necessary relationship of mutual solidarity between our respective struggles.

The rout of Anastasio Somoza was an important victory for the people of southern Africa. Today our struggle has plunged the enemy into a deepening crisis from which it cannot extricate itself. Faced with its inability to control the situation, the Pretoria regime is desperately escalating its violence against the people in the hope that it can thereby regain the initiative.

But the resultant reign of state terrorism is a poor disguise for the growing weakness of the racist regime. We are determined and ready to exploit and accentuate the enemy's state of strategic weakness. The historic imperative of the moment is to fur-

ther intensify our struggle 'till final victory.

Just as your triumph of 1979 was a victory for our struggle, the most powerful solidarity we can extend to you is to hasten the defeat of apartheid and the establishment of a nonracial, democratic, and united South Africa. [sustained applause]

In that way we shall vindicate the great honor you have bestowed on our people by awarding us the Order of Carlos Fonseca. In the name of Augusto Sandino, in the name of Carlos Fonseca, the powerful example of the Nicaraguan revolution must triumph.

¡Aquí, no se rinde nadie! [Here no one will surrender!]

¡La lucha continúa! [The struggle continues!]



Just out! New International "Revolution is the Birth of Light"

Interview with
Tomás Borge

This interview with Nicaraguan Commander Tomás Borge was conducted in Cuba in 1985. In it Borge talks about the "deep interrelation between art and revolution," Nicaraguan culture, and the achievements of the revolution.

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Militant/Sam Manuel

Members of farmers' association among their tomato plants on Caribbean island of Trinidad. Many are squatters harassed by landlords, speculators, and government.

BY SAM MANUEL

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad and Tobago — Early in July, 60 members of the National Foodcrop Farmers Association marked 100 days of their encampment outside the office of the Ministry of Agriculture of this Caribbean country. The camp, consisting of a large tent with eating and sleeping facilities, has become home for many of the farmers. It is staffed 24 hours a day.

The farmers have been demanding a meeting with the ministry in order to discuss their grievances. Among them are the need for land reform and easier credit, as well as relief from increasing production costs and the physical attacks they face by private and government police aimed at driving farmers off the land. So far the government has refused to meet.

Yolanda Vera, secretary of the General Poultry Farmers' Association, told those gathered, "We the poultry farmers are suffering today just as the agricultural farmers are. Like you we are on state and private lands that we don't own. And if a rich man wants the land to put up a building he will buy it and throw you off."

Exposing the government's economic

Balto. SWP candidate challenges filing fee

BY ED FRUIT

BALTIMORE — On July 28, the Maryland American Civil Liberties Union and civil rights attorney Frank Dunbaugh filed a suit in federal court on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party challenging Maryland's filing fee for write-in candidates.

At a news conference on the steps of the federal courthouse, Reba Williams Dixon, the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Baltimore, explained that requiring 11,000 signatures for ballot status is burdensome enough. But then to require a \$150 filing fee for official write-in status severely limits the ability of working people to run for public office.

Dixon said that she and Dana Burroughs, SWP candidate for city council president, were the only ones addressing the real issues that face working people. "We think that the Iran-contra hearings show that the twin parties of big business are really united as far as wanting to overthrow the government of Nicaragua," Dixon said. "The participation of the Maryland National Guard in Central America maneuvers brings home the nature of the dirty U.S. war to people in this state."

Stuart Comstock-Gay, executive director of the Maryland ACLU, said that First Amendment rights are at issue. People with different points of view than the two major parties ought to be able to run for office as write-in candidates without paying money to do so. He pointed out that the fee is the same for attaining ballot status as it is for a write-in candidacy where one's name isn't even on the ballot. "Maryland is the only state that requires this kind of fee," he said.

Frank Dunbaugh, attorney in the suit, pointed out that paying \$300 for the candidates would amount to more than one-third of the entire campaign budget and that this was patently discriminatory against campaigns with limited budgets.

policy as a dead end, Vera explained, "The government is turning over everything to private enterprise. They say we will get more work." To applause, she asked, "You tell me who is getting work?"

Malcolm Campbell, president general of the Federation of Farmers Associations, explained that his organization was founded to "unite all the farmers' organizations to fight the present attacks by big business and the government." Pointing to the continuity in the agricultural policies of the past and present governments, Campbell said, "The People's National Movement killed agriculture and the National Alliance for Reconstruction has come to bury it. But we the farmers are here to stay. Only the governments come and go." The NAR replaced the PNM as the ruling party last year.

Labor and farmers unity

A host of trade union leaders also spoke at the July 3 rally. All of them stressed the need for continued unity between farmers and workers.

Cecil Paul, general secretary of the Council of Progressive Trade Unions, one of the two trade union federations in the country, explained, "The aim of big business and the government is to drive the farmers off the land. Then the farmers will have to work for the landlords at very low wages and under very oppressive working conditions."

Wade Mark, education officer of the Bank and General Workers Union, outlined the deteriorating conditions for working people in the country. Mark explained, "In the last three years workers have not received any real increase in wages. Added to this, the value of the [Trinidad and Tobago] dollar has declined by 40 percent. The BGWU is affiliated to the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress.

Some farmers have been evicted from their land by court orders. Dennis Olivier, president-general of the Communication Workers Union explained, "We cannot win in the courts. It is not our court. Whatever we have to win must be won out here in the streets."

Underscoring the need for political unity and action by workers and farmers, Olivier concluded that neither the capitalist administration of the NAR nor the previous one of the PNM "see to our interests. We must begin to think of politics. We must put workers and farmers in power."

Visit to farming areas

Along with two organizers for the National Foodcrop Farmers — NFFA — I visited some of the farming areas here.

The rich-soiled mountainous region of Diego Martin is also known to many people here as "Neg Ma Wa" which in French Creole means "runaway nigger." Over two centuries ago the maroons — escaped African slaves — sought refuge in these mountains from their plantation masters. There were no roads then and the terrain made the recapture of a maroon difficult. Many of the agents of the plantation masters who ventured on such expeditions did not return.

The maroons lived by farming on these steep slopes. Today their descendants are locked in a bitter struggle with land speculators who want to build resort homes

and clubs here.

The 60 families on the Sosconusco Estate located here are members of the NFFA. None of them own the land. Some are tenants. Most are considered squatters even though their families have worked the land for several generations.

Landlords' drive for land

In 1977 the Sosconusco Estate was bought by the Highgate company, a large land developer in Trinidad and Tobago. In 1984 the company ordered the farmers to evacuate, but the farmers resisted.

In 1985 the company took the farmers to court. The court upheld the eviction orders. Early this year private security guards hired by the company occupied the estate. Under the protection of armed government police and security forces they burned and bulldozed the crops of many of the farmers.

A young farmer who had his crops destroyed told me, "Our forefathers resisted the slavemasters in these mountains. We will continue to fight today. If they destroy our crops we will relocate and start again." But, he added, "They should be careful not to push too hard."

The lowland farm areas of Aranjuez and Garden Village lie southeast of here. In Garden Village 120 farm families have squatted on 160 acres of state-owned land. The government wants the farmers off the land in order to use it for housing. One farmer told me that in 1980 when the government brought in bulldozers the farmers and their families mounted them and laid

Plight faced by Trinidad farmers

They demand land, end to evictions

down in the fields.

Another commented that the government had never been interested in the land before. Only after "we cleared it by hand with cutlasses and slash and burn, they want the land."

Small farmers face harsh conditions

Ramesh Dookhan supports his wife and three children on the one and a half acres of land where he grows cabbage, tomatoes, sweet pepper, and celery. Dookhan explained, "Because of the increase in the cost of production last year I did not make anything." For example, one ounce of cascade tomato seeds cost TT\$180. (TT\$3.5 = US\$1.) One ounce of the seed is needed to plant half an acre of land.

Like many of the 500 farmers here, Dookhan rents from an absentee landlord in Britain. He hesitates to invest in improvements because the land could be sold at any time.

Nazim Ali appeared concerned as he stood among his tomatoes. The tomato crops of many of the farmers in the area have been hit hard by a fungus disease. The Ministry of Agriculture has refused the requests of the farmers for aid in fighting it.

