

Massive march in D.C. demands action on AIDS



Hundreds of thousands joined October 11 march for full democratic rights for gays and lesbians

Militant/David Rosenfeld

BY GEORGE KONTANIS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Waves of applause from bystanders greeted the victims of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) as they were wheeled past the White House in a massive demonstration here Sunday October 11.

The People With Aids (PWAs) contingent that led the march was just the beginning of a flood of several hundred thousand demonstrators that filled the streets of Washington, D.C. for five or more hours.

The march for lesbian and gay rights started off at noon from the Ellipse behind the White House, and at 5:00 p.m. marchers were still filing out of the assembly area heading for the rally near the Capitol. Police estimated the march at 200,000; march organizers' estimates ranged from 300,000 to 500,000. Whatever the exact figure, it was the biggest march in history for lesbian and gay rights, much larger than the 1979 demonstration of 100,000.

Ten thousand people came from the Los Angeles area alone. Bright purple-and-yellow banners of the California National Organization for Women (NOW) lead the way for their contingent.

"Every supporter of lesbian and gay rights from L.A. must be here — they just keep coming and coming," exclaimed one demonstrator.

The marchers hailed from across the United States and other countries as well. From Alaska and Oregon, Montana and Idaho, Florida and Texas, Iowa and Ohio, New York and Maine — they marched and chanted to demand the U.S. government spend the billions necessary to adequately fund AIDS research.

They were also marching for full civil

rights and an end to discrimination in housing and employment.

A demonstrator from New York who organizes the New York city-based AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) said, "I came because I hope that numbers make a difference. This government is doing nothing to help the victims of AIDS." He was wearing a T-shirt with Reagan's picture crossed out and the slogan "AIDSGATE" painted in.

Thousands of people of color — Black, Latino, Asian, and Native American — took part in the march. The African-American Gay and Lesbian Alliance marched and chanted, "Say it loud, say it loud, we're gay, Black, and proud." The National Association of Black and White Men Together chanted, "Racist, sexist, anti-gay; Reagan, Bork, no way."

The sentiment against Reagan's nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court ran high among march participants. One

woman was wearing and selling "Shred Bork" buttons. Another sign said, "Send Bork back on Amtrak" (a reference to the outrage New York demonstrators felt at Amtrak cancelling a train chartered for the march).

The Latinos Unidos group carried a large banner demanding, "Stop the witch-hunt — no mandatory testing."

The demonstration included tens of thousands of young people in dozens of college contingents.

Scott England said, "I came from the Grinnell College [Iowa] gay community. This is my first march. We thought it was important to be here. To demand they do something about gay rights. So I said let's go for it! The massiveness of this march has had a big effect on me."

"It's totally mind-boggling," he continued. "The Reagan administration has not done enough around AIDS research —

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Washington escalates aggression in gulf

A trial balloon floated in Washington to expand U.S. military actions in the Persian Gulf underlines the danger of the already massive U.S. gunboat operation there.

EDITORIAL

Meanwhile, it was announced that the West German government, in an unprecedented move, agreed to support the U.S. operation against Iran by assigning three naval vessels to the area.

The West German constitution bars military involvement beyond the borders of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance. It will be the first time German warships have been dispatched to the Mediterranean since the close of World War II.

Previously, five European governments had agreed to U.S. demands to join the operation, which is designed to aid Iraq in its war against Iran. Battleships and minesweepers have been sent by Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

According to the October 13 *Washington Post*, "western sources" disclosed that the rear admiral in charge of the operation asked for authority from Washington to go to the assistance of any ship that says it's been fired on by an Iranian vessel.

Current policy is supposed to limit such action to defense of ships sailing under the U.S. flag.

This proposed expansion of U.S. military actions would be a virtual declaration of war against Iran. It would put the U.S. government openly on the side of the Iraqi regime, which began its war against Iran seven years ago but has been unable to achieve victory.

The White House responded to the re-
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Meeting in Burkina targets apartheid

BY SAM MANUEL
AND MARGARET MANWARING

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — "The time for speeches and resolutions has passed. Our people want action," said Mark Shope, a leader of the African National Congress of South Africa's delegation to the Bambata Pan-African Anti-Apartheid Conference held in this West African country.

Six hundred delegates and guests participated in the October 8-9 conference, which was dedicated to Zulu Chief Bam-

bata. Bambata was killed and beheaded in 1906 during the armed resistance to British colonial rule of what is today South Africa.

Representatives from 29 countries from throughout Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and North America were present. They came from anti-apartheid groups, youth and women's organizations, and political groups and parties.

