

Arms train runs down antiwar Vietnam vet

BY STEVEN FUCHS

SAN FRANCISCO — The base commander knew that antiwar protesters would be on the tracks on September 1 as the munitions train passed through the strip of public property within the U.S. Naval Weapons Station at Concord.

But the train didn't stop. It ran over Brian Willson, a 46-year-old Vietnam veteran. He was among the 45 people protesting arms shipments to Central America via the naval station. The train dragged Willson 25 feet, severed his right leg, hopelessly mangled his left foot, and caused severe head injuries. By the time he was released from eight hours of surgery, both his legs had been amputated.

Willson had become a nationally known opponent of the U.S. war in Central America when he joined three other veterans in a month-long fast on the steps of the Capitol in Washington last year. Having received support from vets all over the country during the fast, he and others later formed the Veterans Peace Action Team.

In May, Willson helped lead a delegation of veterans to Nicaragua. The vets have organized four groups of volunteers to

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Brian Willson (second from right) participated in February 1987 protest against U.S.-organized contra war at the U.S. embassy in Managua, Nicaragua.

Coup attempt deepens Philippine crisis

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

At least 40 people were killed and hundreds wounded in the events in the Philippines initiated by the August 28 assault by mutinous soldiers on the Malacañang presidential palace, television stations, and key military camps in Manila.

This coup attempt marked the most serious bid yet by rightist elements to bring down the government of President Corazon Aquino and reverse the democratic space won by the Philippine workers and farmers through their overthrow of the U.S.-backed tyranny of Ferdinand Marcos 18 months ago.

It highlighted the depth of the divisions that continue to wrack the Philippine ruling class in face of a continuing popular clamor for land and labor rights.

The coup attempt came in the midst of a resurgence of popular unrest, culminating in an August 26 nationwide strike focused

on a 20 percent increase in oil prices imposed by the Aquino government in early August. Coming after a six-month decline in strike activity, and a renewed landlord-backed vigilante terror campaign against land-hungry peasants and farm workers, the scope and intensity of the protests caught the regime by surprise.

"The general strike . . . protesting fuel increases and a resulting spiral in the prices of other goods and services drew a broad spectrum of the Philippine population together for the first time in opposition to an Aquino policy," commented the *New York Times*.

The immediate target of the August 28 military action was unambiguous. "The aim of the rebels was clearly to kill the president and her family," Aquino explained August 30. Aquino's son had been wounded and three of his bodyguards killed during the unsuccessful assault on

the palace.

Some 2,000 soldiers were reported to have been directly involved in the attacks in Manila, who succeeded in occupying sections of the defense headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo and of the Villamor air base. Hundreds more took over military camps in the provinces.

In Cebu, the Philippines' second-largest city, the military commander arrested the mayor and the provincial governor and placed the city under martial rule. Officer cadets at the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio, in northern Luzon, where an earlier assassination attempt on Aquino had been made, also identified with the mutineers.

In fact, the chief of staff, Gen. Fidel Ramos had to bring trusted marine units into the capital before he could suppress the rebellion. According to the *New York Times*, "Some military officials said other units might not have been prepared to fire on the mutineers. They said that many members of the armed forces appeared to have remained uncommitted and that some garrisons outside Manila had been prepared to join the uprising but it was crushed too quickly."

The organizers of the coup attempt were a group of rightist military officers linked to Marcos' minister of defense, Juan Ponce Enrile, and headed by his former security aide, Col. Gregorio Honasan.

This group's first coup attempt, against Marcos in February 1986, fell short. A massive "people power" uprising then toppled Marcos and swept Aquino into the presidency. Enrile had to make do with his old post as minister of defense in the new government. Aquino was forced to sack him under public pressure last November, after his "boys" were implicated in a coup plot against Aquino and in the kidnap, torture, and murder of labor leader Rolando Olalia.

During Honasan's latest effort, Enrile dropped out of public sight after refusing a request from the U.S. embassy to call on his protégé to back off.

Washington was clearly concerned at the depth of the divisions revealed within the Philippine ruling class and its military

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S. Africa miners' union gains in strike

BY SAM MANUEL

On August 30 the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa voted to end their three-week strike in the country's crucial gold and coal mines. More than 300,000 Black miners participated in the labor action. It was the largest and longest miners' strike in the history of the apartheid regime. The walkout affected one-half of the gold mines and one-fifth of the coal mines, costing the mineowners an estimated \$10 to \$15 million a day.

The strike also dealt a blow in the broader struggle to bring down the hated apartheid regime. It was backed by the 1-million-member Congress of South African Trade Unions, of which the five-year-old National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is a leading affiliate. It also spurred strike action by thousands of workers in other industries as well.

The strike received support from the 2-million-member United Democratic Front, a coalition of anti-apartheid organizations, and from the outlawed African National Congress.

Stressing the political implications of the strike, Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the NUM, declared, "We are part and parcel of the liberation movement in our country."

The miners were demanding a 30 percent increase in wages. Black miners earn an average of \$250 a month, one-third of white miners' wages.

The union demanded the abolition of the migratory work system under which Black workers are forced to live in single-sex hostels away from their families for as long as 12 months.

The NUM also pressed for danger pay and increased death benefits. South African mines have the highest accident and

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Nicaragua calls on contras to lay down arms, accept amnesty

BY CINDY JAQUITH

PANCASAN, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government has launched a massive campaign to encourage contras in the pay of Washington to lay down their arms and receive amnesty.

Here in this small village in the mountains of central Nicaragua, Interior Minister Tomás Borge called on local peasants to become "missionaries of peace," spreading the word of amnesty to anyone they know in the contra ranks.

Borge spoke to a rally here August 27. The event commemorated the 20th anniversary of the establishment of a Sandinista guerrilla front here, of which Borge is one of the few survivors.

While peasant support for the revolution is strong in Pancasán, contras remain active in the surrounding mountains. Borge's entire speech was broadcast over the local radio station in the hopes that the mer-

cenaries would hear it and heed the offer of amnesty.

For several years, the Nicaraguan government has granted amnesty to any contras who lay down their arms. They are allowed to return freely to their communities, and thousands have already done so. But the Sandinistas are now trying to accelerate the pace of those deserting the contras in light of the Guatemala accords, which were signed August 7 by the presidents of Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Guatemala.

Under the agreement, all foreign aid to "irregular" military forces fighting in Central America — including U.S. aid to the contras — is to cease by November 7. By that same date, each Central American government is to have established an amnesty program, a cease-fire, and the removal of all restrictions on civil liberties.

The accords represent "a qualitative

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S. Africa hangs 2 freedom fighters

Two young Black men were hanged by the South African government on September 1. They were the first of 32 people condemned to death on murder charges resulting from their role in the struggle against the apartheid regime.

Moses Jantjies and Wellington Mielies were convicted of the murder of a Black township councilman, Ben Kinikini. Both men pleaded not guilty of the murder.

The executions took place despite an international campaign for clemency by anti-apartheid groups. Personal appeals were made by Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the West German government.

Winnie Mandela, a leader of the African National Congress, spoke to a memorial meeting attended by 300 people that was surrounded by heavily armed police. She condemned the white minority government and praised Jantjies and Mielies as martyrs.

Police attacked a meeting of 3,000 students at the University of the Western Cape protesting the hangings.

The Detainees' Parents Support Committee announced that the campaign to save the remaining 30 will continue.

Peace tour will visit scores of cities

The Benjamin Linder Peace Tour has recently announced a schedule for the family members and coworkers of Benjamin Linder. They are speaking about his life, his work in Nicaragua, and his murder by U.S.-organized contras. The schedule runs from Labor Day to the end of October.

David and Elisabeth Linder, Benjamin Linder's parents, will be in the Chicago, Illinois-Gary, Indiana, area from September 10-14; Champaign, Illinois, on September 16; Bloomington, Illinois, on September 17; Portland, Oregon (along with Miriam Linder, Benjamin's sister), September 25-27; and Boston, with Miriam Linder, October 15-18.

David Linder will tour Detroit, October 1-4 and Ann Arbor, Michigan, October 5.

With Miriam Linder, he will be in western Massachusetts, October 22-23 and Albany, New York, October 24-25. Lois Wessel, a friend of Benjamin's who served until recently as a translator for Nicaragua's National Assembly after participating in several coffee harvests, will join David Linder to tour Connecticut, October 28-31.

Elisabeth Linder and Tom Kruse, an architect who has worked in Nicaragua since

June 1986, will be in Pittsburgh, October 1-3 and Morgantown, West Virginia, October 4-5. Elisabeth Linder will be in Charleston, West Virginia, October 5; New Hampshire and Vermont, October 22-24; and Maine, with Miriam Linder, October 28-31.

Miriam Linder will be speaking in Seattle, September 12-15; Eugene, Oregon, September 17; Spokane, Washington, and Moscow, Idaho, September 19-22; and Ellensburg and Yakima Valley, Washington, October 3-4.

John Linder

John Linder, Benjamin's brother, will tour St. Louis with Tom Kruse September 10-13; Minneapolis-St. Paul and southern Minnesota, September 15-20; New Orleans, September 22-23; Greensboro, North Carolina, September 27-29; New Jersey, along with Lois Wessel, October 1-6; Philadelphia, October 8-10; Baltimore, October 11-14; Washington, D.C., with Lois Wessel, October 15-18; Montreal, Canada, October 23-24; Toronto, October 26-27; Ithaca, New York, October 29; and Syracuse, New York, October 30-31.

Tom Kruse will be in Carbondale, Illinois, September 14; Springfield, Illinois, September 16; Bloomington, Indiana, September 18; Dayton, Ohio, September 23; Columbus, Ohio, September 24; Buffalo, New York, September 26-27; Rochester, New York, September 28; Youngstown, Ohio, September 30; and Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia, October 6-8.

Lois Wessel will be in the Tidewater area of Virginia, September 28-29; Wilmington, Delaware, October 8; Reading, Pennsylvania, October 10; Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, October 12; Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, October 13; Harrisburg and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, October 14-15; Harrisonburg, Virginia, October 20-21; and Blacksburg and Roanoke, Virginia, October 26-27.

Linder coworker

Rebecca Leaf, an engineer working for the Nicaragua Energy Institute (for which Benjamin also worked), will be in Jacksonville and Gainesville, Florida, September 8-9; Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida, September 10-11; Tallahassee, Florida, September 13-14; and Jackson, Mississippi, September 15-16.

Anne Wihbey will be in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 8-10; Price, Utah, September 11-12; and Kayenta, Arizona, and the Four Corners region, September 13-16. A registered nurse and member of Sis-



Miriam Linder

ters of Notre Dame de Namur, Wihbey has worked as a health educator in rural Nicaragua since 1984.

Linder brother, coworker speak to hundreds in Ga.

BY ELLEN BERMAN

ATLANTA — The executive boards of three locals of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Columbus, Georgia, were among those who heard John Linder during his tour of this area.

Linder is the brother of Benjamin Linder, the U.S. volunteer worker who was murdered in Nicaragua by the contras. At the time he was working on a hydroelectric project to bring electricity to the peasants of a village in northern Nicaragua.

John Linder toured the Atlanta area near the end of August.

He won a warm response from the predominantly Black meeting of 25 officers of ACTWU locals 1855A, B, and C. Most had taken time off from work to hear him speak. The meeting also included members of another local who had driven two hours to Columbus to attend the meeting.

On August 26 more than 300 people attended a rally at Atlanta's Central Presbyterian Church. Linder spoke along with Rebecca Leaf, who presented a slideshow on the projects Benjamin Linder was working on.

Leaf is an engineer who met Benjamin Linder through their work for the agency that oversaw the maintaining of power plants in Nicaragua. When in Nicaragua, Leaf is helping complete the rural hydroelectric plant.

The rally was sponsored by Clergy and

Laity Concerned; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1644; Southern Regional Joint Board and Southern Textile Regional Joint Board of ACTWU; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and other groups.

Reginald Ramsey of the Georgia Black Students Association, who recently participated in the Martin Luther King Peace Brigade to Nicaragua, gave greetings to the rally.

A representative of the African National Congress of South Africa described Benjamin Linder as a "great hero killed by U.S. taxpayers' money."

Atlanta City Councilman Hosea Williams, who heads the Metro Atlanta Southern Christian Leadership Conference, sent a message to the rally. "Ben Linder was on the right side, the side of progress and a better life for the people of Nicaragua. We should all demand that the U.S. government stop all aid to the contras and let Nicaragua live in peace."

More than \$2,500 was raised at the meeting for the Benjamin Linder Memorial Fund, which helps finance completion of the hydroelectric plant and related projects. A reception was also held for Linder and Leaf at which another \$500 was raised.

Linder and Leaf also participated in a meeting of the Concerned Black Clergy in Atlanta and at another gathering of more than 100 people in Macon.

'Days of Decision' actions set

BY FRED FELDMAN

Washington, D.C., Detroit, Cleveland, Boston, and Charleston, West Virginia, are among the cities where activities are planned in the coming weeks as part of the "Days of Decision."

Days of Decision is the name of a coalition calling for antiwar actions in cities around the country on or around September 15 and 29. The protests will demand that Congress vote down funding for the contras and that Washington end its military maneuvers in Central America and cease military aid to the region.

The actions were called by a coalition of groups, including Witness for Peace, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), Nicaragua Network, Coalition for a New Foreign Policy, Pledge of Resistance, and many other groups.

In Charleston, West Virginia, a broad coalition is planning a march and rally for September 26. Among other groups, the march has been endorsed by the statewide American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

In the course of building support for their action, more than 30 people protested outside an August 24 meeting in Charleston where Robert Owen, a former aide to Oliver North, spoke in support of the contras.

In Washington, D.C., on September 15 — designated by the coalition as "Register Your Opposition Day" — a gathering on the steps of the Capitol will precede visits to members of Congress urging them to vote no on contra aid.

On September 29 a candlelight vigil will be held.

A march and rally will be held in Boston September 27. Feeder marches from Boston and Cambridge will converge on Boston Common, where an antiwar rally will be held.

A march and rally will take place in Detroit.

In Minneapolis-St. Paul the September 15-20 tour by John Linder, brother of the U.S. volunteer worker murdered in Nicaragua by the contras, will form part of Days of Decision activities.

In New York City, the Committee for Non-Intervention in Central America will hold a public meeting September 10 on "The Iran-contra Hearings: Investigation or Cover-up."

Two days later, Mobilization for Survival has announced, antiwar activists will distribute up to 150,000 leaflets in New York. An antiwar action will be held September 15 at the offices of Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, who has voted for contra aid in the past.

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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 Haiti, Burkina Faso, and the Philippines. Regular on-the-scene reports come from our Nicaragua Bureau.

If you already subscribe, by renewing for 6 months or longer you can receive the current issue of *New Internationalist* for \$3.50 (cover price \$6.50). It is a magazine of Marxist politics and theory. This issue features the article, "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop," by Steve Clark.

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Coeditors: MARGARET JAYKO and DOUG JENNESS

Circulation Director: MALIK MIAH

Nicaragua Bureau Director: CINDY JAQUITH

Business Manager: JIM WHITE

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

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Injunction in SWP, YSA suit bolsters privacy rights

Bars use of stolen membership lists

BY DOUG JENNESS

Federal Judge Thomas Griesa's recent order that the FBI and other federal agencies not use illegally obtained files on the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance clarifies and strengthens important features of the decision he made a year ago in the 14-year-old litigation.

In the August 1986 decision, Griesa ruled that the FBI had violated the constitutional rights of the SWP and YSA and their individual members and supporters.

This landmark decision and subsequent injunction stem from the lawsuit the SWP and YSA filed against the attorney general, FBI, and other government agencies in 1973.

The most significant conquests for working people in the 1986 ruling are:

- It was the first time a federal court had declared that it was illegal for the FBI to use undercover informers against political organizations. Griesa's decision stated that the FBI had used informers against the SWP at least since 1941.

- The decision marked the first time a federal judge ruled that break-ins to steal or copy private papers or to plant microphones violated the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. This amendment protects people against illegal searches by the government.

Evidence was presented during the case of 193 FBI black-bag jobs against the SWP and YSA between 1958 and 1966.

- Griesa also ruled that the campaign of disruption operations conducted by the FBI against the SWP and YSA was illegal.

Griesa's ruling not only bars any future activities of this kind by the FBI or other cops; it places every labor union, farmers' organization, and social protest group facing government harassment on stronger ground to seek the same relief.

\$264,000 damage award

Moreover, the judge awarded the SWP and YSA \$2,500 for each of the documented disruption operations, \$500 for each of the documented illegal entries, and \$125,000 for the intrusion into the organizations' privacy by informers. This totals \$264,000.

The damage award helped affirm the principle that government officials cannot illegally invade the privacy of individuals and organizations with impunity.

Griesa ruled that the very presence of government informers in the SWP and YSA violates the right to privacy of association and the privacy of the individual members of the two socialist groups. This is an important extension of the constitutional right of privacy.

This right was conquered by the battles of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and formed part of the basis for the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

One of the key legal conquests of this right came in 1958 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) did not have to release its membership lists to Alabama authorities. In this ruling, which Griesa cited in his 1986 decision, the Supreme Court stated that there is a "vital relationship between freedom to associate and privacy in one's associations... particularly where a group espouses dissident beliefs."

The court found that the NAACP had proven "that on past occasions revelation of the identity of its rank-and-file members has exposed these members to economic reprisal, loss of employment, threat of physical coercion, and other manifestations of public hostility."

Right extended to socialists

In his order last month barring government use of illegally obtained files, Griesa explicitly extended this right to the SWP and YSA. The SWP and YSA had asked

the judge to rule that when it cannot be determined whether an item of information in the hands of the FBI or other cop agencies has come from a legal or illegal source, it should be presumed that it was obtained illegally.