"They won't even come out and just look at the crops," said Ali. Many of the farmers said they were being victimized because they are members of the NFFA.

I asked Ali what the farmers have to gain by joining the NFFA. He answered, "We have nobody to represent us. We must do it ourselves. Maybe we will lose in the long run. But if we didn't organize and fight we would have lost already."

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S. African unionists challenge apartheid

COSATU convention pledges struggle for democratic rights

BY ERNEST HARSCH

In front of a packed conference hall of cheering union delegates, Elijah Barayi minced few words.

"Some say that this intransigent government will never hand power over to the Black majority," said Barayi, president of South Africa's largest union federation. "Well, the Black majority will have to seize power from this intransigent government."

Barayi, a gold miner, stressed, "We produce the wealth of South Africa, yet we are the victims of a brutal and exploitative system of apartheid and capitalism."

The 1,500 delegates to the convention of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) responded with freedom chants and slogans.

The four-day gathering in Johannesburg, from July 15 to 18, was an open expression of defiance of the apartheid authorities, who have frequently warned COSATU and other unions to steer clear of political activity.

Barayi, in his opening address, responded, "Politics, and especially the lack of even the most basic democratic rights for the majority of our people, is a bread-and-butter issue for the working class. It is the fundamental question which is tormenting millions of workers — and we are obliged to answer it."

This set the tone for the convention. The unionists discussed not only how to raise wages and improve working conditions, but also how to rid South Africa of the oppressive apartheid system.

Freedom Charter adopted

COSATU's political stance was exemplified by its decision, by unanimous vote, to adopt the Freedom Charter as its "guiding document."

Originally drafted in 1955 by a broad array of anti-apartheid organizations, led by the African National Congress (ANC), the Freedom Charter is the program for a democratic and nonracial South Africa, in which everyone, Black and white, will have equal rights.

Jay Naidoo, COSATU's general secretary, said at the close of the convention that there had been considerable debate on the Freedom Charter among union delegates, but no opposition to its adoption.

Similar discussions had earlier been held in the 13 industrial unions that make up the 700,000-member federation.

In February COSATU's largest single affiliate, the National Union of Mineworkers, led the way by adopting the Freedom Charter.

A few months later, COSATU issued a poster reproducing the text of the Freedom Charter, to mark the charter's 32nd anniversary on June 26.

niversary on June 26.

"The Freedom Charter is supported by millions of people in South Africa," the poster declared, "and is widely regarded as the most democratic pledge to emerge from our liberation struggle."

Closer allies

Linked to COSATU's adoption of the Freedom Charter was its decision to forge closer ties with the United Democratic Front (UDF). With a total membership of more than 2 million, the UDF is a broad anti-apartheid coalition of hundreds of community, political, women's, student, and other organizations that has been in the forefront of the mass mobilizations of recent years.

Although many of its leaders and affiliates have long championed the Freedom Charter, the UDF as a whole had not formally endorsed it. But following a secret national conference in early June, the UDF decided that it would do so on August 20, the UDF's fourth anniversary.

Murphy Morobe, a key UDF leader who had been functioning clandestinely for more than a year to avoid arrest, emerged in Johannesburg to address the COSATU convention. He told the delegates that the trade unions had become the most powerful anti-apartheid force in South Africa. (Just a few days later, Morobe was detained by the police.)

At the close of the convention, Naidoo said that COSATU would ally itself with the UDF and other groups that promote the interests of the working class and advocate democracy and nonracialism.

By these criteria, Naidoo added however, COSATU ruled out any form of cooperation with the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo). Azapo is a much smaller current that opposes the Freedom Charter and has sharply criticized the participation of anti-apartheid whites in the UDF and COSATU.

The COSATU convention also called for the lifting of the apartheid regime's ban on the ANC. "There can be no freedom in this country unless the African National Congress is involved," Barayi declared.

A message of "fraternal greetings" from the ANC was met with wild cheers. So was a telegram from the outlawed South African Communist Party, with which the ANC is allied.

'Hands off COSATU'

Among the other resolutions passed by the union convention was one to strengthen the "Hands off COSATU" campaign.

This is in response to the apartheid authorities' stepped-up repression against the union. Since a state of emergency was imposed in June 1986, some 3,000 union of-



COSATU leaders Elijah Barayi and Jay Naidoo at union convention

ficials have been detained, union meetings have been banned, and COSATU's national headquarters in Johannesburg was bombed and burned.

The union likewise resolved to fight for a minimum wage for domestic workers, campaign to organize the unemployed, and fight for a 40-hour workweek and a ban on

overtime work. (Shortly after the convention, the mine workers' union announced that more than 200,000 of its members would strike August 8 to press for a 30 percent wage increase, among other demands.)

Although it is illegal to do so, COSATU

Continued on Page 13

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Protest strike paralyzes Bangladesh

A protest strike shut down most economic activity in Bangladesh July 22-24.

The action came in response to a law pushed through by the government of Lieut. Gen. H. M. Ershad. It provides for military seats in the country's 64 district councils, a move designed to further entrench the army's grip over the government administration. General Ershad came to power in a 1981 coup and governed under martial law from March 1982 to November 1986.

The law's passage immediately sparked two days of protests and strikes. The Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party, the two largest opposition parties, then called the July 22-24 strike. The strike was widely observed in Dhaka, the capital, and other parts of the country. Police and troops attacked strikers. At least eight protesters were killed.

The two parties have announced that they will organize further actions, including demonstrations to protest the police killings.

State of emergency decreed in Sudan

The Sudanese government of Sadiq el-Mahdi declared a year-long, countrywide state of emergency July 25. As a justification for this move, the announcement cited instability in some regions and "chaos in the market."

A state of emergency had already been in effect in the Sudan since April 1985, but how this new one will differ and what specific measures it will entail were not immediately spelled out.

In the days leading up to the declaration, student protests had closed schools in Khartoum, the capital, and some sectors of the work force had gone on strike. A general strike was held in the southern province of Bahr Ghazal to protest deteriorating living conditions, and railway workers in the northern industrial town of Atbara staged a march around similar grievances.

In addition, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, which vows to topple the regime, has driven government troops out of large parts of southern Sudan.

Meanwhile, a team from the International Monetary Fund is in Khartoum to discuss terms for new IMF credits, which were cut off in early 1986 when

Sudan fell far behind in its debt payments. The IMF team is demanding cuts in government subsidies on bread, sugar, and gasoline. Similar cuts in early 1985 brought a popular uprising that ended only after then-president Gaafar al-Nimeiry was ousted in a coup.

British campaign for S. Africa sanctions

Leading British trade unions and anti-apartheid organizations have called a conference for September 19 in London to discuss ways to extend the campaign for economic sanctions against South Africa. A particular focus of this conference will be the fight for a mandatory ban on all South Africa coal imports into Britain and other Common Market countries.

The conference is being jointly organized by the National Union of Mineworkers and the Anti-Apartheid Movement. It is also sponsored by the Trades Union Congress, Women Against Pit Closures, and other groups. Among the scheduled speakers is Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa.

A national demonstration to demand "Sanctions now!" is set to take place in London October 24.

Belau poll retains nuclear-free policy

A June 30 referendum in the Pacific island country of Belau again blocked a U.S. government effort to have the antinuclear provisions of Belau's constitution overturned. With a population of 14,000, Belau is a United Nations trust territory administered by Washington.

Ninety-two percent of Belau's voters approved a constitution in 1979 establishing their own elected government and banning the testing, deployment, or storage of nuclear substances there.

But Washington has refused to relinquish formal control over Belau unless a "compact of free association" is signed, which would override the constitution's anti-nuclear provisions. Washington has likewise offered up to \$1.7 billion if the compact is approved.

Under U.S. government urging, eight referenda have been organized so far in an effort to win approval for the compact, but each time the vote in favor has fallen short of the 75 percent needed to amend the constitution.

British rail worker describes victory of South African strikers

The growing strength of the South African union movement was dramatically illustrated by the recent victory of the railway workers. Their union, the South African Railway and Harbour Workers Union is a key affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

"Thousands of South African railway strikers celebrated a resounding victory in Johannesburg's streets on Friday 5 June," Doreen Wepler reported in the June 19 issue of the London weekly *Socialist Action*. "After three months on strike, and with many families near to starvation, the workers had refused to give in to the unrelenting attacks by management and the apartheid state."

Wepler, a member of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) in Britain, had visited South Africa during the strike by the South African Railway and Harbour workers Union (SARHWU). She went with fellow unionist Geoff Revell, the two constituting an official NUR delegation sent to learn about and extend solidarity to the striking South African railway workers. Revell and Wepler are also the chairperson and secretary, respectively, of the NUR-initiated Rail Against Apartheid.

The strike, Wepler reported, was sparked by the dismissal of a SARHWU member by the government-owned South African Transport Services (SATS). It quickly spread throughout the Transvaal region, involving some 20,000 workers.

Despite severe repression — in which six strikers were killed by police and 16,000 of them were fired — the strikers persevered. And they won growing support from the rest of the labor movement as well as from Black township communities.

Concerned about this spreading solidarity, the SATS management decided to back down. In the final strike settlement, Wepler reported, all the fired strikers were offered their jobs back, and the management agreed to recognize the SARHWU's delegates, a step toward union recognition.

As a result of this victory, Wepler said, "the entire union has been strengthened." It has also provided inspiration to the rest of the labor movement, and to the broader struggle against apartheid rule.

But noting the continued repression against activists of SARHWU, and COSATU in general, Wepler stressed the importance of continuing solidarity by labor movements in other countries.

—THE GREAT SOCIETY—

Funniest testimony of the week — "I said, 'Well, Bud, just be sure that whatever you do, you tell the truth.'" — Attorney Gen-



Harry Ring

eral Meese, under oath, on what he said to then National Security Council chief Robert McFarlane.

Who said he's a racist dog — "Some Third World country would really have a financial bonanza in storing high-level nu-

clear waste under proper geological conditions there." — GOP presidential hopeful Paul Laxalt on what a neat idea it would be to dump U.S. nuclear waste in a "willing" underdeveloped country.

Law 'n order at Continental — Continental Airlines dropped charges against a passenger they had busted and handcuffed at O'Hare Airport after he assertedly incited other passengers about a three-hour takeoff delay. Forty passengers signed a petition assailing the arrest as "an unjust, outrageous, and barbaric act."

Case of the missing baggage worker — Those Delta mishaps

aren't just in the sky. In Atlanta, a baggage handler was locked into the luggage compartment of a plane preparing for takeoff. He was rescued after passengers heard him banging and yelling. It sort of suggests you keep an eye on what you grab from the baggage carousel.

Sounds like something for Delta — New York area transportation officials look forward to reducing airport jam-ups with the tilt rotorcraft, which takes off and lands like a helicopter and flies like a plane. It could be used on shuttle flights, they said, landing in D.C. and New York downtown areas.

Sounds reasonable — The Justice Department decided not to

prosecute Pratt & Whitney for \$22 million in billings that included charter fishing trips, Frisbees, and model planes. Why? Because the air force approved all the items. The air force contract officer who forgot to tell them it was a no-no is currently assigned to General Dynamics, masters in the art of overbilling.

Averaging it out — While General Dynamics may indulge in overbilling, it balances it off by illegally underreporting job injuries and illnesses. Like the 121 cases at its Electric Boat Division, for which OSHA just fined it \$615,000.

The sane society — To get rid of 15,000 containers of radium-

contaminated soil, New Jersey environmental officials shipped a test lot to the Oak Ridge nuke facility where it will be laced with radioactive waste. If this boosts the poison level high enough, it will qualify for federal burial. If not, they'll return to plan number 1: bury the stuff in a New Jersey wildlife preserve.

Thought for the week — John Dean: "You might put it on a national security grounds basis." Robert Haldeman: "It absolutely was." Richard Nixon: "National security. We had to get information for national security." John Dean: "I think we could get by on that." — A Watergate exchange on the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office.

Linder's brother confronts Bush on contra crimes

Continued from front page

dinistas had done so also. He praised Lt. Col. Oliver North's testimony before the congressional committee investigating the Iran-contra arms deals, claiming that this had produced a "surge of support" for the war.

The audience listened quietly when Linder spoke. Bush was applauded when he finished. A few people asked questions in a way that indicated sympathy with the contras. In an interview with the *Militant* after the meeting, Linder said he thought it would be wrong to read much into the response.

"While Chris Schultz and I were eating at a restaurant a few miles away, two of the people who had been at the meeting came in and talked with us. We had a very good discussion about Nicaragua. I think the facts I was stating were very new to many

people in that audience, and most of them thought that applauding was the polite thing to do when a person as prominent as the vice-president comes to your community."

"Basically, Bush was saying," John Linder told the *Militant*, "that my brother asked for it by refusing to go along with Washington's undeclared war."

"It's certainly true that the U.S. government supports the contras," Linder told the *Militant*. "In fact, there would be no contra army if it weren't for the support of the U.S. government."

"But does this justify murdering my brother? The United States is neither officially nor legally at war with Nicaragua, and U.S. citizens have every legal right to work there, as the U.S. State Department itself has affirmed."

"Moreover, nearly everybody in Nicaragua is 'on the other side' against U.S. pol-

icy," Linder observed, "and therefore, by Bush's definition, a legitimate target."

Linder quoted a top contra commander's statement that the contras' goal is to "destroy the entire economic infrastructure" of Nicaragua. "That makes every farmer, every teacher, every development worker in Nicaragua a target," said Linder.

He noted that previously, administration officials have claimed they were trying to persuade the contras to focus on military, rather than civilian targets. "But in this case," Linder explained, "the instance of a contra murder of a civilian that has been most publicized in this country because a U.S. citizen was the victim, the Reagan administration stands publicly with the murderers."

"Meanwhile, the contras have stated they will kill more foreign volunteers, and no one in the administration says this is wrong."

PAULLINA, Iowa — Linder got a warm response when he spoke to an audience of 100 people in this town of 1,200 on July 31. Some had come from as far as 40 miles away to attend the meeting. Farmers and their families made up the bulk of the audience.

The response during the discussion after Linder spoke was generally sympathetic. One farmer commented, "The people running this country seem to think they can impose a moratorium on revolutions."

—CALENDAR—

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Malcolm X and the Struggle for Justice Today. Film: *El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz*. Speaker: Mark Emanation, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Boston, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Local 1. Sat., Aug. 22, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter. Film, followed by discussion about working women during World War II. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

The Committee in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala Invites You to a Party. Guatemalan food, music provided by a DJ. Sat., Aug. 29, 9 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 104 W. 14th St. For more information call (212) 279-2704.

PENNSYLVANIA

Avonmore

Old Fashioned Labor Rally for Striking Members of the United Mine Workers of America Locals 2456 and 6986. Wed., Aug. 22, 9:30 a.m. at the Italian Club. UMW President Richard Trumka will speak at the rally.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Issues in the "Baby M" Case. Speakers: Ellen Brickley, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun. Aug. 23, 6 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

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Haitian government escalates violence



Militant/Harvey McArthur
July 29 Port-au-Prince march against Tontons Macoutes and KNG. Sign reads: "The KNG is the biggest Macoute."

Continued from front page
dent of the Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti.

The way forward

These attacks reflect the regime's growing isolation from most sectors of Haitian society. However, it still clings to power.

Discussions are going on among opposition groups on what strategy can achieve victory.

The July 30-31 general strike called by the Committee of 57 to protest the army's murder of peaceful demonstrators here was largely successful. Workers in major cities across the nation stayed home in massive numbers, except in the two northern cities of Gonaïves and Cap-Haïtien. Public transport was halted, government offices deserted, and most shops and factories closed.

But after two days, the Coordinating Committee of the Committee of 57 ended the strike, asking people to spend the next week in prayer and reflection.

The Committee of 57 was formed on June 25 by church, labor, political, and other groups. It is one of the few groups in Haiti with sufficient authority to call nationwide protests in its own name.