The judge rejected this broad presumption, but stated that membership lists are an exception.

"The SWP and YSA did not publish membership lists," he wrote. "Such lists could generally be obtained only through informants. Indeed, one duty of informants was to obtain membership lists or other information about the identity of members. Such information should be presumed to have been unlawfully obtained," Griesa ruled.

"A relatively few prominent members have been identified publicly," he continued. "The FBI is well aware of who these people are. But as to the rank-and-file members of the various local branches, their identities would not generally be publicly available."

During the course of the case, representatives of the SWP and YSA have repeatedly explained and offered evidence that they don't turn over membership lists to the government.

SWP refused to disclose names

One of the most striking examples was the SWP's decision to refuse to disclose the names and addresses of campaign contributors. This was required by the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, which was adopted with a great deal of fanfare about "reforming" the election laws.

In 1974, rather than turn over to the government a list of members and campaign supporters, the Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee and campaign committees in 15 states, along with the American Civil Liberties Union, challenged the financial disclosure laws in court.

The basis for this action was the well-documented harassment of SWP members and supporters by the federal government. Most of the evidence for this had been assembled from the documents compiled through the SWP and YSA lawsuit against the attorney general, FBI, and other federal cop agencies.

Ruling is 'blow to illegal spying'

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — The court injunction barring the government from using illegally obtained information against the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance was greeted with satisfaction by a range of figures concerned with democratic rights. Their statements were released here by the Political Rights Defense Fund.

Attorney Juan Acevedo saw the injunction as "a great victory for everyone in the United States who is concerned about the fundamental principles of a true democracy."

Acevedo is coordinator of the legal defense team in the case of the supporters of Puerto Rican independence facing trial in Hartford, Connecticut.

Angela Sanbrano, national coordinator of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), saw the injunction as "a blow to illegal spying — by the FBI or right-wing goons."

Sanbrano was the recent target of threats by right-wing Salvadoran death squads.

The fight waged by the Political Rights Defense Fund, she added, shows "the strength of the movement when we work together to defend the right to speak out openly for our beliefs."

Ernesto Joffe said, "This decision is a blow to the use of FBI spies to infiltrate groups, copy down names of supporters,



SWP 1976 U.S. vice-presidential candidate Willie Mae Reid campaigning at Houston campus. After long fight, SWP won 1982 Supreme Court ruling against government's attempt to force it to disclose names of campaign contributors.

As a result of a major campaign, which won support from thousands of unionists, Black figures, civil libertarians, and others, the Supreme Court ruled in December 1982 that the Socialist Workers Party did not have to comply with the financial disclosure laws.

In May of the same year, a federal appeals court had ruled that the Communist Party not only doesn't have to disclose the names of its campaign contributors, but doesn't even have to keep records of those contributors.

Campaign disclosure laws

These decisions dealt a body blow to campaign disclosure laws, which were very similar throughout the country.

The court ruling in the SWP case cited incidents of "threatening phone calls and hate mail, the burning of SWP literature, the destruction of SWP members' property, police harassment of a party candidate, and the firing of shots at an SWP office." It was also noted that SWP members had been fired from their jobs "because of their party membership."

Griesa's ruling that the SWP and YSA — openly communist organizations — don't have to give the government the names of its members significantly strengthens the decision on the lawsuit that he made last year.

This extends previous court rulings upholding the right of organizations with views and activities opposed by the government not to disclose the names of its members.

This is a big gain, not only for the SWP and YSA, but for all organizations fighting for political and social change.

Griesa's ruling on membership lists affirms that there can be no guarantee of the right to privacy for those organizations whose views and activities are opposed by the government unless they have the right not to disclose the names and addresses of their members. Without this, there can be no genuine freedom of association.

In future articles we'll take up some other important features of Griesa's recent injunction prohibiting the use of illegally acquired information by the FBI and other cops on the SWP and YSA.

and take them back for government disruption purposes." A New York staff organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, Joffre is coordinator of the New York Area Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

"Congratulations to the Political Rights Defense Fund! A great victory," declared Dennis Brutus, the exiled South African fighter against apartheid.

Dave McReynolds of the War Resisters League assessed the injunction as an important reminder that the government's executive branch is "bound by law."

"This ruling is a forceful affirmation of the citizen's rights of privacy," the pacifist leader declared.

Merle Hansen, president of the North American Farm Alliance, said, "This latest victory for the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance shows that if a country is going to have law, it means a country of laws for everyone, including the president of the United States."

Francisca Cavazos, director of the Arizona Farmworkers Union, saw the injunction as "a clear victory for unionization of immigrant workers, in that they will be able to continue their organizing efforts in seeking better living and working conditions."

Dirk Struik, editor emeritus of the magazine *Science and Society*, said, "It is a

great step ahead. All these victories are precious."

Rail unionist Paul Swanson declared, "This victory should encourage the labor movement to fight for its rights against employer greed."

Swanson is general chairman of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees.

In Waterloo, Iowa, Russell Woodrick, business agent of the International Association of Machinists, said the government has long used illegally acquired information against labor and others. The injunction, he said, "is a first in history and will help us all politically."

The Political Rights Defense Fund also announced that a spring and summer fund-raising effort had netted a total of \$85,900.

A good part of this money was collected at public meetings across the country, said John Studer, executive director of the rights fund.

And, he added, in addition to their own contributions, PRDF activists obtained contributions from coworkers and local union officials. Their experience confirmed that when asked, those who add their names as endorsers of the PRDF's campaign are also willing to help out financially.

Also, \$600 was contributed by several local unions. "That should be seen as a good beginning effort," Studer said.

'New International' sold at textile mill

BY MALIK MIAH

Supporters of the *Militant* in Greensboro, North Carolina, are taking the lead in organizing sales of the Marxist magazine *New International*. Within days of taking a goal of selling 20 copies of the *New International* this fall, five issues were sold.

In a telephone interview with Yvonne Hayes, a *Militant* supporter in Greensboro, she said three copies were bought by workers at a textile mill. All three are subscribers to the *Militant*.

One worker decided to buy the latest issue of *New International* after a *Militant* supporter in the plant handed him a copy of a promotional brochure. The worker looked at the brochure and after reading that *New International* is "a magazine of Marxist politics and theory," said, "That's for me."

Supporters of the *Militant* at this mill, organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, had just discussed among themselves the importance of showing the *New International* to co-workers, especially subscribers to the *Militant*. Hayes said one lesson from this early success is the need to talk to more *Militant* readers, as well as others, about the magazine. "It was much easier selling the magazine than any of us thought," she said.

'We'll have to raise goal'

"Our main objective," Hayes continued, "is to introduce the *New International* to as many people as we can. In this way, we can get into political discussions about the articles in the magazine. We're learning that distributing *New International* helps us have more discussions with coworkers and people we meet at political events."

In addition to the three textile workers, a leader of the anti-Klan group in the area and a person who frequently attends public forums sponsored by the *Militant* have bought copies of the *New International*. "It's clear we will have to raise our goal," Hayes said.

Nationally, *Militant* supporters are shooting to sell 2,000 copies of *New International* as part of a fall circulation drive. The campaign includes selling 6,000 *Militant* subscriptions and 1,500 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions. *PM* is a Spanish-language monthly news magazine. The drive ends Thanksgiving.

Greensboro supporters have taken a goal of selling 115 *Militant* and 10 *PM* subscriptions.

Over the last two weeks, Greensboro supporters organized sales teams to four college campuses, selling four *Militant* subscriptions. Socialist literature tables did well. And several students asked for more information about the Young Socialist Alliance, the group sponsoring the tables.

As part of the sales effort, supporters organized a sales team to Chapel Hill. A major aim of the sales campaign, Hayes explained, is to reach out to students, workers, farmers, and other political activists all across North Carolina.

The dozen or so organized supporters of the *Militant* in Greensboro are maintaining regular sales of the *Militant* at four work-

sites. These plant-gate sales teams go out weekly and involve all supporters.

Target week

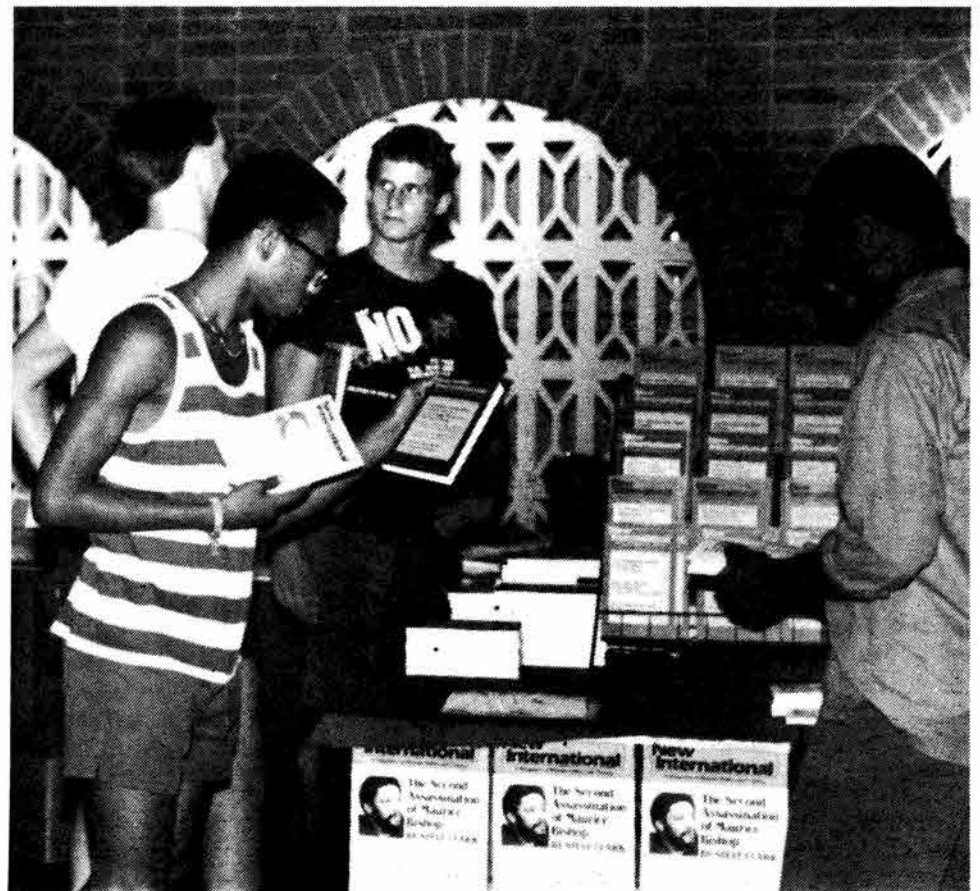
Because most areas of the country are just now launching their sales campaigns, the *Militant* encourages everyone to target September 12-18 for a big sales push. An all-out effort that week should put us on schedule and set the pace for the rest of the drive.

An indication of what's possible was shown at the August 30 Hartford, Connecticut, demonstration against the U.S. government's repression of 16 supporters of Puerto Rican independence. Some 30 *Militant* and *PM* subscriptions were sold to the protesters, as well as more than \$700 in socialist literature.

If you would like to join the fall sales campaign please clip and mail the coupon below.

- ☐ Send me a bundle of ____ *Militants* per issue.
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Militant/Janet Post
Militant supporters in areas across country are setting goals for sales of Marxist journal *New International* to workers, farmers, and students.

Maine Paperworkers build solidarity

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — As the strike against International Paper Co. (IP) approaches the end of its third month, members of Paperworkers Union Local 14 are expanding their efforts to extend union solidarity.

Nearly 200 paperworkers took buses, cars, and planes to participate in an August 22 march of 3,000 in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, where a sister Paperworkers' local is also on strike against IP.

A report back from the Lock Haven action drew an enthusiastic response from the 1,200 who attended the Local 14 union meeting here on August 26.

Visit to Pine Bluff

The workers, spouses, and supporters in attendance also heard reports from a team of union members, headed by Local 14 President Bill Meserve, who visited with workers at IP's plant in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. That plant employs 1,200 workers. The majority are Black. They are organized into five separate unions.

Members of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) are also on strike at IP's plant in De Pere, Wisconsin. In March IP locked out UPIU members at the Mobile, Alabama, plant. Workers from Mobile, De Pere, and Lock Haven were also part of the delegation that traveled to Pine Bluff.

IP seeks to drive through substantial givebacks that would cripple the union. The company maintains individual contracts with local unions at each operation.

Local 14 media coordinator Peter Bernard said in an interview that paperworkers

in Pine Bluff face "a similar situation" to workers in Jay.

Describing previous concession contracts, Bernard said, "They have given up a lot more than we have."

Ruth Lebel, a core cutter in IP's Androscoggin mill here in Jay, was part of the delegation that met with the Pine Bluff workers. She explained that despite shift work, overtime, and extremely hot weather, 250 Pine Bluff workers from the five locals jammed into a union hall for an August 25 meeting. Lebel said the visiting UPIU delegation fielded and asked questions for about two hours. "After that," she said, "we mingled some more."

The UPIU delegation didn't go to Pine Bluff to convince workers there of anything, Lebel said, "but to share information, to get a feel of what is happening."

According to Lebel, the Pine Bluff

workers "were hungry for information and interested in what's going on."

Arkansas is a "right to work" state, which means closed union shops are prohibited and individual workers are not required to join the union. But Lebel said, Pine Bluff workers were "very receptive" to the anticoncession stand being taken by UPIU locals across the country.

Negotiations in Pine Bluff have been proceeding slowly and it is likely that the contract expiration date of September 1 will pass without a strike automatically being called.

"If they decide to join us in the fight against concessions, that's great," Lebel said. And if they settle, "It's not going to change anything. We'll stand just as we have."

She said the trip had helped all the unionists realize "that we really are family."

Pickets at Int'l Paper plant: 'We're all in this together'

JAY, Maine — It's cool and gray as the strong odor that comes from turning logs into paper drifts from the Androscoggin River plant of International Paper toward nearby Jay.

Three people maintain picket duty at the pulp gate, where independent contractors roll into the plant in trucks piled high with freshly cut timber.

The strike by Local 14 of the United Paperworkers International Union and Local 246 of the Firemen and Oilers is entering its 11th week.

Rick Rush, the senior picket, has 19 years in the mill. Burly, soft-spoken, he foresees a long strike.

"Everybody's been planning, everybody's prepared," he says. "We'll be out as long as it takes, long as we have to," he explains. "This strike is solid."

Jane has been on the picket line since the strike began. Her husband has worked at IP for 18 years, as long as they've been married. Now he's working as a pipefitter on the midnight shift in Millinockett, four and a half hours north of here. She sees him one day a week, from Sunday to Monday morning.

But, Jane says, she's not simply doing "his" picket duty. IP doesn't "just have employees, it has employees with families. This is part of my life, too. This strike is more far reaching than the mill, than Jay," Jane says.

She's a nurse, and it's her first strike, first time on a picket line, and her first time going to the big, spirited weekly Local 14 union meetings.

She has learned from the strikers what solidarity is, "the strong, strong feeling of unity, that everybody's in this together," which she's gotten from sharing picket responsibilities.

"You make friends quick," Jane says.

"Good friends," Mike, a 26-year-old Chicano with one year in the mill, chimes in.

Family responsibilities brought him back to neighboring Livermore Falls after a five-year stint in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Working for IP was harder than life in the marines, Mike says. The bosses want "a lot more without giving you as much."

Mike says seeing Local 14's women members in action has convinced him "they can be just as tough as men." The solidarity Mike has felt in the union has been something that's made him "feel very accepted here," even though he's one of the few minority members of the local.

As I get ready to leave, Rick Rush says I should make sure my car has a union bumper sticker on it. He walks to his vehicle, which is sprayed with pro-strike slogans, to get me one. "Around here, it's good to let people know what side you're on," he says.

"Fight for my union? Damn right I would," the UPIU sticker reads. —J.H.

Meat-packers rally in South Dakota

BY DIANE SHUR

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Some 400 union meat-packers and their supporters gathered here August 29 for a labor rally. The rally kicked off a weekend of activities aimed at building support for striking members of United Food and Commercial Workers union locals 304A and 1142.

Last March, 800 workers at the John Morrell & Co. plant in Sioux City, Iowa, 90 miles from here, were forced on strike after rejecting a concession contract.

The Iowa meat-packers later extended their picket line to the South Dakota Morrell plant. The 2,700 workers here honored the picket line and for four days fought to prevent scabs from entering the plant.

Morrell obtained a court order limiting mass picketing at the plant. Union officials were threatened with heavy fines if the

order was violated.

The company is now running both the Iowa and South Dakota plants with scabs.

Most of the 400 participants at the noon-time rally were Local 304A members. Some were meat-packers from Iowa.

A busload of meat-packers currently on strike against Patrick Cudahy & Co. in Milwaukee also attended.

Speakers included Lewie Anderson, head of the United Food and Commercial Workers Packinghouse Division; Ron Derochie, president of Local 1142; and Democratic Party presidential candidate Joseph Biden.

The crowd grew to more than 1,000 for a concert that evening. The next day, about 350 gathered for another rally that included speakers from union locals in Nebraska and Iowa.

Youth at socialist conference: 'I want to be in the fight'

BY ANDY COATES

OBERLIN, Ohio — LaTanya Miller was working at a chicken-processing plant in Birmingham, Alabama, making chicken nuggets for fast-food chains when she got involved in a struggle to organize a union at the plant. Miller convinced almost all the workers on her shift to join the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

During the course of this drive, she got into political discussions with a coworker, Darrell Turner, who is a member of the Young Socialist Alliance. Miller began attending the weekly Militant Forum in Birmingham and classes to learn more about socialism.