On July 25 the *Militant* spoke with Jean-

Claude Bajeux, a leader of the National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements (CONACOM). The CONACOM is one of the main forces in the Committee of 57. Bajeux is one of the committee's main public spokespersons.

Bajeux said the CONACOM was still in favor of the ouster of the KNG, but it felt the movement was not strong enough to win that goal. So it was prepared to settle for something less.

"We are flexible," he said. "We have our maximum and our minimum demands." The CONACOM's minimum demand would be a significant change in the composition of the military junta and the cabinet, together with moves to reign in the Macoutes and protect democratic rights.

Other activists both inside and outside the Committee of 57 disagree. They told us that the key goal of the struggle has to remain the complete removal of the KNG, without which democratic rights will be constantly under attack and the ability to fight for other social and economic demands severely curtailed.

The *Militant* spoke to two leaders of the United Democratic Federation (KID), Eddy Jeune and Aramick Louis. The KID is composed of peasant and neighborhood

committees and local political groups, with roots in the struggle that forced Duvalier to flee. The KID holds that the struggle today must aim at ousting the KNG.

While at first it was not part of the Committee of 57, the KID later joined it to try to push the committee to actively organize mass actions against the junta.

The KID was not in favor of ending the July 30-31 general strike.

Jeune and Louis added that their group has been working to develop ties between the Committee of 57 and left-wing groups outside it, with the aim of common action against the KNG.

The *Militant* also spoke with leaders of the National People's Assembly (APN), a coalition of union, peasant, and left-wing political groups. The assembly is particularly active in support of peasant struggles.

The APN is not part of the 57 and criticizes it for being "reformist" and "opportunistic." But the assembly actively supported the strike against the junta, as well as previous strikes.

In an interview earlier this month, APN leader Franz Jean said that fighting to overturn the KNG was not a central question, since the removal of the junta would leave the economic and social order unchanged.

More recently, however, in the wake of the latest protests and the escalating government violence, he told us that he felt that the main priority of the struggle had become the removal of the KNG. He said that the APN was participating in consultations now going on among the different forces to try to achieve the broader unity necessary to win this goal.

Hands off Haiti!

Were it not for the support it receives from the U.S., Canadian, and other imperialist governments, the military junta here would have been overturned long ago. Foreign interference is costing the Haitian people much blood and suffering.

The guns, bullets, and other military equipment being used to kill people here are supplied by Washington.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Haiti admitted to the *Miami Herald* that Washington has supplied uniforms, communications gear, field equipment, and trucks to the KNG. He added that training teams "that provided instruction in civil-disturbance control were sent to Haiti for several weeks." Many Haitians have died in the last months as a result of the army's "civil-disturbance control" techniques.

Bajeux emphasized to us that the U.S. embassy is the only real supporter of the KNG in Haiti. He said that 12 U.S. advisers are working with the Haitian army.

U.S. war moves behind Mecca slaughter

Continued from front page
dispersed the demonstrators.

But one resident of Mecca, in a telephone interview with the British news agency Reuters, said the violence had lasted about five hours, which would be quite a prolonged "stampede."

It was charged that exit areas were blocked off and fire hoses turned on the pilgrims.

The Iranian government sent a team of investigators to Saudi Arabia, but they were barred from entering the country.

Meanwhile, the White House accused Iran of "escalating its campaign of tension, intimidation, and destabilization" in the gulf region and announced that the Pentagon was weighing the creation of a special command to take direct charge of the rapidly growing U.S. military presence in the Gulf.

Reporters were told that under one proposal, a three-star admiral would head up such a command.

One administration official boasted, "We're sending so much over there that the water level is going to go up two or three inches when it's all in place."

The U.S. force operating in the gulf or near its entrance includes an aircraft carrier, guided missile cruiser, destroyers, and other ships.

It was reported August 5 that the Pentagon is readying special operations troops to be dispatched to the scene. This is purportedly to fend off "terrorist" or "suicide" attacks by Iran.

The declared purpose of this reckless operation is to escort Kuwaiti oil tankers through the gulf, under U.S. flag and command. This is supposedly to preserve "free-

dom of the seas" from a claimed Iranian threat.

The real purpose is to support the Iraqi regime, which is now losing its seven-year war with Iran. Washington fears a defeat for Iraq would strengthen Iran's independent role in the region.

The reflagging operation is set up as a provocation that could be used as the pretext for a military blow against Iran.

While the Kuwaiti regime is cooperating with the reflagging operation, it has so far refused, along with other gulf governments, to provide bases for U.S. minesweeping helicopters dispatched to the area.

Compounding Washington's difficulties is the refusal thus far of its European allies to provide minesweeping boats or other forms of naval support.

The governments of Great Britain, France, Italy, and West Germany all said no to U.S. requests for such assistance.

These governments share Washington's hostility to Iran, but fear U.S. military provocations may prove politically disastrous.

Six U.S. minesweeping boats are being shipped to the area, but are not expected to arrive for a month.

Meanwhile, eight huge minesweeping helicopters were sent in. Because Washington can't get land bases for them, they will have to operate from the deck of the *Guadalcanal*, a big helicopter landing ship.

The dangers inherent in that kind of operation were underlined when a Navy helicopter crashed into the water while trying to land on the deck of a ship July 30.

One of the crew was killed and three were missing and presumed dead.

The minesweeping helicopters will also have the very dangerous job of flying low over the water and dragging the heavy minesweeping equipment.

Meanwhile, Washington's difficulties in politically isolating Iran were accentuated by reports indicating a reduction of tension between Iran and the USSR and possible moves toward economic and industrial cooperation between them.

Announcement of the discussions was made in Moscow and Teheran August 4.

An Iranian press agency dispatch said, "The two sides discussed the building of oil pipelines, expansion of cooperation in the area of power and steel, oil refining, preliminary progress in joint shipping in the Caspian Sea, and plans to build a railroad linking the Soviet border with the Persian Gulf."

If such cooperation is achieved, it will increase Iran's capacity to resist the threats and pressure from Washington.

The resistance of the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran to accepting U.S. dictates creates enormous problems for Washington and its efforts to

hold back the anti-imperialist forces throughout the Mideast.

In the present situation, the Reagan administration is having difficulty winning a consensus on its use of potentially explosive gunboat diplomacy.

Just as its European allies are reluctant to be dragged along, there are serious questions among big-business interests in this country about the wisdom of the reflagging operation.

This was voiced in an August 4 editorial in the *New York Times*, which assailed the absence of "a coherent policy in Washington."

"It is up to President Reagan," the *Times* declared, "to develop and explain U.S. policy in the gulf. If it fails to do so, and if one more mishap occurs, the public demand for withdrawal of all American forces could become overwhelming.... Or a lack of policy could lead to an equally dangerous military overreaction."

There is one simple way to ensure that a military "overreaction" will not occur. There must be the strongest possible demand to get the U.S. gunboats out of the Persian Gulf.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Aug. 5, 1977

(The *Militant* did not appear Aug. 12, 1977. This is from the August 5 issue.)

Deeds speak louder than words. Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's July 26 deed, giving official sanction to three new Zionist settlements on the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River, speak louder than any of his rhetoric about a new Middle East "peace" plan.

Opposition to Zionist settlements has been a central demand of the Palestinian people on the West Bank ever since the area was seized by Israel during the 1967 Mideast war. Protests against the ultrarightist settlers at Camp Kadum — one of the three newly approved settlements — helped spark a wave of Palestinian demonstrations on the West Bank last year.

THE MILITANT

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Aug. 13, 1966

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Friends of the Cuban revolution and defenders of civil liberties in New York City are indignantly protesting the open cam-

paign of violence being carried on by Cuban counterrevolutionaries against pro-Castro Cubans and Cuban-Americans.

This protest took physical form on July 28 when some 200 people picketed City Hall to protest the wrecking of Casa Cuba, the city's second-oldest Cuban social club, two days before and to demand police action.