"I began to see that the union struggle that I was involved in was a part of the other political struggles that I was learning about. They are struggles so that the working class can rule," the 22-year-old worker told the *Militant*. "From there, I asked to join the YSA."

Miller was one of more than 80 young people at a conference here, 41 of them students, who have joined the YSA in the

struggles in other countries. I've learned more here than I learned all the years I went to school. Now I have something to fight with." Miller said she plans to join the Socialist Workers Party when she returns home.

Other YSA members also decided to join the SWP at the conference. One of them, Allyson Marceau, who was a school teacher when she joined the YSA in San Jose, California, said, "The most inspiring thing about the conference was to see how much solidarity we have with the struggle in other countries, to see we're fighting for the same thing. It's also inspiring to see what people in this country are doing, too."

She said in the six months she's been in the YSA, "I've learned what socialism is, and I want to be in the fight. I've decided to join the SWP."

David Cooney, a student at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, noted, "One thing that strikes me about the YSA that's different from other groups — it's not students. It's an organized group of young people — students, workers, farmers. It's qualitatively different than other campus groups."

Arthur Horan, a 21-year-old student at Nassau Community College in New York, said, "Before I came here, I thought you couldn't organize so many people from all over — it sent me for a loop."

Horan said, "What really tied the conference altogether for me was the panel on Africa with speakers from the South African Congress of Trade Unions, African National Congress, and the government of Burkina Faso — it was the most moving experience of the conference."

High school students

Seven high school students attended the socialist conference. Two of them, Dayna Sopé and Sasha Musa from Baltimore, want to help get a chapter of the YSA going in that city. Sopé commented, "This conference isn't bureaucratic, and it's not impersonal and cold. I can relate to and understand what the YSA and SWP are saying. And I think it will work — socialism and communism."

During the six-day conference, the YSA hosted an informal discussion each day, usually during the dinner break. The gatherings were an opportunity for new YSA members and prospective members to discuss with YSA leaders the organization's views and activities.

Solidarity with Nicaragua

One theme of the discussions was solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution, including participating in and helping to organize work brigades to Nicaragua.

James Winfield, New York City YSA organizer, spoke about his two-week trip to Nicaragua at the end of July and early August as part of the Martin Luther King Peace Brigade. The delegation was composed of Black youth from around the country.

Winfield and Virginia Angeles, a YSA leader from Phoenix, Arizona, spoke at a special reception about the YSA as an organization for young fighters in the United States.

Steve Argue, a high school student from St. Paul, Minnesota, and Ben Fiering, who just left Bard College in upstate New York, chaired a discussion on "Why Students Should Join the YSA — Building Campus Chapters."

Young people were involved in political discussions right up to the last minute of the socialist conference. Outside the dance, after the final rally, a dozen people — mostly high school and college students — met with Doug Jenness, coeditor of the *Militant*, because they had questions about some of the things he had said about the Soviet Union in a class earlier in the week. They decided to ask the YSA chapters where they live to organize classes when they got home so that they could continue the discussion.



Militant photos by Charles Ostrofsky
Dayna Sopé and Sasha Musa, two youths who attended Socialist Educational and Active Workers Conference, want to build Young Socialist Alliance chapter in Baltimore.

Black student brigade welcomed in Nicaragua

BY JAMES WINFIELD

The first Martin Luther King Peace Brigade, organized by the Atlanta-based Georgia Black Student Association, visited the southern Atlantic Coast region of Nicaragua as part of a two-week tour of the country.

The tour, which began July 25 and concluded August 9, was hosted by the National Union of Nicaraguan Students and the July 19 Sandinista Youth (JS19). (July 19 was the date in 1979 that the Nicaraguan people, led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front, toppled the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza.)

On the Atlantic Coast, tour participants — 14 Black students and youth from Atlanta, Baltimore, Miami, St. Louis, San Francisco, and New York — got to see firsthand the effects of the contra war and the efforts of the coastal peoples to build up their country. The Atlantic Coast is where Nicaragua's Black and Indian population is concentrated.

We visited the village of La Fe. Two years ago the contras leveled this community where 40 families had lived. The people were forced to evacuate and reorganize themselves in order to return and push the contra force back north toward Honduras.

Today they are constructing homes in La Fe for 15 to 20 families as part of beginning their community and economic life anew.

"We are determined to stay and build," declared community leader Florentino Solis. "We are organized today, and we can keep our community. Autonomy and unity will be a reality in La Fe."

Solis was referring to La Fe's participation in a program aimed at establishing an autonomous Atlantic Coast region within a united Nicaragua. The autonomy program will foster the development of the economy of the region and the languages and culture of the region's six ethnic groups.

Traveling along the river in small boats called *pongas*, we observed villages of Rama and Miskito Indians, two of the ethnic groups that make up the Atlantic Coast population. We met a Rama chief who stressed their desire for an end to the U.S.-run war. "Go back to your country and tell about our reality," he said.

We spent a night in the community of Orinoco, talking with the families there and learning more about their work and culture. A reception was held in our honor in the community meeting house.

Francisco Estrada, military commander in Orinoco and a representative of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), saw us off the next day. "We are brothers and sisters, you and I," he told us. "We must stop the U.S. aggression against our country so we can both be free."

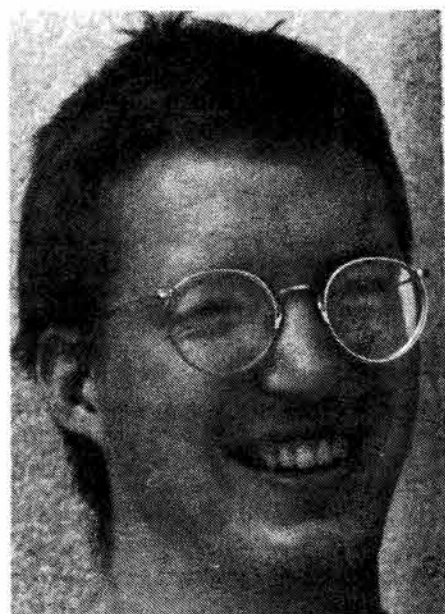
In the southern Atlantic Coast city of Bluefields, Marcellino Estrada, a Catholic priest, explained to us that thousands on the Atlantic Coast had died as a result of

the U.S.-organized war. He said the deaths and destruction had dealt blows to production in fishing, mining, and construction programs.

The JS19 hosted a rally in the capital city of Managua in solidarity with the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Speakers included the Angolan ambassador to Nicaragua, a representative of the FSLN, and a member of our brigade.

The Martin Luther King Peace Brigade also participated in a rally protesting U.S. aid to the contras outside the U.S. embassy in Managua. We joined more than 100 other brigade members from Britain, Sweden, Germany, and the United States.

Brigade participant Hillory Shelton of St. Louis told the protesters, "It is the U.S. government that oppresses Blacks in the United States as well as the Nicaraguan people. Because of this we are here to show our solidarity and our convergence of interest."



David Cooney was impressed that YSA includes workers, farmers, and students.

last few months or are considering joining. They were attending the Socialist Educational and Active Workers Conference hosted by the YSA and Socialist Workers Party August 8-13. Nearly all of these youths were participating in their first such gathering, and 10 joined the YSA before the six days were over.

'Learned more than in school'

Commenting on the conference, Miller said, "There's no way that just struggling in Alabama — without coming to a conference like this — you could learn about the

U.S.-organized contras assault 2 farm co-ops in northern Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — U.S.-financed contras have stepped up their terrorism against Nicaraguans in and around the northern province of Jinotega.

In the last week of August, contras assaulted two farm cooperatives, one near San Rafael del Norte, the other in Monte Grande. Six civilians were murdered in the two attacks, including two children. Several other children were wounded.

On August 28 mercenaries downed a Sandinista army helicopter near Zompopera, using a U.S.-supplied Red Eye missile. Six soldiers were killed and seven are missing. Skillful action by the pilot, who managed to land the damaged craft, saved the lives of eight others.

That same day, Sandinista army Major Francisco Gutiérrez was assassinated by contras while traveling on a road near San Rafael del Norte. An army captain was also killed in the ambush.

Support the Fall Socialist Publications Fund

At a rally August 13 we announced the launching of this fund, which has a goal of raising \$150,000 by Nov. 24.

Its purpose is to finance publication of the *Militant*, the monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, and Pathfinder books and pamphlets.

As of Sept. 1, \$80,000 has been pledged and \$3,241 collected.

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WHERE WE STAND

Washington State farm workers fight for justice in the fields

Interview with Yakima Valley union leader

BY MATT HERRESHOFF
AND CHRIS HORNER

GRANGER, Wash. — Thousands of farm workers in the Yakima Valley are mobilizing to fight for justice in the fields. "Although we do not have a contract as yet, we have had a lot of success," Tomas Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS), explained in a recent interview.

"People are starting to lose their fear and start working together," he said. "Pyramid Orchards is one of the best examples." On February 10, 60 tree pruners went on strike when Pyramid cut their wages from \$2.50 to \$1.75 a tree. At the new rate the workers were earning well under the federal minimum wage of \$3.35 an hour.

"Pruning is a very difficult strike to win," said Villanueva, because the grower has months to prune an orchard. The union leadership explained this to the workers. "But the workers were desperate and they said, 'Well, with or without the union, we are going to strike.' So we jumped in."

"The community really came through with money, with food. At times on the weekend we'd have 300 or 400 people on the picket line," Villanueva continued.

"When they put us under an injunction, 500 farm workers came to the courthouse to hear the case."

"When the farmers organized to come and break the strike, you ended up with 140 growers in the field and 2,000 farm workers on the picket line."

The Pyramid strike inspired workers throughout the valley. More than a thousand have joined the UFWWS and union activists are organizing among their coworkers on many of the largest farms.

The union launched a boycott against Chateau Ste. Michelle, the largest vineyard in the Northwest, when it refused to consider the workers' demands for a contract.

Farm workers also waged an important strike in the asparagus fields at SKD Farms. Union activists were so effective in convincing workers to honor the picket line that the grower decided to lose his crop rather than sign a contract. "They'd bring a worker in, we'd manage to talk to the worker, and the worker came out," said Villanueva.

Convincing workers to join union

"Our approach is very simple. We feel very strongly that if you can convince a

worker by talking to him — talking to the conscience, you talk strong but you talk to the conscience of that worker — if you can convince him that what you are fighting for is a just cause and he returns back to the picket line, we know that person will never break a picket line again."

"If we get somebody out of a field by threatening him, by yelling obscenities at him or anything else, we know that that guy will only be loyal as long as you are looking at him, and that's no good. Every time you get someone out by making him understand — in essence you are creating another soldier for your picket line and for your cause," he explained.

Now farm workers are gearing up to continue the strike at Pyramid, and for other possible strikes during the harvest.

This summer the growers have gone on a massive campaign to convince people that there is a labor shortage in the fields. Villanueva explained that this shortage was invented to counter farm workers' organizing efforts.

The growers have been stepping up recruitment of farm workers in Mexico. Yakima Valley Congressman Sid Morrison, himself a rich grower, wrote to U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese and other government officials to ask their help in this effort.

The growers blame the "labor shortage" on the 1986 immigration law. "They see the immigration bill as a golden opportunity to stop any kind of farm worker organizing, not just in the state of Washington, but throughout the nation," said Villanueva. The law allows growers who claim there is a labor shortage to recruit workers outside the United States. Under the H2A Program, these workers are denied all civil rights, including the right to organize. "What the farmers want to do is to push Congress to change the requirements of the H2A Program to make it easier for them, cheaper for them, to import foreign workers," Villanueva said.

"If they manage to do that," he continued, "they'd feel that they have a stable labor force that they can bring in at their will — use them, abuse them, just at harvest time — and when harvest time is over, send them back to Mexico. If they manage to do that, people will be under the complete control of the farmers. We're sure that the abuses will be even worse than how the undocumented worker has been abused and exploited."

The H2A Program is modeled on the Bracero Program, which was established under cover of the labor shortage during World War II. Until it was disbanded in 1963, the Bracero Program was a major obstacle to farm worker efforts to organize.

"If there is any shortage in the state of Washington, it is a shortage of fair wages, a shortage of good working conditions. There has never been a labor shortage," he said. "It is nothing but a plot" by the growers' organizations, "an effort to saturate the labor market in order to continue low wages, to continue to mistreat farm workers."

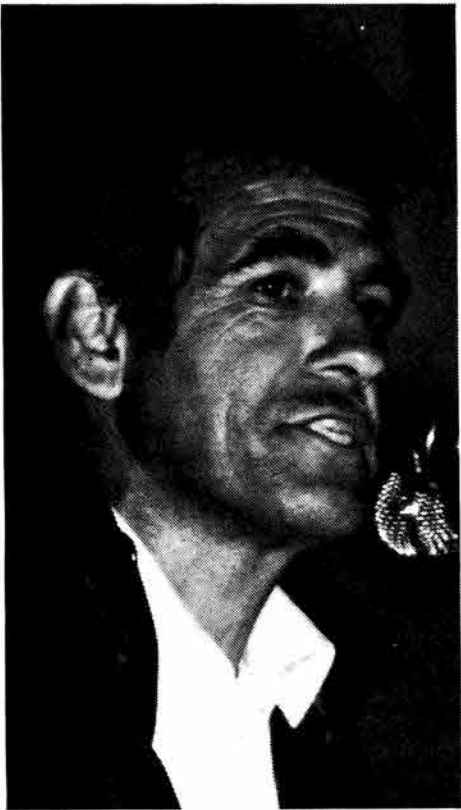
"The immigration bill, including the amnesty program, was not developed for the purpose of helping farm workers," Villanueva said. "It was specifically to benefit the agribusiness community, to try to provide a cheap and accessible labor force."

Very few workers have applied for the amnesty, he said. Many are suspicious of the government. And the costs are huge. Between the application fee, agency and attorney fees, medical exams, pictures, notaries, and required documents, the average family must pay over \$1,000 just to apply. "Wherever the worker turns everybody sees him with dollar signs in their eyes," Villanueva added.

Farm worker of the '80s

Although few have applied for the amnesty, "many of the undocumented workers are here with their families, many are buying homes," Villanueva explained.

"Contrary to the old migrant flow of im-



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
United Farm Workers of Washington State President Tomas Villanueva.

Mexican, Guatemalan pickers strike in Ariz.

BY DAVE ZILLY
AND RUTH NEBBIA

PHOENIX — "We are Latin American people, we don't speak your language, but we work and we feed you" — "Contract yes, abuses, no!" These were chants of 100 striking farm workers and their supporters on a two-day, 30-mile march from the Arizona Farmworkers Union headquarters to the offices of Martori Brothers, Inc. just outside of this city.

The march, which took place August 6 and 7, was part of protests that began on August 2 when 184 Mexican and Guatemalan farm workers went on strike against the Martori melon ranch in Aguila, Arizona. The farm is 70 miles west of here. The strike was called in response to a wage cut that dropped melon pickers' wages from \$4.25 to \$3.35 an hour, and against poor

living and working conditions.

"For each meal we are charged \$3," Hilario Sánchez, a striking farm worker on the march, explained. "The food is prepared the day before and, in the desert heat, it is often spoiled before it gets to us."

The barracks that workers live in are not cleaned regularly. The only drinking water is in the kitchen, which closes at 7 p.m., Sánchez said. The only other water available is in the laundry area under a sign that warns the water is only for laundry use.

A farm worker who was bitten by a black widow spider inside the barracks was prevented by the farm owners from going to a doctor until he agreed to pay any resulting bills himself.

The Martori brothers are multimillionaire growers. Stephen Martori's Aguila

melon farm extends for several hundred square miles.

The pickers and the Arizona Farmworkers (AFW) have been under constant attack since the beginning of the strike. Three days after it began one of the foremen, who was herding in scabs from another farm, drove into the picket lines at the farm gates. "He yelled out at us, 'you want to die?'" Piedad Huerta, an AFW legal assistant, said. One of the pickets was hurt as he moved out of the way of the oncoming vehicle.

Martori was able to get an injunction against picketing within 300 yards of his property. The order also barred AFW Executive Director Francisca Cavazos from being on Martori property, which includes the workers' housing, or in the town of Aguila. "The area for picketing was so limited," Cavazos said, "that we decided we needed to leave Aguila in order to pressure Martori."

Presently many of the farm workers are back at work or have found other jobs. Of those who are still out, some are participating in daily picketing at the Martori offices. Others are leafleting the workers at the Aguila farm with a new flier every day that explains some aspect of the strike.

One flier explained what had been gained so far by the strike: a stay of the wage cut and cleaner barracks. The flier asked workers to write down what else should be fought for, and listed the strikers' unmet demands. The leaflet caused such an impact that the three Martori brothers called a meeting of all their employees at Aguila. Stephen Martori demanded that all workers sign a no-strike pledge, as well as a statement saying that they had been forced to sign union cards.

In response to this threat, most workers walked out of the meeting before it ended. Only seven workers, who had refused to honor the strike, signed.

Postal workers of the National Association of Letter Carriers have taken up collections for the AFW and the union made a donation of more than \$800. AFW leaders also spoke to a NALC meeting where 75 union members expressed their support for the strikers.

The Centro Adelante Campesino, a farm workers' community center, has provided the strikers with food. The Church of the New Covenant and the Lutheran Church of Hope, among others, provided food and sleeping space for the march.

For more information, donations, and to send letters of support, contact: Arizona Farmworkers Union, 12221 Grand Ave., P.O. Box 819, El Mirage, Ariz. 85335.



Militant/Ruth Nebbia
After 30-mile march, melon pickers demonstrate outside offices of the multimillionaire Martori brothers, one of whom owns Aguila, Arizona, ranch.

migrants who would come and do the crops and move from state to state," he said, "the reality is that today they are staying here and they are staying in vast numbers."

Villanueva explained that "the migrant worker of the 1970s" was very different from "the farm worker of the 1980s."

In the past, he said, many had become "accustomed to all the discrimination that exists in this country," and discouraged about the possibility of fighting back.

Many of today's farm workers, however, were active in unions in Mexico; many are well educated. "In talking to some of them in the fields," Villanueva said, "the first thing they say is, 'You know, I'm getting fed up. In Mexico the wages were really low, but they treated us like human beings. Here, the wages are low and they treat us like animals.'"

"The conditions have worsened from the '70s to the '80s. Housing that was standard then is worse now. Wages have been coming down," Villanueva added.

He pointed to the participation of workers as key to the union's success. At each farm, workers decide on their demands and how to fight for them. "What we're doing has been successful because the decisions are made by the workers," he said.

During previous farm worker struggles in the Yakima Valley, very few workers joined the union, Villanueva said. In the past the union tried to recruit members after contracts were won.

The union has learned from this experience, he explained. "If you don't have any members then workers don't really have any say-so. Every time the worker pays in \$5 [the monthly dues] he becomes more involved and more committed, he's making more of an investment into it, an investment that he's going to be willing to fight for."

Half of the union's 1,000 members are women, Villanueva said, and are playing an important role in the struggle. "I think that women are a lot more active than men, they are more outspoken on the picket lines."

Roots of the struggle

The UFWWS has its roots in previous farm worker struggles in the Yakima Valley. Villanueva came to the Yakima Valley as a migrant worker during the 1950s.

In the 1960s and early '70s, he said, "there was a very strong drive to organize farm workers." Inspired by farm worker struggles in California, he and other activists organized a farm worker center and food coop. They led a fight to win workers' compensation benefits for farm workers. They organized a struggle to establish a migrant-workers' clinic. And they helped form a farm workers' union.

In the 1970s, there were several strikes in the hops fields. These improved wages, but they failed to win permanent union recognition, Villanueva explained. Several central leaders of the UFWWS came out of these struggles.

Some farm worker activists became deeply involved in government-funded social programs. This partially led to "the farm worker movement pretty much coming to a standstill. You get tied up, you run a project, you don't really go and fight for the rights of workers" he said.

"Labor, nowadays, they forget about the people who got killed and maimed to develop unions, just because now they receive a complete package of benefits. Many have forgotten where they come from, and they're not really willing to fight, and that's when we end up with all these concessions."

Several key activists from these earlier struggles in the Yakima Valley continued to seek ways to fight for farm workers.

Some, including Ricardo Garcia, formed Radio Cadena, the only Spanish-language station in the valley. Farm workers throughout the area listen to it and use it to discuss their situation. Villanueva hosts a nightly talk show on Radio Cadena.



Rally of Yakima Valley orchard pruners in April addressed by Villanueva. Pyramid Orchard strike inspired other farm workers throughout valley to join union.

Through this, "we are able to tell our side of the story, things that the TV or newspapers don't tend to."

Other activists, including Bill Nicasio, founded Centro Campesino to help organize farm workers to fight for their rights. In April 1986, Centro Campesino organized a 22-mile march through the Yakima Valley. Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers of America, came to the valley to help lead the march.

These efforts led to the founding of the UFWWS in September 1986.

Big money, huge corporations

The Yakima Valley is one of the richest agricultural areas in the United States. It is a leading source of apples, cherries, pears, hops, and asparagus.

"You're talking about big money, you're talking about very big crops and very huge corporations," said Villanueva.

Many Yakima Valley farms are corporate owned. Others are under contract to big corporations like Del Monte. All of them exploit the 40,000 farm workers who live in the valley.

The owners' arrogance is reflected by Allen Shoup, the president of Chateau Ste. Michelle. Shoup said he would "rather have Chateau Ste. Michelle go broke than recognize farm worker rights to organize." Chateau Ste. Michelle is a subsidiary of the American Tobacco Co.

These rich growers often compare themselves to the family farmers who are being driven off their land, Villanueva said. They claim they cannot afford to pay farm workers a decent wage. But there is no comparison, he said. "In the state of Washington, any little farmer that's going out of busi-

ness, it's not because they're paying good wages or providing good conditions, it's because the big corporations are squeezing them out."

The growers "are very powerful, both economically and politically," Villanueva noted. The UFWWS has often come up against grower-controlled courts and politicians.

"It is very easy for an agricultural employer to get an injunction against us," said Villanueva. He pointed to Wyckoff Farms, which fired six workers for union activity and evicted them from their homes. The courts refused to overturn these actions, but ordered Wyckoff to post a notice promising not to interfere with union activities. "After they slapped the workers in the face, they slapped the farmer on the hand," Villanueva said.

The union has responded to the growers' attacks by mobilizing farm workers to pack the courtrooms. When Pyramid Orchards sought an injunction against picketing, 500 farm workers came to court. Pyramid lost that round.

The growers took Washington Gov. Booth Gardner to the Yakima Valley, where he pledged that he would mobilize the National Guard, welfare recipients, and prisoners to work in the fields, if necessary.

"Most of the people from the agricultural communities, the good majority of your congressmen, of your senators, are farmers," Villanueva said. "So even though they might run as Democrats, they're always going to vote against any issue which would be in the interest of farm workers."

Farm worker activists are discussing how to meet this challenge. "When the

time comes it is possible that we might even run another candidate on an independent basis," Villanueva said.

Solidarity

The UFWWS has actively supported the struggles of other working people. A contingent of farm workers traveled to San Francisco to be part of the labor contingent in the April 25 demonstration against the U.S.-run war in Nicaragua. And the UFWWS has begun to receive significant support from the labor movement in Washington State.

"As long as one worker has problems, everybody has problems. You see, all working people have the same common problem. And that common problem is that we all have employers — it might be an agricultural employer, or it might be a Boeing executive, or the owner of a meat-packing plant. But basically they are employers and they have the same thing in mind: to make money at the expense of the workers," Villanueva stated.

"In the past each one had to fight their own little battle, and it's very difficult. If we're only concerned about fighting for farm workers, and close our eyes to the rest of the world, then how can you expect the rest of the world to also come to our aid? So I think we have to start reemphasizing solidarity in the struggle against injustice."

"Even more than funds, we would like to see more faces on the picket line with us, so they don't just see it as the Mexicans raising hell. It's not a Mexican struggle, it's a workers struggle," he concluded.

Contributions or messages of support can be sent to: UFWWS, P.O. Box 899, Granger, Wash. 98932.

Iowa gov't aids union-busting packinghouse

BY TED LEONARD

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Iowa Transportation Commission has approved spending \$475,000 on roads and rail lines to serve a proposed new Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) plant in Manchester, Iowa.

IBP, a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum, claims the Manchester plant will be the largest and most efficient pork slaughtering and cutting facility in the world. When operating at full speed, 4 million hogs annually will be slaughtered. Some 1,200 workers are supposed to be employed there.

By taking a look at IBP's record, you can see what's in store for workers hired in Manchester.

There are 13 IBP plants in eight states employing around 17,000. Only three of the plants are organized, two by the Teamsters and one by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

At the UFCW-organized plant in Dakota City, Nebraska, 2,500 members were locked out last December. In March the union members were forced on strike after IBP said it was going to reopen the plant. The strike ended July 26.

Reported injuries in Dakota City are higher than in most meat-packing plants. In 1985 the Dakota City plant reported 30.4 job injuries for the year per 100 workers. On July 21, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) fined IBP

\$2.59 million for falsifying injury and accident reports at the Dakota City plant. The fine is the largest in OSHA's history.

IBP is advertising on the radio in Des Moines for jobs at its Columbus Junction, Iowa, plant. The company says it will pay \$5 an hour. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources gave IBP a slap on the wrist in February after the Columbus Junction plant violated limits on the amount of discharge that can be emptied into the Iowa River.

Since 1983, Iowa government programs have provided or promised a total of \$7 million in giveaways to IBP plus a \$4-million loan at 3 percent interest.

Opposition to the latest gift has come from the UFCW, farmers, and environmentalists.

Iowa officials claim the Manchester plant will create new jobs. But UFCW officials say the opposite will happen since other area packing plants will find it hard to compete with the giant meat-packing company and may be forced to close their doors.

IBP's low pay will also be used as an excuse by bosses at other packinghouses to try to get wages cut.

Some farmers recognize that the proposed plant will give IBP dominance over the local hog market, helping to keep prices down.

Homeowners and environmental activ-

ists in Lake Delhi, a resort on the Maquoketa River near Manchester, fear that millions of gallons of sewage water from the IBP plant will be pumped into the river.

Ted Leonard is a member of UFCW Local 1149 at the Oscar Mayer packing plant in Perry, Iowa.

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Militant/Harvey McArthur
President Daniel Ortega hailed Cuba's aid as a "truly exemplary act."

Nicaragua's fuel emergency: Cuba responds to call for oil

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The revolutionary government of Cuba is the first to respond to Nicaragua's urgent appeal for oil, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced August 29. But despite the 40,000 extra tons Cuba will supply this year, Nicaragua still faces a severe fuel shortage and is taking further austerity measures.

"We still don't have guaranteed supplies of oil to finish the year," Ortega told a mass meeting of students here. Nicaragua needs 750,000 tons of oil, he explained, but only 597,000 is guaranteed so far: 300,000 from the Soviet Union; 100,000 from Cuba; 90,000 from East Germany; 37,000 from Bulgaria; 30,000 from Poland; 30,000 from Czechoslovakia; and 10,000 from Hungary.

For the last three months Nicaraguan government leaders have been trying to se-

cure additional deliveries of oil by visiting the Soviet Union, Cuba, Eastern Europe, Iran, Iraq, and Mexico. Thus far only Cuba has responded.

Ortega hailed as "a truly exemplary act" the decision of Cuban President Fidel Castro to increase oil supplies to Nicaragua from 60,000 to 100,000 tons. Ortega said it reminded him of the words of Cuban leader Raúl Castro, who once said that if Cuba "were reduced to a single loaf of bread, half of it would be for our Nicaraguan brothers."

Ortega also said that the Soviet Union has fulfilled the oil quota it agreed to this year.

"The Soviet Union has provided vital and substantial material aid to the Nicaraguan revolution, without conditions of any kind," he said. In addition to the oil already delivered, the Soviet Union "granted us credit on easy terms valued at \$350 million

this year."

(Energy Minister Emilio Rapaccioli reported at a press conference the following day that in 1986 the Soviet Union helped Nicaragua overcome a similar fuel shortage by donating more than 100,000 tons of oil over the 300,000 it had previously pledged.)

To cope with the continuing fuel shortage, Ortega said that government ministries will reduce their consumption by 11 percent. He stressed, however, that there will be no cutback in fuel for the army or Ministry of the Interior. The government will also provide needed fuel supplies for agricultural production and industry, and "will make a special effort to provide supplies for the health sector, even if it means that other areas will be affected."

Among measures aimed at curtailing the use of fuel, Ortega announced the elimination of 4,000 posts, out of 21,000, in the central government administration. The affected posts are already vacant for a variety of reasons, he explained. Also, central government offices will be closed on Saturdays, easing up pressure on the country's beleaguered transportation system.

The ration of 19 gallons of gas a month for privately owned vehicles will be reduced to 17 gallons. The price per gallon will double, but remains the cheapest in Central America. In addition, public transportation between cities, and land freight services, will increase in price. City bus fares will remain the same.

"We are forced to take these measures because we are at war," Ortega said. "The U.S. government dreams every day of the collapse of the Nicaraguan economy, and we cannot deny that the Nicaraguan economy has been seriously affected, has suffered serious blows, and that it continues to be seriously affected and to suffer serious blows."

But "the strength of the people, the consciousness of the people, is greater than imperialism's aggression," he stressed. Otherwise, "Reagan would have already won this battle years ago. And experience has demonstrated that this battle, despite its high price in lives and great cost to the economy, continues to be won by the people of Nicaragua," Ortega concluded.

'We invite contras to take amnesty'

Continued from front page

leap" in the political situation in Central America, Borge told the peasants here. "Given the circumstances, they are the best possible solution."

He said the Guatemala agreement "implies concessions on everyone's part, including Nicaragua's, of course. [But] it does not mean renouncing principles or negating the revolutionary process."

"The concessions must be carried out simultaneously" in all five countries, he explained, "which means it's a two-way street."

The accords do not mean, however, that Nicaraguans can relax on military defense, Borge stressed. To the contrary, Sandinista army and Ministry of the Interior troops are stepping up their military campaign against the mercenaries. "Consolidating the defeat of the enemy is the best contribution to peace," the Sandinista leader explained.

"Each of us must be soldiers of the homeland and missionaries of peace," he continued. "We must get messages to the counterrevolutionaries so they accept amnesty. We must persuade them that now, they have nothing to gain and much to lose. In the war, they can lose their lives. In peace, they will win life and liberty. Those who want peace will have life and will have peace. Those who want war will have war and will have death."

Borge noted that many contras are suspicious of the amnesty offer. Therefore, he said, "we must persuade them of something that is true: the revolution will give them the guarantee, the protection, and the freedom to work, to practice their religious beliefs, and to hold their own political views."

He stressed that these guarantees apply to all contras opting for amnesty, "independent of the role they have played in the counterrevolutionary ranks."

Any contra wishing to take advantage of amnesty, he concluded, can contact government authorities "through relatives, pastors, priests, Red Cross representatives, or friends. To aid this effort, we call on farmers, religious believers, and all those who desire peace: if the opportunity presents itself to you, invite the contras to take amnesty."

When Borge's speech was played over the radio station here, it was followed by an ad directed at contras who might be listening. "Come back," the ad urged. "Get amnesty. Rejoin your family. Take your place with the victorious people."

Contras returning

Campaigns of this sort throughout the country are already having an effect. In the Estelí region northwest of here, 14 young men came back to their families in the town of La Trinidad on August 28. One of the ex-contras said he had initially been afraid to turn himself in: "I imagined the worst, but here I am, free and back with my parents."

On August 25, the former mayor of

Somoto, a town north of La Trinidad, returned to take amnesty after living outside the country for eight years. The ex-mayor had been a supporter of the Somoza dictatorship overthrown here in 1979. He fled that year to Honduras.

The contra radio station operating in Honduras now accuses the ex-mayor of being "bought off." The station has also broadcast editorials claiming contras will be killed by the Sandinistas if they return.

Mindful that contras desiring amnesty are intimidated by this propaganda, the Nicaraguan government is urging religious figures, Red Cross officials, and farm leaders to serve as intermediaries for those afraid to approach government authorities directly.

The Red Cross is setting up centers across the country where contras can turn themselves in. The organization has announced that in addition to facilitating amnesty applications, it will provide food, clothing, and shelter for all surrendering contras and their families. Red Cross officials who helped head up the highly successful amnesty and cease-fire negotiations

on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast have been brought in to administer this national campaign.

Amnesty leaflet out

Meanwhile, in Region V, where significant numbers of contras are active, the government is urging Catholic and Evangelical churches to serve as reception centers for those seeking amnesty. A leaflet explaining the amnesty process has been printed for church leaders to distribute among contras.

This is being combined with visits to families of the mercenaries, to involve them in convincing their relatives to turn themselves in.

Regional government head Agustín Lara reported that there are also plans to distribute more free land to peasants, including amnestied contras. Most of those in the contra ranks, he said, are there by force or due to political confusion. "They're peasants who haven't been able to work the land, and they have a right to do so," he explained.

Summary of Central America accords

The following is a summary of the main points in the accords signed August 7 by the presidents of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Guatemala:

Dialogue

All five governments will initiate a dialogue "with all internal political opposition groups that are disarmed and with those who have accepted amnesty."

Amnesty

Each government will decree amnesty for those who have taken up arms, guaranteeing them full democratic rights. "Irregular" military forces in each country must simultaneously free prisoners they have taken.

National reconciliation commissions

A national reconciliation commission will be established in each country to monitor compliance with the accord. The commission will be made up of one member of the government; one Catholic bishop, selected by the government from a list of three nominees by church officials; one representative of legal internal opposition parties, selected by the government from three nominees; and one citizen who does not belong to the ruling party or the government.

The five commissions must be selected by August 27.

Cease-fire

The accords make "a vehement appeal" to "irregular or insurgent groups" to

"cease hostilities." It commits the five governments to "carry out all actions necessary to achieve an effective cease-fire within a constitutional framework."

Democratic rights

The accords call for complete freedom of the press, radio, and television in each country "without prior censorship." They call for the right of all political groups in each country to have access to the media, freedom of association, the right to hold public demonstrations, and freedom of travel. They call for the lifting of all states of emergency or states of siege in the five countries.

Elections

The accords call for "free elections," to take place in each country in 1988 for representatives to a Central American parliament. These would be followed by municipal, congressional, and presidential elections in each country according to that country's constitution.

End to outside military aid

The accords call on "governments of the region and governments outside the region . . . to cease" all aid to "irregular forces or insurrectional movements" in whatever form — military, financial, troops, or arms. It says the halt to such aid "is an indispensable element for the achievement of a durable and stable peace in the region."

The accords also commit the five governments "to prevent the use of their own territory . . . by persons, organizations,

or groups trying to destabilize Central American governments."

Repatriation

The five governments agree to aid the voluntary return to their countries of those displaced by military conflicts in the region.

Verification and follow-up

The accords call for the formation of the International Commission of Verification and Follow-Up to monitor progress in carrying out the accords. It will be composed of the general secretaries (or their representatives) of the United Nations and Organization of American States; the foreign ministers of the five Central American nations; the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group (made up of the governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela); and the foreign ministers of the Support Group to Contadora (made up of the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay).

By November 7 the accords' stipulations on amnesty, cease-fire, democratic rights, ending of aid to "irregular forces," and ending the use of Central American territory to support such forces are to be met.