Counterrevolutionaries had chosen July 26, the anniversary of Fidel Castro's historic attack on the Batista regime's Moncada Barracks, as the date for their attack on Casa Cuba. Late at night, when everybody had left the club, they broke in, accompanied by press photographers and TV cameramen, and made a shambles of the place.

Earlier that evening Casa Cuba representatives had called the attention of police to the presence outside the hall of menacing groups connected with counterrevolutionary organizations known to have engaged in violent political acts.

The speedy and militant action of Casa Cuba in calling a picket line at City Hall and demanding protection and the arrest of the hallwreckers — recognizable from the TV-news films showing them in the act — brought some immediate results. Within a few days, police announced one arrest, and when the Cuban social club held a gala reopening party August 3, a hundred cops were seen on duty in the vicinity.

S. African unionists challenge apartheid

Continued from Page 11

called for "total and mandatory sanctions" against South Africa and appealed to foreign corporations with operations in the country to divest.

Several resolutions touched on international questions. COSATU vowed its full support for the independence of Namibia, which is now a South African colony, and pledged to back the National Union of Namibian Workers.

The delegates also voted to establish ties with workers' organizations in other parts of Africa, such as Angola and Mozambique, as well as in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and the Philippines.

Explaining this move, Naidoo stated, "Workers throughout the world are victims of U.S. government sponsored terrorism.... In this country we are also victims of that kind of imperialism."

New blow to bilingual education

Bilingual education suffered a setback when the governor of California vetoed a bill extending the state's bilingual education program, the most extensive in the nation.

Gov. George Deukmejian's July 24 veto means that in Los Angeles alone, about 75,000 children who don't speak English as a first language will find themselves in English-only classes. Assertedly, they will receive some assistance from bilingual school aides.

The Deukmejian veto comes in the wake of passage of an "English-only" referendum in last November's voting. The referendum amended the California constitution to declare English the official language of the state.

This was pushed through by a right-wing anti-immigrant outfit calling itself U.S. English. From the outset, bilingual education was targeted in the California drive.

Nationwide, some 1.2 million children are enrolled in bilingual programs.

The English-only drive and the parallel push to roll back bilingual education will be given added momentum by the immigration law adopted last fall. This legislation is designed to increase the discrimination against immigrant workers and to put undocumented immigrants in greater jeopardy, making them more vulnerable to superexploitation.

Thirteen states and some 40 cities and counties have adopted English-only laws. Similar ones are pending in 33 other states.

These laws are intended to curb the rights of immigrants — on the job, in utilizing public and social services, and in political life.

The purpose is also to promote prejudice against immigrant workers, to divide the labor movement by pitting those who speak English against those who don't.

The drive against bilingual education is equally reactionary. Some of the more devious opponents of such education cloak their stand with the fraudulent argument that children will learn English better through "immersion."

This is simply a fancier version of the old "sink-or-swim" argument, long rejected by serious educators, who know that children learn better bilingually.

In 1974, the Supreme Court ruled the sink-or-swim approach unconstitutional, acceding to the demand for bilingual education then being vigorously pressed by the Chicano movement and by other oppressed nationalities.

The real problem with bilingual education in this country is that it's shamefully inadequate.

In Los Angeles, nearly half the children seeking bilingual education are getting it only in a makeshift way, due to the acute shortage of bilingual teachers. It is these children whose education rights are now under attack with the Deukmejian veto.

What's needed is a major expansion of bilingual education and the initiation of serious bicultural programs.

Immigrant workers are now joining the labor force in substantial numbers. To the extent that they are denied their rights — including the elementary right to use their own language — all working people pay a price.

This is particularly so right now, when labor is under heavy attack. An effective response to that attack demands the solidarity of all workers.

That's why the union movement should be leading the fight for the preservation and extension of bilingual, bicultural education, as well as against the jingoistic "English-only" campaign.

Gov't forced to expunge files

A federal district court judge has ordered the government to expunge the records resulting from an illegal wiretap placed on the home telephone of a *New York Times* reporter. The July 31 ruling is the result of a lawsuit, filed in 1976, against former president Richard Nixon and four officials of his administration. The wiretap was approved by then attorney general John Mitchell.

The judge also directed the government to turn over to the reporter, Hedrick Smith, the logs of 138 conversations monitored over 89 days from June to August 1969. Most of the records, the judge found, had been personal conversations between family members and friends.

Last December the U.S. Court of Appeals held that Smith could not recover damages. But the appeals court returned to district court Smith's request for expunging the records, which the lower court granted.

The issues raised in this case are similar to those involved in the lawsuit filed against the government by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance in 1973. Does the government have the right to invade the privacy or the legally protected political activity of individuals, trade unionists, Black rights activists, fighters for women's equality, or opponents of the government's policy? In doing so, does the government have the right to use illegal and unconstitutional methods, such as mail covers, informers, wiretaps, and black bag jobs? Does the government have the right to maintain files obtained illegally and to disseminate them to other government agencies, private employers, and cop outfits at its discretion?

On Aug. 25, 1986, federal Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that the FBI's decades-long spying and disruption opera-

tion against the SWP and YSA 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 SWP and YSA presented the judge with their proposal, which would forbid any use of the files by the government.

The Justice Department and 11 other government agencies filed affidavits arguing that barring the use of the illegally obtained files on the SWP and YSA would seriously hamper their work. They insist upon the need for timely, accurate, and complete intelligence information.

The affidavits stand in glaring contradiction to the government's assertion that it ended its national security surveillance of the SWP and YSA in 1976 because it was unwarranted.

The FBI alone maintains secret files containing more than 9 million pages on the SWP and YSA and tens of thousands of individuals associated with these groups. This staggering number of files has revealed only lawful, constitutionally protected activity by the SWP and YSA.

The government's affidavits are a serious challenge to the rights of all working people. They are tantamount to a declaration that the government stands above the law and the Constitution. Attorney General Edwin Meese, the FBI, and other cop agencies assert their right to spy on, harass, and disrupt strikers, demonstrators, communists, and all other opponents of U.S. government policy.

The ruling in the Hedrick Smith case is an important precedent in the fight being waged to bar the use of the files on the SWP and YSA.

August 29 meat-packers' rally

There are high stakes for meat-packers in the outcome of the struggle at John Morrell & Co. packing plants in Iowa and South Dakota. For that reason, the August 29 rally called by Sioux Falls, South Dakota, meat-packers is a focal point for the fightback against the packinghouse bosses.

Last March, workers at Morrell's plant in Sioux City, Iowa, 90 miles from Sioux Falls, voted down a takeback contract that included a \$1.25-an-hour pay cut. The unionists decided to keep working while negotiations continued. But after Morrell arbitrarily suspended 37 workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local 1142 voted to go on strike.

The Iowa meat-packers set up pickets outside the South Dakota Morrell plant on May 1 after negotiations broke down.

The 2,700 members of UFCW Local 304A in South Dakota went out on a sympathy strike. They realized that Morrell wants to take what it can from the Iowa meat-packers and then try to impose similar concessions on

meat-packers in South Dakota when their contract expires in November.

Morrell quickly moved to restart production in Sioux Falls with scabs. The cops and state troopers attacked the picket lines. The company obtained a sweeping court injunction limiting picketing and mandating heavy fines against the local's officers if the injunction is violated.

Morrell's assault is not unique. Meat-packers across the country are facing similar attacks. On July 26 members of UFCW Local 222 at IBP in Dakota City, Nebraska, signed a new contract ending a tough seven-month struggle. Workers at Patrick Cudahy in Milwaukee have been on strike since January.

The Sioux Falls meat-packers have taken the initiative by calling the August 29 demonstration. Meat-packers and other unionists who participate in the action and throw their weight into the fight against Morrell will also be advancing their own struggles against the employers' takeback demands. If Morrell is beaten back, the fight of all working people will be advanced.

Int'l brigades have rich tradition in U.S.

BY DOUG JENNESS

The specter of Ben Linder's death continues to haunt the ruling circles in this country.

A few weeks ago when the House of Representatives voted to restrict travel to Nicaragua (a bill that is still pending in the Senate), several legislators defended the measure by arguing that it would keep the likes of Linder

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

out of Nicaragua. The House action purports to bar any travel that will militarily help the Nicaraguan government. Linder, according to their fairy tales, was in Nicaragua to serve as a combatant with the Sandinistas.