On December 7 the International Commission on Verification and Follow-Up will assess the progress being made in carrying out the accords.

On January 6 the five Central American presidents will meet again to receive a report from the verification commission and make further decisions.



November 1986 workers' demonstration in San Salvador against government's attacks. Banner reads, "The austerity package serves to finance the war."

Salvador rebels press gov't on peace talks

FMLN on Central America pact

The following statement was released August 11 by the General Command of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador. It is the Salvadoran freedom fighters' response to the accord signed August 7 in Guatemala by the presidents of five Central American countries (see summary of accord in box on facing page).

Salvadoran President José Napoleón Duarte dismissed the FMLN's proposal on how to resume a dialogue in a speech he gave to the country's national assembly August 13.

Duarte proposed a meeting with the FMLN and Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) on September 15. The next day, the FMLN and FDR issued a joint statement saying they would attend the September 15 meeting.

The translation from Spanish and sub-heads are by the Militant.

1. We have always viewed favorably efforts aimed at attaining a just and durable peace in our region.

2. The agreement reached in Guatemala is a political victory for the Sandinista People's Revolution.

It is based on recognition of the revolution's legitimacy, which signifies recognition of the right of the people of Nicaragua to self-determination and, more concretely, of their right to carry out the popular and democratic revolution our peoples need.

For eight years Reagan and his puppets have tried without success to overthrow the Sandinista People's Revolution, imposing great sacrifices, destruction, and death on the heroic Nicaraguan people.

And although the Guatemala accord does not by itself have the real capacity to halt the mercenary aggression, it is an indisputable political defeat for the arrogant, interventionist line of the present U.S. administration — a reversal that undercuts its immediate efforts to obtain congressional funding for the contras.

3. The Guatemala accord is the logical result of the profound weakening Reagan's policy has suffered in Central America.

The Nicaraguan people have dealt the Somozaist mercenaries a strategic defeat. And in El Salvador the revolutionary process headed by the FMLN cannot be halted despite the \$3 billion the United States has invested in this effort during a seven-year war of counterinsurgency.

As a consequence, Reagan's two main puppet forces in the region — the Napoleón Duarte government and the Somozaist mercenaries — have been radically weakened and have no perspective for survival. It is the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador, through their sacrifices and blood, who have been mainly responsible for this important result.

Crisis of Duarte regime

4. Napoleón Duarte was forced to sign the Guatemala accord because of the profound political and military weakness of his government, in a country that finds itself immersed in the deepest economic, political, and social crisis of its history, amid extensive and growing popular discontent.

At the moment of his greatest weakness, Napoleón Duarte is ingenuously seeking to use a transparent diplomatic maneuver to isolate and defeat the FMLN — something he has not and never will be able to accomplish with either troops, political tricks, or

the enormous economic, military, and political support of the United States.

5. The Duarte government is incapable of carrying through a genuine process of national democratization. It has been unable to resolve the current labor conflicts. Nor can it control the army, which is responsible for the slaughter of more than 60,000 compatriots and massive human rights violations. It has severely wounded national sovereignty. In El Salvador, democracy, national self-determination, and peace require the formation of a government of national consensus.

6. The FMLN is a movement with national roots, with its rearguard inside the country, with enormous popular support acknowledged even by the enemy, and with its own political program; this clearly demonstrates the existence of dual political and military power in El Salvador. Our forces depend on the people; we are neither based on nor dependent on outside support.

The essence and strength of the FMLN is based on its support from and incorporation of the people; it represents their interests, and it is this that assures the FMLN's unstoppable drive to victory.

The Nicaraguan contras, in contrast, are an instrument created from the outside by the Reagan administration to attack the people of Nicaragua and destabilize their revolution. It has its rearguard in Honduras; it is created, financed, and run by the U.S. government against the will of the Honduran people and could not survive without this foreign support. Herein lies its weakness and the certainty of its definitive defeat.

Thus it is absolutely false and totally unacceptable to try to establish any similarity between the FMLN and the Nicaraguan contras.

U.S. intervention in Central America

7. The main factors in the conflict in Central America are deep social injustice and U.S. imperialist intervention. It is the United States that has forced mercenary bases and U.S. troops on Honduras, that is directly carrying out aggression against Nicaragua, and that props up a puppet government and a genocidal war of counterinsurgency against the people of El Salvador.

The continuation of imperialist aggression forces our people to continue fighting until the enemy is totally defeated, because without this there can be no genuine, just, and durable peace. The efforts of the Nicaraguan people to defeat the contras, along with the struggles of the Salvadoran and other sister peoples, continue to be the fundamental factors for attaining peace — so we must redouble our efforts in this regard.

The Guatemala accord will be ineffective in attaining peace if U.S. intervention and aggression in Central America is not halted. It is the Reagan administration that is really on trial now. After learning about the accord signed by the presidents, this administration said it would continue supporting the contras. And on their part, the contra leaders have declared that they intend to continue the aggression.

Accordingly, everyone who supports the Guatemala accord should demand of the U.S. government that it immediately cease its intervention and aggression in Central America. The quest for peace in our region today requires this kind of realistic approach, this kind of moral and political consistency. Calling for peace without halting U.S. intervention and aggression

would be the equivalent of calling on the people to bow down, humiliate, and immolate themselves before the imperial power.

'Renew the dialogue'

8. The FMLN considers that the Guatemala accord establishes a general framework that is favorable for continuation of the dialogue in our country. We should remember that the dialogue between the FMLN-FDR and the government began in La Palma in 1984 and continued in Ayagualo in November of the same year. Both meetings reached accords that established a commitment to continue the dialogue without preconditions.

These accords were later violated and scrapped by Duarte. The FMLN then carried out actions that forced the government to hold meetings in which important and effective agreements were reached, including procedures for evacuating those wounded in the war.

Resolutions by the United Nations General Assembly and the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, as well as statements by governments and international political forces have recognized and supported the dialogue initiated in El Salvador between the FMLN-FDR and the government. These same forces have continually called for renewal of the talks. Everyone



Salvadoran President José Napoleón Duarte dismissed FMLN proposal.

knows Duarte is responsible for the breakdown in the talks.

The dialogue that has already begun should continue on the basis of the same agreements that governed the talks in the past and won for them both international and national recognition and support.

In this connection we state that we are prepared immediately to meet with Jose Napoleón Duarte — here or abroad, in public or in private — with an agenda including such points as the following:

- A halt on both sides to external logistical support.
- A cease-fire.
- Comprehensive negotiations, at least on the 18 points regarding humanization and reduction of the economic impact of the war, a proposal we made at the end of May but that still has not received an official response.

We will soon submit a concrete proposal to the government for facilitating renewal of the dialogue.

Government repression continues

9. It is irrational to invoke the Guatemala accords, as Duarte is now doing, to impose conditions and evade a dialogue. These accords are inspired by the quest

for peace but in no way contradict the necessity to seek peace according to the characteristics and conditions in which the conflict is unfolding in each country; there is really no other way to attain peace.

Napoleón Duarte's good faith and desire for dialogue have yet to be seen in concrete practice. He has given no reply to the 18 points; on the contrary, his government has continued the bombing of the civilian population, the disappearances, arrests without judicial orders, murders.

It has responded to workers' strikes with antiriot battalions. It has planted bombs and weapons in the offices of humanitarian organizations. It continues forced recruitment to the army. It compels working people to pay for the war, imposing starvation wages, refusing to make even minimum concessions, and repressing them.

It maintains and utilizes a judicial system that prosecutes and jails working people who denounce corruption or raise legitimate demands.

On the other hand, it makes no effort to find or prosecute those who murdered Monsignor [Oscar] Romero, or the soldiers who have conducted countless massacres and crimes against the people.

10. The FMLN accuses before world public opinion Duarte's government of asking Reagan for more and better helicopters and planes, more bombs and rockets, more infantry weapons, and millions of dollars more in funding.

Reagan has already promised all this and has also ordered military maneuvers to be carried out shortly on both sides of the border between El Salvador and Honduras. Troops from the United States, El Salvador, and Honduras are to participate.

Reagan is blocking the search for peace in Central America, pressuring the Honduran army to become involved in the war against the FMLN, and manipulating both the government and military high command of El Salvador.

11. We call on all our people to demand of Duarte a general amnesty for political prisoners and for those who have "disappeared"; respect for the freedoms and rights of working people to organize themselves and fight for their interests; a halt to the repression and murders; and reopening of the dialogue with the FDR-FMLN.

We call on the entire Salvadoran people to deepen their political, trade union, and armed struggle. We call on them to join and intensify the people's revolutionary war so long as this situation does not change, so long as there is no dialogue and negotiation toward a just and sovereign peace.

We call on all our people and our combatants to resist and defeat the escalation of the war of counterinsurgency Reagan is imposing on our country. We call on the people to continue advancing, so as to open the road to peace.

12. At the same time, the FMLN calls on the peoples of Latin America and the world, on all governments, political forces, and international organizations that desire peace, to understand the real situation in our country and to put pressure on the U.S. government to cease its policy of escalating warfare in El Salvador; to press the Duarte government to reopen the process of dialogue and negotiation, and to continue participating until accords are reached that will bring the just peace the Salvadoran people yearn for, demand, and merit.

South African miners make gains in strike

Continued from front page

death rates in the world. An estimated 800 miners were killed in mine accidents in South Africa in 1986 alone.

The dangers facing miners were underlined by a mine disaster the day after the strike ended. Five miners were killed and 42 were missing after an explosion in a gold mine near the town of Welkom in the Orange Free State.

In deciding to end the strike, the NUM agreed to accept a settlement offer by the representative of the mineowners, the South African Chamber of Mines. Although the exact details of the settlement are not yet available, it is reported to be similar to one rejected by the miners four days earlier.

In response to that rejection, the mineowners stepped up their attacks on workers, including physical assaults by private security forces. Anglo American, the largest mining company, announced it would take "harsh measures against the miners."

40,000 fired

Over the next few days, several mines were closed. Some 40,000 miners had been fired. Miners at Anglo American's Western Deep Levels mine began a sit-down strike when they were forced out of their hostels and down into the mine shaft at gunpoint by company security forces.

Nine miners were killed, 300 wounded, and more than 400 arrested over the course of the strike.

During the strike, the apartheid regime announced new emergency powers to censor the press. These would augment the more than 100 measures restricting the press already established under a 14-month-old state of emergency decree.

Under the terms of the one-year agreement, miners would receive 15 to 23.4 percent in wages, which had been conceded by the mineowners prior to the strike. In addition, death benefits paid to families of miners killed on the job would be increased to the equivalent of three years' pay. Holiday pay would be increased by 10 percent.

In announcing the decision of the union to end the strike, Ramaphosa said, "We haven't won all the demands we sought to win. We have won valuable experience. This strike was a dress rehearsal for further action; 1988 is already set as the year when the union makes gains."

He added that the companies had given assurances they would rehire the miners as part of the agreement and that the union would take legal action if the companies reneged.

The decision of the miners to return to

work has been described in the big-business press as an "economic" victory for the mineowners. But representatives of the mining companies have not been in a hurry to gloat over the outcome.

Naas Steenkamp, president of the Chamber of Mines, commented that the strike has led to "greater realism on both sides. The employer has learned that the union has muscle, organizational capacity, determination, and skill. The union has learned that the employer can be flexible, but can also set the limits and stick to them."

Some mineowners have hinted at the need for deeper concessions in the structure of apartheid, including the migratory worker system. According to the September 1 *New York Times*, "A senior industry figure said the best bulwark against future strikes was a better-paid, better-educated, and smaller force of workers, accommodated in family housing."

Robert Godsell, chief negotiator for Anglo American, expressed uneasiness: "We had to follow a certain path. I think we followed it very reluctantly."

"None of my colleagues are going to be celebrating victory here today," he summed up.



Miners demonstrating in Johannesburg during South African strike

Kentucky miners face frame-up charges

BY DUNCAN WILLIAMS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Nearly three years after the beginning of the United Mine Workers strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co. and Samoyed Energy, five union members are facing a frame-up in federal court.

In early August, a federal grand jury in eastern Kentucky charged United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2496 President Donnie Thornsby, his cousin David Thornsby, James and Irving Smith, and Arnold Heightland with "conspiracy to damage and disable motor vehicles used in interstate commerce."

The frame-up stems from the shooting death of Hayes West, a nonunion truck driver, on May 29, 1985.

The methods used in arresting the miners show the real purpose of the prosecution. Instead of allowing them to turn themselves in, FBI agents and Kentucky state police surrounded their homes at 7:00 a.m. on August 7. Dressed in full riot gear, the cops handcuffed the defendants and dragged them away.

In at least one case, a miners' wife was held at gunpoint during the arrest. After-

wards, police snipers in camouflage gear were seen coming down from the hills around the miners' homes.

From the time of the arrests until the evening of the next day, family members were unable to find out where the miners were being held.

Only one defendant, Irving Smith, has been allowed to post bond. The other four are in jail in Lexington, Kentucky. U.S. Magistrate Joe Hood refused to set bond for them, claiming the community would be endangered by their release. The trial is scheduled to begin October 6.

Family and friends of the victims are beginning to organize a defense effort.

These miners are targeted for being activists in the 1984-85 strikes against Massey, the fifth-largest U.S. coal producer,

and against Samoyed. Massey hired an army of gun thugs and scabs to try to break the strike at its mines in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky. At the strike's end, Massey refused to allow some union activists to return to their jobs. Most of the disputed questions in the strike remain unresolved.

A court ruled that Samoyed did not have to rehire union miners when it bought a Kentucky mine from Sharondale Corp. in late 1984. Sixty-eight UMWA members are still fighting to get their jobs back at that mine.

The government and the coal operators are trying to use these prosecutions to intimidate union members as they prepare for the expiration of contracts in the eastern coalfields in early 1988.

Arms train runs over antiwar vet

Continued from front page

go to that country over the next five months. They will help rebuild a clinic destroyed by U.S.-backed contra mercenaries in San José de Bocay, the Nicaraguan village where U.S. volunteer Benjamin Liner was killed by contras in April.

Willson had served as an army intelligence officer in Vietnam during the late 1960s. He was assigned to go into villages after they had been bombed with white phosphorous. The Naval Weapons Station at Concord ships white phosphorous bombs to El Salvador.

Protesters had been maintaining an almost daily vigil at Concord, which is 40 miles east of here, for many weeks. Willson sent a letter to the base commander on August 21 explaining their plans for the September 1 protest. He also called the base commander repeatedly but couldn't get through.

At 10:30 a.m., September 1 the Nuremberg Action Group (NAG) held an interfaith service in Concord, followed by a news conference at which they again announced their plans.

Willson explained in his statement to the news conference, "One thing seems clear: once the train carrying the munitions moves past our human blockade, if it does, other human beings in other parts of the world will be killed and maimed. We are not worth more, they are not worth less. I have to say you cannot move these weapons without moving my body."

Marilyn Coffey and Bob Lasalle from NAG informed many base personnel about the plans. They explained that the rest of the day would go peacefully because they are a nonviolent group. They also left a letter from Willson with the gate commander after the base commander, Capt. Lonnie Cagle, refused to see them.

Bill Nygren of the Pledge of Resistance

told the *Militant*, "It wasn't the engineer" who was at fault. "It was the navy. That's indicative of the way the military functions in Central America and gets away with it."

Captain Cagle has tried to blame Willson, claiming that the protesters jumped onto the track while the train was just 40 feet away. But organizers, witnesses, photos, and a videotape show that this wasn't true. The protesters were on the tracks long before the train arrived.

Brian Willson, in his T-shirt with "Wage peace" printed on the back, sat on the track. Veteran Duncan Murphy and a minister, David Duncomb, stood on the tracks behind him. Still others behind them held high a banner across the tracks.

Murphy and Duncomb were able to jump clear. Witnesses say that the train accelerated as it approached the protesters.

A fire truck and police cars arrived almost immediately, but a witness reported that it took almost 45 minutes for the ambulance to arrive. Willson was taken to the hospital.

About 60 people attended an emergency planning meeting that evening to discuss how to respond. A news conference was scheduled and a demonstration called for Saturday, September 5 at noon, in Concord's Clyde Park.

Vets groups, Central America solidarity organizations, students, and other people attended the meeting. Others pledged to conduct a vigil at the weapons station and were there by early the next morning.

"These protests are now even more important," said Pledge of Resistance member Nygren. "This is a crucial time because of the [Central America] peace talks going on. If peace is to be won it will be because of the people of Central America and masses of people in this country protesting and demanding an end to the war. Otherwise there will be no peace."

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The September issue of PM features an interview with Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and Juan Segarra Palmer, two of the 16 fighters for Puerto Rican independence who are being framed up by the FBI.

Although no court has proven them guilty of anything, Ojeda and Segarra have been in jail for more than two years, without the right to bail and with no trial date in sight.

In the interview, the two defendants explain their struggle and the stakes for U.S. working people in this fight.



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India gov't fuels unrest in Punjab

Since the *Militant* received the following article on the imposition of "President's Rule" in the Indian state of Punjab last May, the crisis of India's ruling Congress Party has deepened.

In mid-June the Congress Party won only 5 of 90 seats in the Haryana state legislature. Haryana was a longtime Congress stronghold. It marked the 10th loss at the state level for the Congress since Rajiv Gandhi became prime minister in 1984.

The most serious problem for the Congress and India's rulers remains the situation in Punjab, home of some 12 million Sikhs in the north of India. There are 16 million people of the Sikh faith among India's nearly 800 million people. Under President's Rule, the central government in New Delhi takes direct control of all state affairs, replacing the elected government. The state assembly is suspended and a governor appointed by the prime minister is put in charge.

M. Navid, a leader of the Revolutionary Communist Organization of India, discusses why the Congress imposed President's Rule and the general political situation in Punjab today.

* * *

BY M. NAVID

BOMBAY, India — The imposition of President's Rule in Punjab on May 11 did not come as a surprise.

Far from helping to contain and reduce polarization between Sikhs and Hindus in Punjab, direct rule by the central govern-



Sikh marchers protest discrimination

ment is guaranteed to make the situation worse as the forces of "law and order" are let loose to carry out mass repression on a greater scale than ever. This will further alienate the Sikh masses from the state and thereby push them to support those sections of the Sikh militants who argue that the only solution to their grievances is the formation of a separate country ruled by a Sikh theocracy — Khalistan.

The Punjab Accord signed in July 1985 by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, leader of the "moderates" in the Sikh Akali Dal Party, is as good as dead. The accord was in some respects a concession to Sikh communalism (religious-based sectarianism) as represented by the Akali Dal.

The accord, however, also recognized certain genuine grievances of not just Sikhs but of Punjab itself, and promised to redress these.

Thus a commission was to be set up to investigate the anti-Sikh riots that took place in New Delhi and other towns when then-prime minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated in late 1984. Several thousand Sikhs lost their lives.

According to the accord, a tribunal would adjudicate on the distribution of the waters of the Ravi and Beas rivers to the three states of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan, which adjoin each other. Those arrested in the Sikh's Golden Temple at the time of the 1984 Operation Bluestar assault by the central government were to be released. Chandigarh, the dual capital of Haryana and Punjab, was to be transferred to Punjab in fulfillment of a promise made by the central government as long ago as 1970. Contiguous Hindi-speaking areas in

Punjab were to be transferred to Haryana in lieu of this. (Most Sikhs are Punjabi-speaking.)

Never a solution

The accord was never a solution to the Punjab problem, but it would, if properly implemented, have reduced tensions, checked the growing alienation of Sikhs, weakened the thrust towards Khalistan, and thus bought time and space for the construction of a genuine anticomunal front.

Such a front would attack Hindu and Sikh communalism as well as the communalism of all political parties, especially that of the ruling Congress Party and of the Akali Dal, the party of the Sikh rich peasantry of Punjab. The Akali Dal, through pandering to communal fears, had also obtained the support of other sections of the Sikh community, including landless laborers, urban traders, and professionals.

The Akali Dal was itself divided into different factions. There was a "moderate" faction headed by Surjit Singh Barnala (the successor to Longowal) who was chief minister of Punjab before being removed by President's Rule.

Other political factions were willing to forge links with Sikh fundamentalist groupings of various kinds, including armed militants.

The Barnala government, which came to power through popular elections in September 1985, never had any chance of stabilizing its position. The Center was never serious about implementing the accord, which alone would have given some credibility to the Barnala government and enabled it to widen its base among Sikhs at the expense of the Sikh militant groups, including supporters of Khalistan. These forces had once again begun to assert their dominance within the Golden Temple — seat of the religious hierarchy — and the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), the supreme religious body of Sikhs. The Akali Dal is financially dependent on the SGPC.

Why has the Center imposed President's Rule?

Unwilling to seriously implement the 1985 Punjab Accord, it has nothing else to fall back on except police repression led by India's "supercop" Julius Ribeiro, who has an unmatched reputation for ruthlessness.

There can be no doubt that the principal reason for imposing President's Rule was to pander to Hindu communalism.

Congress has lost several state elections recently. Because of corruption scandals, the credibility of the central government and Congress Party are at an all-time low.

The government has said that President's Rule is temporary until "law and order" is restored.

Anticomunal front

But the fundamental problems of Punjab remain untouched. No communal force, which means the existing bourgeois parties of the state, can successfully decommunalize the situation or fairly address the grievances and fears of both Hindus and Sikhs of Punjab (Sikhs are 52 percent of the state's population.)

Neither the pro-Khalistan forces nor the openly Hindu communal organizations, which are growing in Punjab and Haryana, will be curbed, let alone defeated. Only the construction of a truly secular, anticomunal front can point a way out of this morass.

In recent months, in parts of Punjab there has been something of a revival in genuine anticomunal activities — for example, street plays, demonstrations against communal violence and killings, unity activities between Hindus and Sikhs in villages in which members of major left parties, including the two Communist parties, have played a prominent part.

The success of these actions has made communist members targets of the pro-Khalistan armed groups, leading to the rise in the number of leftists assassinated. But it also testifies to the still deep bonds of unity and solidarity that exist between ordinary Hindus and Sikhs, especially in the villages and small towns of Punjab.



Sikh separatists in Punjab occupied Golden Temple, center of their religious hierarchy, in 1984. Government crushed occupation by attacking temple, taking many lives.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

S. Korea rulers agree to new constitution

The authoritarian regime of President Chun Doo Hwan in South Korea arrived at an agreement with the principal opposition capitalist party on the draft of a new constitution.

The agreement was a product of the giant demonstrations for democratic rights that gripped the country in June and the explosion of strike struggles that followed.

The draft constitution would provide for direct election of the president, put some restraint on presidential powers, and add to the authority of the legislature.

Meanwhile, the regime, deeply fearful of a labor-student alliance, made a new round of arrests.

For the first time since the government promised democratic reforms, key student activists were jailed. One group was charged with inciting labor disputes.

Since the beginning of this year, there have been 2,000 strikes, eight times as many as in all of 1986. Of these, 1400 have been settled, and 600 are in progress. Half of the 2,000 strikes came in the four-week period ending August 25.

Fueled by an average wage of \$1.75 an hour, an average workweek of 57 hours, and widespread imposition of company unions, the strikes have hit all sectors of the economy, including such huge industrial complexes as the Hyundai Motor Co., manufacturer of the Excel car, and the Daewoo Shipbuilding and Heavy Machinery Co.

The Hyundai strike ended when the company agreed to negotiate the workers' demand for a union of their choice. (A September 2 report said the workers walked out again, charging the company had reneged on its commitment.)

At Daewoo, a settlement was announced August 27 in a battle that began as a lockout of the workers. It is not clear if the settlement has been accepted by the workers at the company's Koje Island shipyard, where a unionist had been killed by shrapnel from a police tear gas grenade.

British miners vote against antiunion rules

British coal miners have taken a resolute stand against union-busting moves by the board of the government-owned coal industry. By a 77 percent majority, the miners authorized their leadership to take job action against a harsh new disciplinary code the coal board is trying to impose.

The union vote was announced August 24. It is assumed that the "various

forms of industrial action" voted by the membership would initially take the form of refusing to work overtime.

The new disciplinary code follows in the wake of a defeat suffered by the National Union of Mineworkers in a hard-fought yearlong strike that ended in 1985.

Under the code, miners can be fired for participating in various forms of union activity — on or off the job — that the board does not approve of.

The code would require that in disciplinary cases, miners submit to a lengthy appeals process before an industrial board rather than having the case settled more quickly by a traditional "pit umpire."

It would also give the coal board the right to reject a fired worker's choice of union representative in the grievance procedure.

In a solid display of their traditional militancy, the miners voted 51,682 to 15,155 to fight this.

NUM President Arthur Scargill saluted the ballot result as "a magnificent vote of support for the union's policy."

French colonial cops club Kanak protesters

Using truncheons and tear gas, French cops assaulted 300 participants in a peaceful, proindependence sit-in in New Caledonia August 22, injuring 23 people. Four days later, 800 protesters defied a ban on demonstrations and marched, without incident, in the capital city of Nouméa.

The protest actions were led by the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), which is fighting to end French colonial rule over the South Pacific island.

The FLNKS is conducting a boycott drive against a slated September 13 French-organized plebiscite on the issue of independence for New Caledonia.

The referendum is rigged to assure a vote against independence. The Kanak people, whose country it is, now comprise a reported 43 percent of the population. French colonial settlers make up most of the remainder.

In the referendum, all those who have been resident for three years — including French civil servants and soldiers temporarily stationed there — would be permitted to vote, guaranteeing the outcome.

The FLNKS wants a referendum "in which only the colonized people are asked for their view on the future of their country."

At the same time, the movement declared it was ready to discuss with officials "the possibility of long-term settlers taking part in the referendum."

Watch it, the cops! — In the Mexico City earthquake, a police station collapsed and a group of cops was transferred to temporary headquarters in a middle-class



Harry Ring

area. Now the residents are angrily demanding they get out. The neighborhood's been hit with a rising crime wave, including assaults, theft of car parts, shake-downs, and drunken rowdiness by the cops.

Royal blood — At his fifth

birthday party, Prince William of Britain had a high old time tossing food around. Pressed to pick up after himself, he screamed, "When I'm king, I'm going to send my knights round to kill you."

Ultimate fulfillment — B.F. Skinner, the behaviorist psychologist, says labor-saving devices deprive people of small satisfactions. For instance, dishwashers. If you wash a dish by hand, he opines, "you've accomplished something. You've done something that gives you a pleasing result."

For kicks — It's said that when the going gets tough, the tough go shopping. Like Imelda Marcos' shoe spree. Or, Canadian right-wing Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. He ordered closet space at

the official residence to accommodate 30 suits and 84 pairs of shoes, including 50 of Gucci loafers. His spouse needed 42 feet of apparel space, plus room for 100 pairs of shoes.

Wears better — If you think it's just people who get messed up by big-city life, consider the finding that urban pigeons, in seeking a nesting spot, are especially partial to outdoor carpeting made to look like grass.

Now will you stop complaining? — To provide better service, imagewise, the post office has assigned window clerks and phone operators to take Dale Carnegie courses (*How to Win Friends and Influence People*). Meanwhile, the plan is to hike the 22-cent stamp to 25 cents and raise other

rates accordingly.

Looking good — It was, admittedly, a bit beyond our budget, but we checked it out. Matching handbag and shoes in lizard, snake or crocodile, \$368. Then we looked a bit closer — "embossed to look like..."

Please hold? — We don't know why someone who can afford one would want to carry it, but Panasonic is offering a transportable cellular phone, with shoulder strap and case. Under \$2,000.

Great for gargling — Ginseng Cola will be imported from China and aimed at the yuppie market. Ginseng reportedly enhances health and sexual potency. It's probably coincidence, but announcement of the new product

comes on the heels of a dental finding that yuppies, inexplicably, are more prone to trench mouth.

Figures don't lie ... — In a somewhat candid report entitled "Uncertainties and Bias in Budget Projections" the Congressional Budget Office conceded that so far in the 1980s, Congress has "underestimated" the yearly deficit by an average of \$44 billion. In 1983, it was under by \$91 billion.

He has a beef alright — Last week we reported that John Powell, a work-release inmate in Bartow, Florida was hit with an added 15-year term for smuggling eight cans of "beef" into jail Xmas eve. That was the work of a typographical gremlin. It was eight cans of beer.

—CALENDAR—

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Solidarity With the South African Freedom Struggle. Speakers: Dumi Matabane, representative of the African National Congress of South Africa; Annapolis Councilman Carl Snowden, recently returned from a fact-finding trip to South Africa; G.I. Johnson, member Local 2610, United Steelworkers of America Civil Rights Committee. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. Preforum dinner, 6 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation requested. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Discussion on the Government's Antidrug, Antiyouth Campaign. Translation to Spanish. Wed., Sept. 9, 7 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Central America Peace Accords: People of the Americas Say No to U.S. War. Panel of speakers followed by discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

Revolt in South Korea: Korean People Challenge Dictatorship. Panel followed by discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 19, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Issues in the Debate Over AIDS. Speaker: Margaret Jayko, editor of the *Militant* newspaper. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 5, 7:30

p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

Haiti: An Eyewitness Report. Speakers: Art Young, reporter for the *Militant* newspaper; Mercedes Rigaud, Haitian Community Services of Irvington. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

The Havana Bienal: A Discussion. Hear the viewpoints of artists who support the revolutionary process in Cuba and who attended the Bienal, a show with works by more than 800 artists from Latin America and the Caribbean. Speakers: Mike Alewitz, Newark artist and director of Pathfinder mural project; New York artists Marina Gutierrez (a Bienal prize-winner), Juan Sanchez, and Willie Birch. Sat., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

What Are the Haitian People Fighting For? Discussion and eyewitness report. Speakers: Art Young, reporter for the *Militant* newspaper, recently returned from Haiti; representative from *Haiti Progrès*. Translation to Spanish and French. Fri., Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

New York City

No to apartheid tennis! Close the U.S. Open Tennis Match to Apartheid! Sanctions against apartheid tennis are sanctions against the apartheid system! Demonstrations on Sat., Sept. 5, 1-3 p.m.; and Sun., Sept. 13, 3-6 p.m. Assemble at Flushing Meadows Park Tennis Stadium, just off Shea Stadium Station. Take No. 7 Train. For more information call Gerald Horne, coordinator of the Ad Hoc Committee to Oppose Apartheid in U.S. Tennis, at (212) 828-2696.

Sponsors: South African Council on Sport, Tennis Association of South Africa, South African Non-racial Olympic Committee, American Committee on Africa, Brooklynites Against Apartheid, Communications Workers of America Local 1180, National Rainbow Coalition,

November 29th Committee for Palestine, New York South Africa Solidarity Coalition, Socialist Workers Party, Patrice Lumumba Coalition, S.O.S. Racism, Westchester People's Action Coalition.

OREGON

Portland

The U.S. and Central America: A Conference in the Spirit of Ben Linder. First Congregational Church, SW Park and Madison. Fri., Sept. 25 through Sunday, Sept. 27. Benefit feast with conference speakers, Sat., 6-8 p.m. Donation: \$12-\$30. Proceeds from conference go to the Ben Linder Memorial Fund. Sponsor: Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, others. For more information call (503) 236-7463.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Plant Closings, Union-busting: What Can Working People Do? A panel discussion. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

Midwest activists....
attend a

Socialist Conference

in Austin, Minn.

Sun., Sept. 6 & Mon., Sept. 7

Presentations:

Cuba: a Historic Turning Point Speaker: **Mary-Alice Waters**, Socialist Workers Party Political Committee, recently attended the Third Congress of the Cuban Communist Party. Sun., Sept. 6, 8 p.m.

50 Years of a Domestic Contra Operation Speaker: **Joe Swanson**, Midwest labor spokesperson for the Political Rights Defense Fund. Mon., Sept. 7, 10 a.m. Picnic to follow at 1 p.m.

All events at The Cedars. Directions: From I-90 take Exit 177 North, drive 1.7 miles. Turn right at billboard and go 0.6 miles, then left and go 0.9 miles. Make second left at The Cedars sign.

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TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054. **Lubbock:** YSA, c/o Amy Waugh, 2202 22nd St., Apt. B. Zip: 79411.

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

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

Coup attempt deepens Philippines crisis

Continued from front page

hierarchy, and reiterated its continued support for Aquino. "The president is gratified and relieved that President Aquino has resolved the crisis faced by her government over the past two days," a White House spokesman said.

Revival of protests

A central reason for Washington's concern was undoubtedly a revival of political mobilizations by working people during August. There had been a lull in activity since the cease-fire between the regime and the peasant guerrilla movement ended in the January 22 massacre of peasants participating in a land march outside the presidential palace. The new round of actions aimed at forcing Aquino to roll back a stiff increase in petroleum prices.

Major cities were affected by the protests. For instance, militant drivers' strikes that shut down public transportation were reported in areas as diverse as Davao, Cebu, Bicol, and Manila.

On August 21 at least 5,000 demonstrators rallied outside Aquino's office.

The protests were spearheaded by the May 1 Movement (KMU) labor federation. The KMU had launched its campaign a month earlier when the oil price rises were first raised.

In a July 6 interview with the *Militant* in Manila, KMU Chairman Crispin Beltran, had explained that the price increases were inseparable from the austerity measures the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were imposing on the Philippines.

"The primary object of [the government's] so-called recovery program now is to service the external indebtedness of the Philippines. And where are they going to get the money to be paid to the foreign banks in interest and repayments on the debts if they do not increase the prices of commodities so they can get more in taxes?"

Pledging that the KMU would organize the broadest possible opposition to any increase, Beltran said, "The first step is that we are going to push our demand for an overall increase in all workers' wages of 10 pesos per day. The president has not acted on this demand for one and a half years now. The KMU will spearhead multisectoral protests against the price hike. Our affiliates will stage strikes."

Call for general strike

The protests drew in the 1-million-strong Labor Advisory and Consultative Council — through which the KMU is allied with smaller independent labor federa-



Militant/Russell Johnson



Unions were among targets of coup attempt. Top, Rolando Olalia (right), chairman of May 1 Movement union federation murdered last year by army-linked killers, with current chairman Crispin Beltran. Below, President Aquino and army chief Ramos.

tions — and the progovernment Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, climaxing in the call for a general strike on August 26.

On the eve of the historic strike, Aquino announced over television that the price increase would be halved through a reduction of government taxation on petroleum products. But this was not enough to stop the momentum of the protests. The KMU called for the nationwide strike to proceed. "It is high time we gave this government a lesson," said a KMU spokesperson.

According to press reports, significant actions took place despite Aquino calling out the military in a bid to intimidate the protesters. Television footage clearly depicted soldiers shooting into groups of protesters.

KMU leaders became a target of government repression. Two days after the general strike, Honasan launched his coup at-

tempt, catching the government by surprise. "Instead of preparing its defenses against a military mutiny like the one that erupted early Friday, the Government was busy making preventative arrests of militant labor leaders," the *New York Times* commented.

Peasants demand land

The military mutiny also came in the context of deepening divisions within the ruling class over how to respond to the pressure of the millions of landless and hungry rural Filipinos demanding the

break-up of the big landed estates of the Philippine ruling oligarchy. The landless peasants are the basis of the widespread guerrilla insurgency led by the New People's Army. President Aquino's personal popularity is centered on her promise to bring peace to the countryside through implementing a comprehensive land reform.