More recently, when Vice-president George Bush thought he was going to have a folksy discussion with the residents of a small town in South Dakota, he ended up in a debate with Ben Linder's brother, John — a confrontation that was nationally publicized in the newspapers and on television.

The reason the Linder murder is a thistle in the craws of big-business politicians is that Linder's example has struck such a deep resonance among millions of people in this country.

In spite of the smears that Linder was a military combatant, most everybody knows that he was using his skills as an engineer to help Nicaraguans in rural areas develop hydroelectric power.

Linder's commitment stands in refreshing contrast to the self-seeking and cynicism that pervades so much of U.S. society, from top evangelists to government officials. His example is a source of considerable inspiration to many working people who have skills they would like to put to use helping other people. There are tens of thousands, who, if given an opportunity, would volunteer to go to Nicaragua and help do the kind of work Linder was doing.

In fact, that was why John Linder was in South Dakota. He, along with his sister Miriam; his parents, David and Elisabeth; and colleagues of Ben's are touring the United States raising funds to help finish the project Ben started. Their tour will help encourage thousands more to take Ben's place in Nicaragua.

Poverty, disease, and lack of schools — conditions imposed by years of imperialist oppression — are common in many other countries, too. But they don't attract thousands of international volunteers. The governments in those countries aren't organizing projects to help working people. Instead, they bolster the rich.

There's a recognition, however, that volunteer aid in Nicaragua can make a real difference — because the government is actively attempting to advance the interests of working people.

Volunteers going to Nicaragua are not the first representatives from the United States to help people who have overthrown tyranny and are charting a course to build a new society.

Nearly 70 years ago, U.S. workers and farmers participated in an international campaign to assist victims of famine in the young Soviet republic established in the former Russian empire. Hunger and pestilence were rampant in 1921 in the wake of a civil war in which troops from more than a dozen capitalist countries helped Russia's "contras" try to overthrow the workers' and peasants' regime established in October 1917.

In *Lenin's Unfinished Fight*, a collection of V.I. Lenin's last writings to be published by Pathfinder in a couple of months, there are some materials that document the international aid campaign for Russia.

In 1921 the International Workers' Aid Society was formed, which raised funds from the international workers' movement to help famine victims. In 1922 it sent machines and tools to Russia, along with teams of workers and farmers to help provide skills to a war-torn economy that suffered from the legacy of semifeudal land relations and Tsarist tyranny.

One such team was made up of 10 farmers from the United States. Bringing with them 20 tractors, implements, and tools for a machine shop, they demonstrated U.S. farmers' techniques by plowing thousands of acres on a large state-owned farm near Perm.

In a letter written in December 1922 praising the work of the U.S. tractor team, Lenin wrote, "The work of economic assistance, so happily begun by the International Workers' Aid to Soviet Russia, should be supported in every possible way by the workers and toilers of the whole world. Side by side with the continuing strong political pressure on the governments of the bourgeois countries over the demand for recognition of the Soviet government, widespread economic aid by the world proletariat is at present the best and most practical support of Soviet Russia in her difficult economic war against the imperialist concerns and the best support for her work of building a socialist economy."

These words ring true today for Nicaragua as it attempts to reconstruct its economy and make social advances in the face of Washington's dirty contra war.

The miners' battle against Massey Coal Company

Mine War on Blackberry Creek. Directed by Anne Johnson. Produced and distributed by Appalshop Films.

BY DOUG HORD

Although the title is a bit of an exaggeration, *Mine War on Blackberry Creek* is a video worth checking out.

The video documents the 1984-85 strike at A.T. Massey Coal Co. mines in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky. At the end of 30 minutes, the viewer has a

VIDEO REVIEW

sense of the battle that unfolded. On one side stood the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and its community supporters. On the other stood Massey, its private army of thugs, the courts, and the cops.

Working people will quickly focus on the miners and their supporters in the community, who for generations have been living under the economic and political domination of the coal operators.

Several things stand out. First, the clear class point of view expressed by Don Blankenship, Massey's point man in the area. Blankenship argues that Massey was responding to the dictates of "capitalism" when it attacked the union. Because of stiff competition, the company had

to find ways of increasing profits.

"The union and the communities are just going to have to accept it," Blankenship says.

He proudly explains that Massey's union-busting tactics can serve as an example for all West Virginia coal companies.

The importance of internationalism in workers' struggles against the employers and the government also comes through. The video includes footage of living and working conditions for Blacks in South Africa. During the Massey strike, the UMWA exposed the company's ties to the hated South African apartheid regime. These exposures helped strengthen the resolve of UMWA members to fight and threw Massey on the defensive.

Finally, *Mine War on Blackberry Creek* has a certain inconclusiveness that distinguishes it from other films about the UMWA such as *Harlan County USA*. In that film, the struggle for union recognition at the Brookside mine in Kentucky was fought to a successful conclusion.

In the closing moments of *Mine War*, Jim Reid, president of the UMWA local at the Sprouse Creek processing plant, where most of the footage was taken, says the miners "chose, at the request of [UMWA] President Richard Trumka, to go back to work unconditionally."

"Eventually," Reid says, "we're going to win, but it's a terrible thing to be working side by side with scabs."

He is referring to the fact that the UMWA International called off the strike in December 1985 after the National Labor Relations Board overturned Massey's claim that each of its affiliates was a single employer that would have to be bargained with separately.

Many union activists, however, were prevented by Massey from returning to their jobs. And the Supreme Court recently upheld the company's claim that the 1984 coal contract does not apply to all of its affiliated holdings.

Now, two and half years later, the union finds itself back to square one.

Reviewing the lessons of the Massey fight will prove useful to miners and others in the labor movement.

Some miners interviewed in the video think the union should have mobilized to shut down Massey's entire operation during the strike. An old-timer says, "If it takes 20,000 men, send 'em."

"Don't let anybody ever tell you you can't shut something down if you go about it right," a disabled Black miner explains.

Copies of the video can be rented or purchased by calling Appalshop Films at (606) 633-0108.

Doug Hord is a member of the American Flint Glass Workers Union Local 5 in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

LETTERS

The other side

Thanks for reporting and keeping me informed on current events. Also for printing the other side of the fence that is not reported in our newspapers, such as union issues, Nicaragua, South Korea, and our struggle at McDonnell Douglas.

M.P. Reed
Chairman,
United Auto Workers at
McDonnell Douglas
Long Beach, California

Bork nomination

The July 17 *Militant* article by Fred Feldman, "Will Bork nomination spell end to rights?" exemplifies the unrealistic and naive view most citizens have of the courts. Feldman's belittling the importance of the "swing vote" attempts to overlook its crucial impact on the ruling in question. Quite simply, it often determines the "yea" or "nay" of the decision.

Feldman also misinterprets the power and the purpose of the Supreme Court. While it is true that "rights are not gifts from benevolent judges," these same judges have it within their power to determine exactly what rights we have. The judicial branch has the authority to "interpret" the Constitution, amendments, even state law. The Supreme Court did not merely "attack" our right to be free of excessive bail, it actually deleted that half of the Eighth Amendment.

Democratic rights and prior case law are extremely fragile under the crushing blows of the court, and can and have been completely obliterated. Attaching "overruled" or "reverse" to an opinion justifies the nullification of established rights.

As long as courts, especially the Supreme Court, continue to legislate instead of adjudicate, our rights will not only erode, but vanish. If the "swing vote" determines a ruling that would outlaw abortion rights, for example, I am baffled how Feldman can conclude that it "will count for very little." America, get wise.

A prisoner
Loveland, Texas

Larry Davis

Many of us are quite familiar with the story of Larry Davis. For those of us who are not, the following is a brief recap of the incident leading to Davis' current incarceration.

On Nov. 19, 1986, New York City police officers received a tip on a suspect connected with the

murders of four drug dealers in the Longwood section of the South Bronx. At around 8:26 p.m. a cordon of 27 officers arrived at the home of Regina Lewis, a sister of the suspect. Twelve of the officers entered the apartment building, while the other 15 positioned themselves around the building.