After 18 months of hesitation, Aquino finally issued her land reform decree on July 22, a few days before her law-making powers were to be transferred to the congress elected in May.

The main content of the decree was to exclude all peasants "illegally" occupying land from receiving any under the decree, and to relegate to the landlord-dominated congress the details and scope of land distribution, ensuring that no comprehensive redistribution of the land would receive legal sanction. For this reason the decree was denounced by peasant organizations such as the Peasant Movement of the Philippines (KMP).

Nevertheless, the decree met deep hostility from a large number of landlords, who fear that any land reform measure will spur peasants who have already begun to organize and take the land for themselves following the overthrow of Marcos.

Some landlords have threatened to bring down the Aquino government if it proceeds with land reform. And this is not an idle threat. Many big landlords control their own private armies and vigilante groups to subdue the peasants and farm workers.

In addition, they have direct links to the military, significant sections of the high command being drawn from their ranks. Individual landlords also often supplement soldiers' low pay with bonuses in return for guarding their estates from the guerrillas, and harassing and killing peasant and union organizers.

In the aftermath of his suppression of the military rebellion, Ramos echoed many of the themes of the right-wing mutineers. At a September 1 press conference he criticized the Aquino government for failing to respond strongly enough to demands from within the military to step up attacks on the workers and peasants, saying that this was deepening factionalism within the armed forces and reducing their ability to combat the peasant insurgency.

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
Sept. 9, 1977

MIAMI — On August 15 the Coast Guard towed in from offshore a small, creaky sailboat crowded with 65 refugees from Haiti. The following day 16 more Haitians arrived in a 24-foot boat.

These latest 81 refugees, like some 2,000 others who have arrived in Florida during the past five years, were rushed through processing and sent directly to jail.

This all coincided with United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young's return from Haiti where he had met with dictator 'Baby Doc' Jean-Claude Duvalier. Praising Duvalier as a sincere man who "wants to do the right thing," Young claimed there were only 21 political prisoners in the country.

Amnesty International lists 255 political prisoners by name. It also cites reports from church-related organizations of massive use of torture and executions of Haitian political dissidents.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People
Sept. 10, 1962 Price 10c

Sept. 5 — The Ku Klux Klan is mobilizing, burning crosses, and threatening renewed bloody violence against the growing Negro mass movement for integration in the South. Klansmen in Louisiana set crosses afire in over a dozen towns and in the state capital the night of September 1 in anticipation of the fall school term and attempts by Negroes to integrate schools.

Operating with immunity from the local

police, who have arrested hundreds of Negroes peacefully demonstrating for their rights, the hooded Klansmen openly burned huge crosses in front of the state capitol in Baton Rouge as well as on the grounds of Negro homes and schools. A Klan spokesman said, "We want everyone to know that the Ku Klux has been reactivated in Louisiana."

KKK racists gathered from Georgia, Alabama, and Florida to attend a rally in a pasture outside Albany, Georgia, the night of September 3, on the eve of the opening of public schools in the area. Robert M. Shelton, an "Imperial Wizard" of the KKK, told the crowd of 3,000 that "bloodshed" would be involved in the Klan's fight against the integration drive of Albany's Negroes.

At the same time, a mass meeting of Negroes, sponsored by the Albany Movement, was held in a church in the city. The meeting greeted 16 religious leaders who had just been released from Albany jails. They were part of a group of 70 ministers and laymen from various states who were arrested August 28 in another of the anti-segregation demonstrations that have hit Albany since the Movement began last November.

The meeting resolved to continue the struggle and to attempt to integrate Albany's white high school the following day despite Klan threats of violence. On September 4, 19 Negro youths attempted to enroll in the high school and junior high but were refused entry by the school principals. Albany Movement President Dr. W. G. Anderson said a suit to integrate the school would be filed in the federal courts. Meanwhile, a boycott of downtown stores continues, the local bus line remains closed by boycott, and the city's public parks and libraries have also been closed by police to forestall integration attempts.

Marchers: 'Free Hartford 16!'

Continued from back page

consciousness of our people is growing."

Hospital and Health Care Employees District 1199 in New York brought three busloads of people to the march. District 1199 Vice-president Dennis Rivera told the crowd, "This case of denial of civil rights is very important. Particularly when economic and social conditions are getting critical, and with the increased fights of the workers, it is important to maintain civil and economic rights. It is in this sense that we are working with the committee to obtain the best victory."

Earlier this year the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights held its convention in Hartford and solidarized with the 16 defendants. Zoilo Torres, president of the congress, explained, "We see that the best protection all our compatriots could have in this country" is to build a massive civil rights movement to "protect the interests of all."

The crowd chanted "Free South Africa" after a statement was read from Fred Dube of the African National Congress of South Africa.

"The United States arrests and detains Puerto Ricans who choose self-determination and holds them in detention, denying them political status and instead labeling them as terrorists. The United States reserves the status of freedom fighter for their own created terrorists, such as the contras and the bandits of UNITA in Angola. We who believe in freedom and self-

determination call on the U.S. government to end the persecution of the Puerto Rican freedom fighters," read Dube's statement.

Other speakers at the rally included New York State Assemblyman Jose Rivera; Roger Wareham of the New York 8+ defense case; Bob Gustafson, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee; and Rabab Hadi, November 29 Committee.

Puerto Rico

In a telephone interview from Puerto Rico, *Militant* reporter Ron Richards said 3,000 people marched in San Juan. The protest began in the working-class neighborhood of Puerto de Tierra and ended with a rally in front of the federal court. One of the main chants was "Enough of federal abuse!" There were banners from several cities calling for the release of the 16. One banner said, "Yankees go home!"

A number of people wore T-shirts and hats with slogans expressing solidarity with the people of El Salvador and Nicaragua. Participants included unionists from the teachers' union, longshoremen's union, and others.

In San Francisco, 200 people attended an indoor rally. The featured speaker was Elias Castro Ramos, one of the Hartford defendants. His talk focused on the effects of colonization on the Puerto Rican people and the need for independence. Puerto Rican writer Piri Thomas and other artists, including a group from Casa Puerto Rico, also participated in the program.

Gov't to blame in AIDS arson

Those who torched the home of the Ray family in Arcadia, Florida, because three of the children have the AIDS virus are no better than a lynch mob.

The arsonists acted August 28 after a collapsed school boycott failed to keep the three children out of class.

Announcing that the family was leaving town rather than remain at risk, Clifford Ray, the father, said, "I hold the politicians and school board responsible for what happened."

He charged that officials had permitted panic to rule the town and failed to educate townspeople to the fact that AIDS cannot be transmitted through casual contact.

The three children — Richard, 10, Robert, 9, and Randy, 8 — are hemophiliacs who became infected with the AIDS virus through contamination of blood-clotting medication. They do not have symptoms of the disease.

Last fall, the school board barred them from class. The Ray family fought back, winning a federal court order for their reinstatement.

When school began August 24, there was a boycott. By the end of the week it had collapsed and was called off. That night, the Ray's home was burned to the ground.

Earlier, there had been bomb and death threats against the family.

The ugliness of the mood in town was voiced by one resident. Speaking of the Ray children, he told a reporter, "What's the point of an education for them, huh? They don't need to get an education, because according to

statistics I've seen, they only have but five years to live."

An isolated case of a vicious bigot? No. When the school boycott was called, the mayor of Arcadia, George Smith, joined in by taking his son out of class.

Trying to justify this, he said, "Unfortunately, the Ray boys have been subject to nosebleeds."

The mayor was simply playing on the myth that hemophiliacs are more prone to external bleeding than other people.

In fact, the primary problem of hemophiliacs is internal bleeding. They heal from external cuts or abrasions as fast as anyone else.

Moreover, children with the AIDS virus are the least likely of all carriers to pass it on to someone else. AIDS cannot be transmitted by casual contact. It is only through the entering of infected blood or semen into the bloodstream of another person that transmission occurs.

Clifford Ray's indictment of Arcadia politicians and officials applies with even greater force on the national level.

At bottom is the scandalous refusal of the government in Washington to take meaningful action on AIDS. It refuses to launch a serious medical and scientific drive against the disease. And it refuses to conduct the kind of educational campaign that is needed to inoculate people against the right-wing propaganda that is being cranked out around the AIDS issue. Instead, it treats AIDS as a crime and its victims as criminals.

This is what fueled the Arcadia arson attack.

Profit drive erodes air safety

Hardly a day passes without one or more accidents or near-misses in the skies.

The victims of this breakdown in air safety are the millions who travel by plane, those who live near airports, and workers at airports and air traffic control centers around the country.

The collapse of the air safety system was brought home on August 16 when 157 people were killed in the crash of a Northwest Airlines jet during takeoff from Detroit. It was the second crash at the Detroit airport in six months.

In addition to safety problems, air passengers stand a good chance of having their flights delayed and often miss their connections.

Airline officials, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Democratic and Republican party politicians are quick to blame air traffic controllers, pilots, or ground crews for the safety errors and flight delays.

Following the Northwest disaster, T. Allan McArtor, the new head of the FAA, called a widely publicized meeting of 200 pilots to scold them for a lack of "vigilance in the cockpits."

But the blame for the breakdown lies squarely with the billionaire families who own the airlines and compete ferociously with each other and their international rivals for profits.

And it lies with the federal government that lifted regulation over airlines in 1978 and continues policies that aid this profit drive.

Following deregulation, each airline tried to increase its share of the market by lowering fares on certain

flights. This coincided with cuts in national rail passenger service, and to a lesser degree, cuts in bus service.

Under this pressure, some airlines folded; others have been forced to merge with stronger competitors.

Air traffic in the United States has increased from 275 million passengers a year in 1978, to an estimated 450 million this year. And 80 percent of all passengers travel through the 40 busiest airports.

Airport workers, from flight attendants to air traffic controllers, have come under sharp attack as the employers fight to speed up work schedules, cut wages, and tighten work rules.

The employers also try to maximize profits by squeezing as much work as possible from the fewest number of workers. The government pointed the way by refusing to hire enough air traffic controllers to replace those fired when it smashed the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization in 1981.

Safety is always one of the first things to go out the window when corners begin to be cut.

Training for controllers, pilots, flight attendants, and mechanics is rushed and inadequate.

Little time is allotted for pilots and controllers to be retrained on newly introduced equipment.

Supervisors force planes into the air without allowing mechanics ample time to check for damage or to complete repairs.

By loudly protesting government and employer complicity in attacks on safety, the unions that organize airline workers can set an example for the millions concerned with the breakdown of the air traffic system.

Smokescreen in Howard Beach case

New moves are under way to turn the victims of the Howard Beach lynch attack into the criminals.

In a legal action, the defense moved to have the indictments in the case dismissed, utilizing the fact that one of the victims now says he brandished a knife at the racist gang, trying to hold off its assault.

The motion to dismiss was not accepted by the court. But clearly the defense intends to keep using this fake issue as a smokescreen in a case where the fact of a naked racist mob attack has been clearly established.

One of the defense lawyers declared he intends to prove that the three Black victims of the attack "were actually the aggressors."

The three men — Michael Griffith, Cedric Sandiford, and Timothy Grimes — were set upon by at least a dozen whites last December in Howard Beach, one of New York's white enclaves.

They were attacked with baseball bats and tree limbs as they emerged from a pizza parlor.

Grimes, who recently told the prosecutor he brandished a knife to hold off the attackers, managed to escape.

Sandiford was caught by the racist thugs and clubbed to the ground.

His stepson, Griffith, was pursued by the club-wielding gang onto a highway where he was killed by a car.

From the outset, New York officials tried to sweep the case under the rug.

The city attorney handling the case conducted a probe that was patently designed to go nowhere.

But the lynch attack evoked such anger and protests that officials had to back off. After initially refusing to do so, Gov. Mario Cuomo appointed a special prosecutor in the case, and, finally, indictments were obtained. Twelve whites now face trial on charges ranging from murder to assault and riot.

But the combination of a reluctant prosecution and a defense determined to smear the victims as "aggressors" means that strong pressure will be needed to assure convictions in the case.

And such convictions are of vital importance in the ongoing fight against racist violence. If the guilty escape prison, it will surely be a green light for other lynch-minded racists.

This is even more true since the outrageous "not guilty" whitewash of Bernhard Goetz, the racist vigilante who shot four Black youths in cold blood in a New York subway.

In the Goetz trial, the prosecution and judge joined in permitting Goetz's lawyer to do what the Howard Beach defense is now out to copy — put the victim on trial.

With the Howard Beach trial slated to begin this month, it is more important than ever that all opponents of racist violence raise their voices to demand that all those involved in the attack be convicted and jailed.

How Nicaragua fights to save environment

BY DOUG JENNESS

In last week's column on whether or not humanity is doomed by a limited amount of natural resources, I referred to Cuban President Fidel Castro's statement that environmental pollution and destruction of natural resources can't be resolved simply by changing the social regime.

Something more is needed than replacing capitalist political rule with a government of the working people. A conscious, political effort to organize the producing classes to begin tackling these problems is needed.

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

After reading this, one reader reminded me of a speech by Nicaraguan Sandinista leader Tomás Borge that appears in *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution* (Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. 1985. \$7.95.)

In this presentation to the First Seminar for Saving Lake Xolotlán (Lake Managua) in 1982, Borge describes how the lake was severely polluted by manufacturing firms and other profiteers under the rule of the Somoza family. "We inherit a sick lake, but not mortally sick," he pointed out.

Borge then described what is necessary to save the lake, one of the largest in Latin America.

The first condition, he said, was for working people to acquire political power. That "first step," he stated, "has been taken with the revolution itself."

Following this, he said, it is necessary to look toward "creating consciousness of the problem, toward the discussion and investigation that should be devoted to the plan which most meets and coordinates the previously mentioned requirements. It looks toward proposing the most suitable methods and instruments to carry them out."

After outlining a number of practical measures that can be taken, Borge continued, "None of these steps — like all those that our revolution is taking, like the enormous step that our very revolution signifies — can be taken firmly without the foundation of the people's participation."

"Without this role of the people," he continued, "saving the lake . . . will not be possible."

Borge's speech is noteworthy in several respects. First, it shows that the Sandinista leadership is deeply concerned about the spoilation of the environment and has projected making a serious effort to do something about it.

Another feature of Borge's speech was his recognition that — though science and technology are necessary to decontaminate the lake and other polluted resources — the key is mobilizing the participation of the people.

What's required is political understanding of the problem and the necessity to correct it, and the collective effort to do whatever possible with the means that are available.

I don't know what progress the Nicaraguan people have made in restoring Lake Xolotlán in the last five years. Perhaps some of our readers know and will write to us about it.

I do know from a report last year in *Barricada Internacional*, the Sandinistas' English-language weekly published in Managua, that the contra war has set back some of the country's plans to protect and restore the environment. This includes reforestation and flood control projects, saving endangered species, and creating national parks and wildlife preserves.

Moreover, according to Lorenzo Cardenal, the director of National Parks, the war itself is a principal cause of destruction of Nicaragua's resources and ecology.

Barricada Internacional explained, "The enormous resources consumed by the war effort leave precious little to be devoted to other necessities, and conservation of the environment is not high in the priorities."

The bulk of what isn't allocated for defense is distributed between health and education.

But whatever obstacles and reverses the Sandinista regime faces in coping with the ruination of the environment inherited from the Somoza tyranny, their explanation of the significance of the problems and the stance they've taken toward dealing with them sharply contrast with what is being done by capitalist governments. This includes ones with far more resources to combat environmental problems.

"Capitalism," Borge said, "sees men only as a source of labor and sees nature only as a raw material to produce merchandise; the capitalist conception of the world is that of an immense market."

But "we Nicaraguan revolutionaries would be irresponsible and clumsy if we permitted our lake to be converted into a dead lake; even more, I believe we would cease being revolutionaries if we did not save the lake. Saving the lake and converting it into an agent of production, irrigation, energy, and beauty."

How Trinidad oilfield union forced end to lockout

BY NELS J'ANTHONY

At the recent Fifth Trade Union Conference on Unity and Solidarity of the Caribbean Workers held in Trinidad and Tobago, union leaders from countries throughout the Caribbean discussed the increasing attacks against work-

UNION TALK

ing people by capitalists whose holdings span many countries. While attending the conference, I was able to learn about union resistance to these assaults.

One union that led a successful struggle is the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union of Trinidad. Of the many struggles the OWTU has been involved in this past year, the battle against the lockout at Federation Chemicals (Fed Chem) stands out.

On Aug. 28, 1986, Fed Chem, a subsidiary of the giant U.S.-based W.R. Grace conglomerate, locked out 200 union workers at its ammonia plant. During contract negotiations the OWTU had rejected company demands to cut severance pay, increase forced overtime, and eliminate the cost of living adjustment (COLA) from workers' pay.

With inflation running rampant and the recent devaluation of the Trinidad and Tobago dollar, the union demanded a minimum wage increase of 20 percent with COLA intact. In the pages of its newspaper, the *Vanguard*, the OWTU pointed out that Fed Chem benefited from the currency devaluation because it receives U.S. dollars for the ammonia it sells and pays devalued TT dollars for wages, electricity, water, etc. Currency devaluation gave Fed Chem a 33 1/3 percent savings on local costs. Fed Chem also buys its main feed stock, natural gas, at bargain-basement prices set by the government.

Fed Chem, however, was crying poverty, stating that concessions from the workers were necessary because of the shrinking ammonia market. The company offered

a paltry 4 percent wage increase over three years. In an obvious union-busting move, just prior to the lockout Fed Chem sent out individual contracts for workers to sign, including in them items not discussed with the OWTU.