Six of the officers were admitted into the apartment by the suspect's sister. Apparently, the suspect was in a back room. The suspect opened fire on the officers, wounding all six. He then fled through a rear window of the apartment next door.

A citywide manhunt was launched to seize the suspect. Nineteen days after the incident, the suspect was seized in a Bronx apartment.

Presently, Larry Davis is incarcerated at Rikers Island, a New York City prison, where he contends that his life is in grave danger.

A series of events have left him with fractures to the skull, a broken wrist, a torn finger ligament, confinement for lengthy periods of time, a broken toe, and, most recently, a broken nose suffered during a scuffle with an officer of the prison. In fact, Davis is being charged with attempted murder with a deadly ballpoint pen for the incident with a prison officer.

It's hard to say just exactly what is happening in this case. However, the inequalities in the legal system are what concern me the most. Why is it that Davis' claims haven't been taken seriously? Why is it that the media hasn't picked up on these claims?

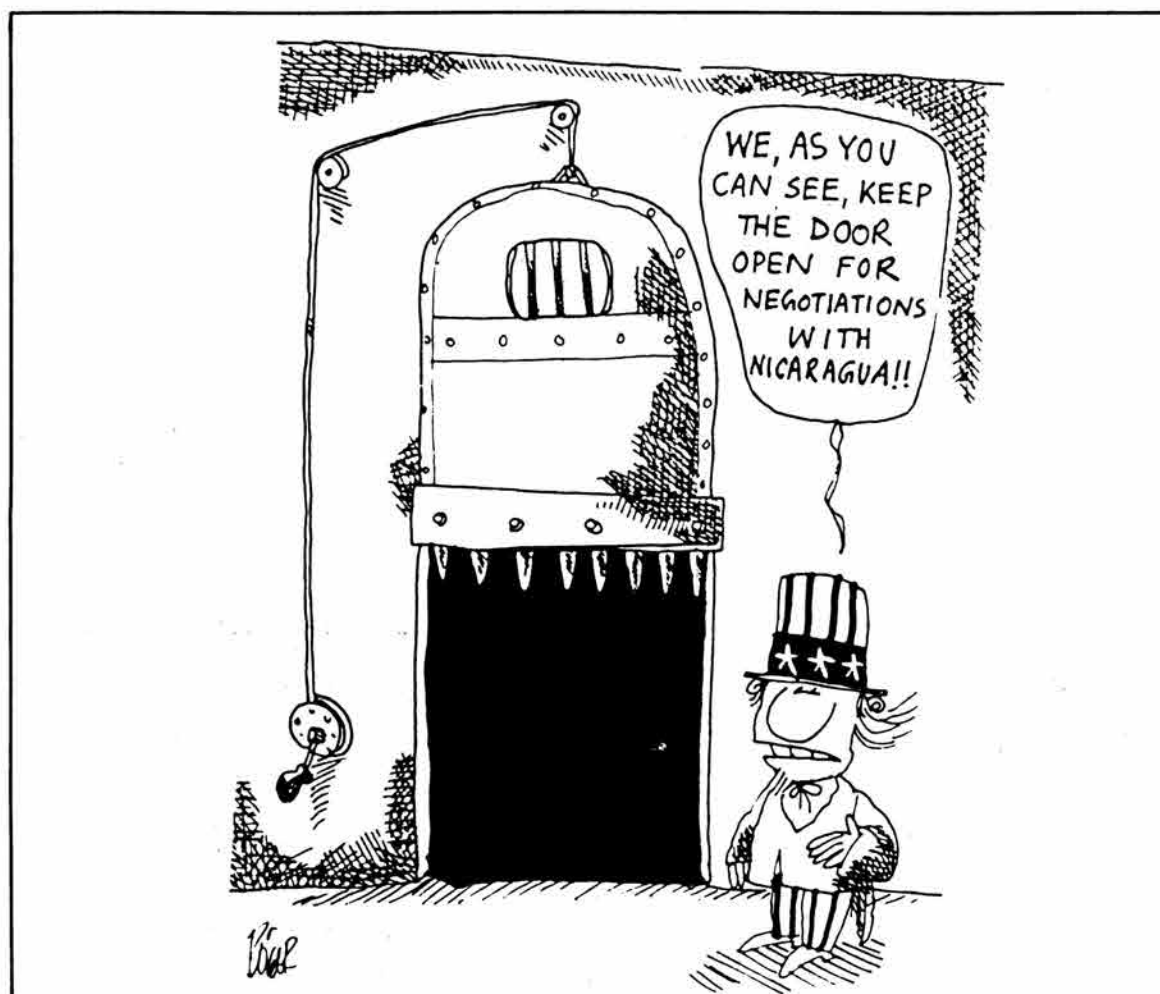
Davis has attempted, with no success, to have his charges against the New York City Police Department brought to trial. He believes his incoming mail and outgoing phone calls are censored. Why are they treating him in this fashion?

I encourage the forming of support groups to attend the hearings when they start on August 24 at the Bronx Supreme Court, to rally on Davis' behalf. Let's not let another brother down. Write and organize.

Adrienne Warden
New York, New York

Pakistan

I'm enjoying the *Militant*, but have one complaint. There isn't much about my country, Pakistan, nor about neighboring countries such as India and Afghanistan, nor about the role of the USSR, the Iran-Iraq war, and the role of the superpowers in that war.



Barricada/Róger

I hope I'll see something about this in the coming issues.

Talat Afroz
Birmingham, Alabama

Economics

Enjoy very much the history contained in many articles concerning various countries. I wonder if information on basic economy or economics is forthcoming.

J.P.
Baldwin, New York

Real news

I am now out of touch with the real news of the world due to the fact that my subscription to the *Militant* has expired. It would be appreciated if you could renew my sub so I can once again be in contact with the truth of the world.

A prisoner
Loveland, Texas

Merle Woo

In the latest of a series of actions against University of California, Berkeley Visiting Lecturer Merle Woo, an associate dean of the Graduate Division ruled that Woo had "not made a significant case to support the complaints" brought in her grievance petition.

The grievance charged that UC treated Woo, a socialist feminist and lesbian, in "an arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable manner."

When Woo won a discrimination case against UC in 1984, the university retaliated by violating her settlement agreement and refused to consider her for reappointment.

In her first case, Woo charged the University with discrimination based on race, sex, sexuality, and political ideology and violation of her First Amendment rights. In a second case, Woo charged the university with continuing retaliation based on filing those charges of discrimination.

Woo was one of just a few educators teaching in the field of English as a second language and bilingual education. In spite of this fact, the associate dean decided that Woo's skills were not needed in any program in education, and therefore there was no post for which she could be reviewed for appointment.

Woo, her union, and the Merle Woo Defense Committee intend to continue the grievance to the final step, a hearing with an outside arbitrator. Roz Spafford, a union official and Woo's representative, states, "Among the many important reasons the union supports Ms. Woo's case is that we must insist the university deal in good faith with its employees and keep its agreements. If the university can get away with violating its settlement agreement with Merle Woo, our whole contract agree-

ment, which covers 2,500 lecturers, is in jeopardy."

For more information on how you can help, write to the Merle Woo Defense Committee, 5121 Miles Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94618.

Nancy Reiko Kato
Merle Woo Defense Committee

Correction

In last week's *International Socialist Review* supplement to the *Militant*, featuring a speech by Fidel Castro, we ran a footnote that incorrectly identified Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, whom Castro referred to in his speech.

Céspedes was a leader of the first Cuban war of independence, which began in 1868 and was known as the Ten Years' War. He was killed in the fighting. The *Militant's* footnote mistakenly referred to his son, who was also named Carlos Manuel de Céspedes and who fought in the revolution of 1895 and the Spanish-American War.

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.

Coal and oil unions discuss merger

Possibility opens for ranks to forge solid fighting alliance

BY JOEL BRITTON

LOS ANGELES — The July-August OCAW Reporter announced that the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers and the United Mine Workers of America "will engage in exploratory merger talks."