Cutting through the company lies, the *Vanguard* pointed out that ammonia exports from Trinidad to the United States were increasing to the point where Trinidad accounts for 25 percent of all ammonia imported by the United States. In addition, W.R. Grace had recently entered into a joint venture with the Trinidad and Tobago government to build a new ammonia plant. Obviously Fed Chem could meet the workers' demands easily.

As explained by the union, what was involved in the company's hard line was "employer class solidarity." A statement by the OWTU on the lockout explained, "The trade union movement is under siege. For example, for 1986 there have been no strikes called by Unions, while there have been no fewer than twelve lockouts by employers." The statement pointed to the fact that the employers' associations "have all openly stated that they will support all employers who take lockout action." For the employers, the Fed Chem lockout was a test case.

This attack on the Fed Chem workers was met by a militant struggle led by the OWTU. Through the pages of the *Vanguard* and through thousands of leaflets distributed to workers throughout the country, the OWTU got out the truth about the lockout. All-night vigils and demonstrations were repeatedly organized, with the OWTU appealing to the entire labor movement to participate. A lockout camp was set up outside the plant gate for the duration.

Locked-out workers joined thousands of other workers, farmers, and unemployed in a national day of protest on October 23 in Port of Spain, the country's capital city. That action, organized by 14 unions, demanded an end to the attacks on the rights and living standard of working people.

Pressure was put on the government to force Fed Chem to end the lockout, which was illegal. The OWTU filed suit but Fed Chem refused to show up at the court pro-

ceedings. Then OWTU demanded that the government nationalize the company. Criticizing the government for failing to protect the interests of the Trinidadian people against the malicious actions of the U.S. owners, the *Vanguard* asked, "Who is running the country — [Prime Minister] George Chambers or [Fed Chem Chairman] Sydney Knox?"

In December last year the National Alliance for Reconstruction won in the national elections, unseating the People's National Movement that had ruled Trinidad and Tobago for 30 years. Ominously, one of the first actions taken by the NAR government was to eliminate COLA from the pay of 100,000 workers employed in state-owned enterprises. The *Vanguard* spoke out against this attack stating that "some workers, in particular OWTU members, have been offering resistance to . . . the lockouts which seek to make unions redundant. The 'Budget' removal of COLA now legitimizes this illegal attack by the Big Business elite."

When the NAR failed to take measures to end the lockout, Fed Chem workers again took to the streets, organizing the first demonstrations against the new government.

In January an amendment to the Industrial Relations Act was passed giving the government increased powers to intervene in labor disputes. The pressure that the union had brought to bear had convinced the government that it had to act. The government now had the power to halt strikes or lockouts after three months, forcing disputes into arbitration in the Industrial Court.

Fed Chem did not wait for further court action, however, and opened its gates on February 12 for workers to return to their jobs. A celebration rally was immediately organized by the union. The company agreed to the continuation of COLA, but wage and severance pay issues remain to be settled in court.

Nels J'Anthony is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-750 and was an official observer at the Fifth Trade Union Conference on Unity and Solidarity of the Caribbean Workers.

LETTERS

Nicaragua

With each passing day, it becomes more evident that the only enemy in Central America is the United States.

The simple truth is Nicaragua's determination to pursue its own destiny represents far less a threat to enslave the world in communism than it represents an example in moral courage to the millions of oppressed poor residing in the Third World.

The very nature of this entire contra war waged by this president — the mining of Nicaraguan harbors, the systematic bombing of medical supplies, the routine ambush and murder of civilian workers, which has resulted in the deaths of 15,000 Nicaraguan people — demands that the Nicaraguan question be addressed by our elected representatives.

How did such unconscionable acts of terrorism evolve into national policy in the first place?

Have we reverted back to the racist mentality of Vietnam, which decrees that people of brown or yellow skin are not as worthy as some other people and therefore don't count for as much?

These are just some beginning questions that hopefully will force the U.S. Congress to, at long last, confront the Nicaraguan question.

Doug Owen
Hawthorne, California

"Cuba — an example"

Robert F. Williams, a longtime civil rights activist who organized armed self-defense against Ku Klux Klan terror in the South, was the featured speaker at a recent Militant Labor Forum in Detroit. Williams was forced to flee to Cuba in 1961 when he was framed up on a kidnapping charge in Monroe, North Carolina, because of his civil rights activities.

A staunch supporter of the Cuban revolution, Williams was given a radio program on Radio Havana "without censorship," he explained. He called the show "Radio Free Dixie." It featured music and commentary about the Black struggle in the United States and aimed to win support for Cuba from Afro-Americans.

Williams explained that he was the victim of CIA subterfuge while in Cuba. The agency tried to block the radio transmissions and accused him of passing secrets to the "enemy."

The speaker added that his support for Cuba is just as strong today because Cuba has been "the only nation willing to spill blood for Africa," a reference to Cuban troops in Angola.

Mark Friedman
Detroit, Michigan

Life in Cuba

While selling the issue of the *Militant* with Harry Ring's article on Tony Urrutia, the world class weight lifter who defected from Cuba in 1980, I met another defector — a Black woman who also left in 1980, not on a whim, but, as she put it, "following my husband."

Seven years later, what has life under capitalism brought her and her family?

Well, the husband is incarcerated in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary along with hundreds of other Mariel immigrants who have no idea when or if they'll ever be freed.

She, on the other hand, a former nurse and member of the Young Communists, who proudly displays a photograph of herself working in a hospital in Cuba, is now a nurse's aide for \$3.65 an hour.

Life in Cuba? She explains . . . "no drugs, no hunger, no problems for me."

And here? "My life is over now. I cry all the time."

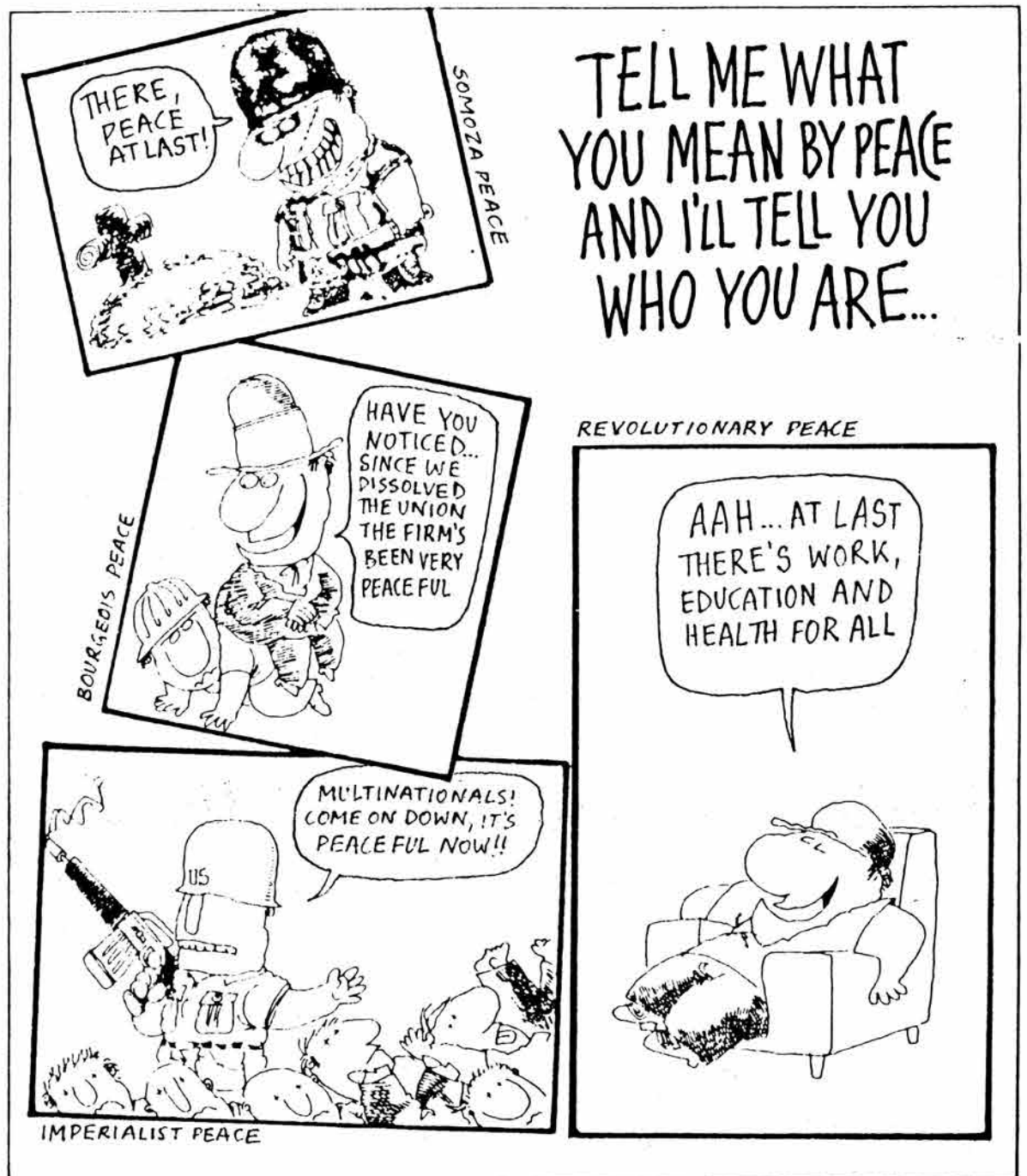
Kate Daher
Atlanta, Georgia

Killer cop

Outrage characterized the response of the Lawndale community on Chicago's West Side to one of the most blatant murders by police of a Black resident.

On August 13, 27-year-old John Williams died from a bullet in the side of his head.

A woman from the neighbor-



Barricada/Róger

hood described it this way: "I heard a shot and went to the window. Before I got to the window, I heard another shot. When I looked out across the street, one man was lying face down, the other man was on top of him."

"The man on top hit him hard with a gun, and I could see blood coming from the other man's head. Then the man on top fired again and killed him."

This statement was corroborated by many others.

The story given by the Illinois State Police is the same excuse they give every time a cold-blooded murder takes place: that the victim was engaged in a struggle for the cop's gun, the cop got the gun back from the victim, the gun somehow went off.

But this ritual is an out-and-out lie. Even the local alderman, William Henry, stated, "If what [eyewitnesses] told me was true, the

state trooper should be fired today."

J.V.

Chicago, Illinois

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.

Free the Puerto Rican activists! Rallies protest frame-up of 16 independence fighters

BY SAM MANUEL

HARTFORD, Conn. — A march and rally here August 30 demanding freedom for 16 supporters of independence for Puerto Rico attracted 2,000 people. The 16 are in Hartford awaiting trial on charges stemming from the 1983 robbery of \$7 million from a Wells Fargo depot.

The protest marked the second anniversary of the Aug. 30, 1985, raid in Puerto Rico by more than 200 armed FBI agents from the United States. They ransacked 37 homes and offices and arrested 11 independence supporters. Five others were subsequently arrested.

Protesters came from cities throughout the Northeast, making this year's turnout roughly double that of last year's. Activities were also held in San Francisco and in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"Freedom, freedom, for Filiberto and Juan," chanted the lead contingent. Two of the defendants, Juan Segarra Palmer and Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, remain imprisoned and are beginning an unprecedented third year of "preventative detention." The other 14 defendants were released after a 16-month campaign of protests.

"Long live free Puerto Rico, Yankees out of the Caribbean" and "Independence for Puerto Rico," chanted others. The mostly Latino march was cheered by hundreds of people lining the route, waving Puerto Rican flags from their doorways, windows, and shops.

The struggle for justice for the defendants — known as the Hartford 16 — has become an example for all those fighting for the rights of Latinos. A group of young Puerto Ricans came from New York's El Puente Community Center. They had re-



Defendants Luis Colón, Yvonne Meléndez, and Lucy Berríos at Hartford rally attended by 2,000. Protests were also held in San Francisco and San Juan.

cently been involved in a fight against school segregation in Brooklyn.

"We decided to come to Hartford because if we don't fight for our rights, we'll lose them. And the best way to defend these rights is by marching, uniting with the rest of the people," explained Claribel Lozada.

A contingent from the Francisco Morazán Honduran Committee also marched. One member of the group explained, "We

came to Hartford to participate in this march because we identify with the struggle of the Puerto Rican people. They are an occupied people, like us. The U.S. government has military bases and troops in Puerto Rico, the same as in Honduras. The U.S. government's violations of Puerto Rican and Honduran rights are not only violations of national sovereignty, but also of the most basic civil rights."

Others carried placards protesting police

brutality and demanding fair housing and jobs.

A large banner from an organization called New England Walk for Nuclear Disarmament read, "Test peace, not nuclear weapons." Felipe Chávez explained that the group had come to the march because "the U.S. government uses Puerto Rico as a beachhead for nuclear weapons in the Caribbean."

Yvonne Meléndez, one of the defendants, read a message at the rally on behalf of the 16.

"The bankruptcy of colonialism in Puerto Rico has left an economy that is dependent and in constant crisis, an island that has been converted into a military bastion, and a population with serious and profound social problems.

"The security of all the people of the Caribbean and Central America is in danger as long as Puerto Rico remains a military bastion.

"There is no short path, no easy way to reach independence and self-determination for Puerto Rico. It is a course we have to travel together with the Puerto Rican masses and all North Americans who believe in peace, justice, and democracy."

Emphasizing the importance of the case of the Hartford 16, Meléndez later told the *Militant*, "People must understand that what happened to us can happen to them at any moment. The government has tried to criminalize the independence movement in Puerto Rico and in the United States. Anybody who decides to confront the government, to expose injustice and the violations of our rights, is repressed and persecuted. But the people are here, fighting, and the

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Canadian gov't forces end to 5-day rail strike

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

OTTAWA, Canada — On less than 24 hours notice, 600 rail workers from Quebec and Ontario demonstrated in front of the Parliament Building here August 28. They were protesting the federal government's back-to-work legislation to end a national rail strike.

Hundreds of rail workers participated in protests the same day in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and in Calgary, Alberta.

The workers were angered at Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Conservative government legislating an end to the five-day strike. Members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers here in Ottawa also came out to show their solidarity with the rail unionists.

After the workers tried to break through barricades to enter the Parliament Building, the government called in a heavily armed riot squad.

"This isn't South Africa, is it?" shouted several workers.

A Liberal Party spokesperson who voted for the back-to-work legislation was booed off the platform before he could begin speaking to union members. New Democratic Party member Rod Murphy, whose party voted against the law, was cheered when he spoke.

The back-to-work law is a gift to the management of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railroads. The terms of the law do not guarantee the 48,000 rail workers a wage increase until the end of 1989. In addition, the law does not guarantee that existing job-security provisions in the contract will be improved or even maintained.

Job security was the key issue in the

strike. More than 100,000 jobs in Canada's rail industry have been eliminated since 1950. The rate of job loss has been faster than ever the past few years.

Issues outstanding between the Associated Railway Unions (ARU) and management will be decided by a government appointed arbitrator within 60 days.

In addition to these antiunion provisions, the government also imposed stiff penalties for disobeying the law. Individual rail workers who stay off the job can be subjected to fines of Canadian \$500 to \$1,000 a day. Much higher fines can be levied against union officers who do not "take all reasonable steps" to insure that union members return to their jobs. And

the unions themselves can be fined tens of thousands of dollars for failing to comply with the legislation.

ARU chief negotiator Armand Passaretti was shocked by the levels of the fines. "We are not capitalists, we are trade unionists," he said.

The law also prohibits a strike by the 6,500 rail workers organized in the shop crafts.

On August 31 the federal government passed another law that prohibits the 2,500 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers from beginning their strike.

In effect, Canadian rail workers do not have the right to strike. Four times since

1950 striking rail unionists have been ordered back to work. Each time the government said it acted in the "public interest."

But the antilabor role of the federal government is becoming clearer to working people.

Last year the government passed a law prohibiting a strike by longshoremen in British Columbia. This past June, the federal government organized scabs during the strike by Canada's 21,000 letter carriers. At present, the threat of strike-breaking legislation and the use of scabs hangs over the heads of some 20,000 inside postal workers and 8,500 Air Canada workers who are poised to take strike action soon.

Pittsburgh march to protest racist attack

BY JIM LITTLE

PITTSBURGH — Antiracist activists have issued a call for an "old-fashioned civil rights march" to take place September 19 in the Morningside neighborhood here. It will protest a vicious racist attack that occurred August 16.

On that Sunday evening, Marilyn Jackson, a Black woman, drove up to a small food market with other members of her family. They came to buy ice cream for a birthday party they were having at their home in a nearby neighborhood.

A gang of about 15 white thugs, armed with an icepick and baseball bats, began to shout racist epithets and mimic a monkey. They then physically assaulted Jackson and her children. They beat 15-year-old Tanya, her daughter, and teenaged family friends

Shann and Kahn Holliday. Jackson had to fight her way back to her car with her nine-month-old child in her arms.

Saying that "now is the time to act," Irene Thomas, president of Pittsburgh's Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, initiated the Coalition Against Racist Violence, which called the Morningside march.

There have been two meetings of the coalition, and plans are fully underway to insure a successful march and rally.

Meeting participants included leaders of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; American Federation of Government Employees; Urban League; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and various community and peace groups. A list of

endorsers for the march will be issued soon.

There have been several racist attacks in Pittsburgh in recent months. One of the most publicized happened on July 5 when a Black family's home was stoned by a gang of racist youths.

The Coalition Against Racist Violence is holding the march in Morningside to emphasize the issue that there can be no "white-only" enclaves. Blacks must have the right to go anywhere in Pittsburgh — including Morningside. Currently, Blacks who live adjacent to Morningside or must pass through it report frequent verbal abuse and physical threats.

Marilyn Jackson, who is a resident of neighboring Stanton Heights, pointed out, "This is a racist problem. My kids can't even catch the bus down there."