Following the mine workers' union lead, OCAW President Joseph Misbrenner recommended that a four-person "special merger exploratory committee" be appointed by the union's executive board to engage in the talks and that it be made up of OCAW Secretary-Treasurer Michael Ricigliano, Assistant to the President Dean Alexander, OCAW general counsel John McKendree, and District 2 Executive Board member Rex Donohue, who is also secretary-treasurer of the Bacchus, Utah, OCAW Local 2-591.

The board unanimously approved the establishment of the committee, says the Reporter. United Mine Workers President Richard Trumka has also appointed a five-member UMWA merger committee.

Last fall a special UMWA convention adopted a report that proposed close UMWA-OCAW collective bargaining cooperation on the coal and oil contracts that replace those expiring Jan. 31, 1988. Many coal mines are now owned by oil and chemical companies with which the OCAW bargains. The Mine Workers delegates were determined not to retreat from their "no concessions" stand in the 1984 contract round with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. The UMWA is the only U.S. union to effectively stand up to the intense takeback drive of the employers and their government in the past decade. A recent round of UMWA strikes in western coalfields have registered victories against companies, including Pittsburg & Mid-

way, a Chevron oil subsidiary.

At last fall's UMWA convention, the miners decided to pursue "affiliation or merger with an existing labor organization" and heard greetings from OCAW's Misbrenner. The delegates authorized the UMWA International Executive Board "to approve any affiliation or merger ... so long as such action preserves the character and integrity of the union and is in the best interests of the organization. Any such IEB action shall insure that the democratic rights of all UMWA members as heretofore practiced shall be preserved."

The traditional militancy of the miners, and the hard-won conquests of the 1970s for democratic rights within the union, are the envy of other unionists and are jealously guarded by the UMWA ranks. Miners have the right to read, discuss, and vote on proposed contracts. Through their health and safety committees they have a contractual right to stop production in a mine and order the withdrawal of miners to safety when a committee determines "an imminent danger exists."

The UMWA has blocked company demands for two-tier wage structures and the introduction of probationary periods for new hires.

Oil and chemical workers will welcome the discussion now opening up in OCAW on how to forge a solid fighting alliance and possible merger of the unions in these closely related industries. OCAW members from Salt Lake City-area oil refineries recently joined with coal miners from the Price, Utah, and other western coalfields to exchange experiences and talk about common health and safety concerns.

Women oil workers attending the Coal Employment Project conference in Bir-

mingham, Alabama, in June met and talked with many coal miners, including Navajo women fresh from their successful strike against Pittsburg & Midway in New Mexico.

UMWA President Trumka told the OCAW women at the CEP conference of his recent report to OCAW's northeastern states District 8 council. He related his several hours of friendly discussion with council delegates and told the women oil workers that he was looking forward to attending the National Oil Bargaining conference this fall. Delegates from OCAW and other union locals that bargain for some 45,000 oil workers will discuss contract demands

and strategy and will hear a report by Trumka.

The OCAW Reporter announces the Oil Bargaining Conference in its page 2 calendar of union activities and reports that it will be held September 28-30 in Denver at the Radisson Hotel. Rank-and-file OCAW and UMWA members could advance the prospects for a solid fighting alliance and the closest possible unity in action by their unions by joining together for a deeper discussion at this conference.

Joel Britton is an operator at the Chevron refinery in El Segundo, California, and is a member of OCAW Local 1-547.



Militant/Judy Stranahan
UMWA rally in Hayden, Colorado, on July 25. Many coal mines are owned by large oil companies. Miners' and oil workers' unions both have contracts with these companies that expire on Jan. 31, 1988.

Aug. 30 actions to demand justice for Puerto Ricans

BY SAM MANUEL

A "National March to Demand Justice and Civil Rights for Puerto Rican Political Prisoners" has been set for August 30 in Hartford, Connecticut. The march will assemble at Park and Zion streets at 10 a.m. and proceed to a rally at Betances Park at Main and Park streets. Rallies will also be held in San Francisco and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The actions will mark the second anniversary of the Aug. 30, 1985, raid in Puerto Rico carried out by more than 200 FBI agents from the United States. Armed with automatic weapons, they invaded 37 homes and offices of Puerto Rican independence activists.

The raids served to demonstrate once again the colonial status of Puerto Rico. When Puerto Rico's Gov. Rafael Hernández Colón complained that neither he nor any member of his government were informed about the raid, the FBI responded, "When we have an order from a federal magistrate to raid a house we never consult the governor."

Thirteen people were arrested that day, 11 of them in Puerto Rico. Three more have been arrested since, including an attorney from the United States. They are charged with participation in a \$7 million robbery of a Connecticut Wells Fargo depot in 1983, and with being members of a group called the Macheteros — meaning the machete wielders.

Though most were arrested in Puerto Rico, they have been brought to Hartford for trial. The march will support the prisoners demand that the trial be moved to Puerto Rico as part of their constitutional right to a jury of their peers.

The march will also demand that the Bail Reform Act of 1984 be struck down. Two of those arrested, Enrique Segarra Palmer, and Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, remain imprisoned in a Hartford jail under the "preventative detention" provisions of that act. This measure allows the courts to deny bail to anyone deemed "dangerous."

Pretrial hearings have revealed widespread violations of the constitutional rights of the independence activists by the FBI and other police authorities.

The August 30 actions are being organized by the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression. The committee was organized to win political and financial support for the prisoners. The action was also backed by the National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights at its last convention, held in Hartford.

Committees have been set up in 15 cities in the United States to build for the march.

In addition to growing support in the United States and Puerto Rico, the case of the Hartford 16 is receiving significant international attention. A conference of foreign ministers of the Movement of Non-aligned Countries held earlier this year in Guyana expressed "concern at reports pertaining to the imprisonment of Puerto Rican patriots in the United States."

The San Francisco rally will be held at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street. It will feature Elías Castro Ramos, one of the Hartford 16 defendants.

For more information on the August 30 march and rallies contact the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, 577 Columbus Ave., New York, N.Y. 10024 or call (212) 927-9065.

Colo. rally backs striking miners

BY MARY GREY

HAYDEN, Colo. — Some 500 people participated in a coal miners' "unity rally" at the Routt County Fairgrounds here July 25.

Called by seven coal locals in this area, the event celebrated the recent contract victories at Pittsburg and Midway (P&M) and Peabody mines in western Colorado. They also helped marshal support for miners on strike at Colorado Yampa Coal Co. near here and at Wyoming Coal outside Trinidad, Colorado.

At Yampa Coal, the 45 members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1344 have been on strike since April 22.

Yampa Coal recently offered to drop its demand for eliminating seniority but insisted that scabs hired since the beginning of the strike could keep their jobs. The company also refused to back off of its firing of five UMWA members. Members of Local 1344 did not consider this a serious offer.

Rail workers and electrical workers from local power plants joined miners and their families at the rally. Farmers from the area donated the beef, lamb, and pork for the barbecue.

Throughout the day, miners exchanged stories and discussed their experiences during the western strikes.

UMWA members from Peabody's Seneca mine proudly wore their new shirts,

which said, "UMWA Local 1385. Strike of '87. 'Hell no, we won't forget.'"

Women from Gallup, New Mexico, shared photographs of their battle with P&M and sold "UMWA-Navajoland-Gallup" T-shirts.

UMWA International Vice-president Cecil Roberts and Secretary-treasurer John Banovic spoke at the rally.

"We held together in solidarity and unity," Roberts said, "and won. The brothers and sisters at Peabody and P&M won, but we won't rest until all our brothers and sisters have a UMWA contract at Colorado Yampa and Wyoming Coal in Trinidad."

Read miners' paper

Oil and chemical workers and other unionists will find the June issue of the *United Mine Workers Journal* of special interest.

A seven-page section on "Western Victories" highlights the recent coal miners' strikes against Pittsburg & Midway, Peabody, and FMC.

Individuals may subscribe to the *Journal* for \$10 a year. Write to UMW Journal Subscriptions, UMWA Data Edit Dept., 900 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.