Delegations attended from 16 African countries.

Many of the foreign diplomats in Burkina also attended opening sessions.

An enthusiastic hand was given to a representative from the Cuban delegation who spoke about Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara. The Cuban delegate came to Burkina to participate in the activities here, including marking the 20th anniversary of Guevara's assassination in Bolivia.

A substantial leadership delegation from the African National Congress participated in the conference. Shope brought greetings to the conference from the ANC National Executive, which was meeting at the same time.

A representative from the South West Africa People's Organisation denounced the continued occupation of Namibia.

Joseph Daba, chairman of the United Nations special committee against apartheid also addressed the opening session.

Daba, who is also the Nigerian ambassador to the United Nations, had come to the conference even though the UN General Assembly was in session.

A storm of applause greeted Abu Amin, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Amin told the participants, "We are here to show unity of all those fighting against racism in the struggle for dignity in South Africa and Namibia. A victory against the racist apartheid regime will also be our victory."

The Burkina Faso representative, Mamabou Traoré, explained, "One of the aims of this conference is to make the anti-apartheid struggle no longer just the concern of governments and official institutions, but also and above all the concern of the people."

"It is on them that the struggle for liberation rests," he said. "Victory over apartheid will be achieved through solidarity among the people, especially through solidarity among the peoples of Africa."

A conference resolution urged African governments to permit or intensify the establishment of anti-apartheid movements in their countries. It called on them to get mass organizations, women's associations, youth, students, and trade unions to include among their political demands sup-

Continued on Page 13

Winning readers internationally

BY NORTON SANDLER

Revolutionary fighters from several countries, in addition to the United States, are participating in the campaign to win 6,000 new *Militant* readers by November 24.

In addition to circulating the *Militant*, revolutionists in Canada, Britain, New Zealand, Australia, Iceland, and other countries are also participating in the drive to win 1,500 new readers for the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* and in the effort to sell 2,000 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

Twenty-six *Militant* and 10 *Perspectiva*

Mundial subscriptions have been sold in Canada in recent weeks.

In telephone interviews, Larry Johnston in Toronto and Beverly Bernardo in Montreal described the *Militant* circulation effort. Both are supporters of the Canadian biweekly publications *Socialist Voice* and *Lutte Ouvrière*. Several hundred subscriptions to these publications expire soon, and supporters of the papers are in the midst of a drive to convince readers to renew their subscriptions.

"If they like *Socialist Voice*," Johnston said, "we explain they can also get the *Mil-*

Continued on Page 6

Ortega to Reagan: negotiate with Nicaragua

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — Speaking at the United Nations, October 8, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega called on the Reagan administration not to try to block the Central America peace accords. He urged the White House, instead, to enter into a dialogue with Nicaragua with the aim of ending hostilities against that Central American country.

The address was in direct response to Reagan's bellicose call, the previous day, for \$270 million in renewed congressional funding of the contra war against Nicaragua.

Ortega continued to stress the need for such dialogue in an appearance that night at Columbia University, in several major media interviews, and in a visit to the Bronx, where community activists said they had gathered 27,000 petition signatures in a single day against aid to the contras.

At the UN General Assembly, Ortega was warmly greeted by a big majority of the participants. When it was announced he was about to speak, scores of delegates flocked to the entrance of the assembly hall to greet him.

And when, early in his address, the U.S. delegation staged a walkout, a large number of the delegates registered their disapproval by breaking into derisive applause at the departing figures.

At the podium, Ortega paused briefly to observe the walkout, commenting, "Some people find their ears hurt when the truth is spoken and they are incapable of listening, but that's their business."

Ortega began his address by noting that it was the 20th anniversary of the death of Che Guevara at the hands of U.S.-directed Bolivian troops. The Argentine-born revolutionary was a leader of the Cuban revolution and died trying to help advance the Bolivian liberation struggle.

With the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979, Ortega said, Nicaraguans hoped to have a new relationship with the United States — a "respectful" relationship, "not one between slaves and masters."

But, he added, Washington remains determined "to wrest away our hard-won liberty."

Citing the human and economic toll the U.S.-sponsored contras have inflicted on Nicaragua, he added, "But their policy has failed."

Ortega welcomed an earlier vote by the UN General Assembly that unanimously endorsed the Central America peace accords. He said he hoped the U.S. government would abide by the resolution, "not just by saying it agrees," but by respecting its content.

In response to Reagan's attack on the accords at a meeting of the Organization of American States, and the assertion that the accords did not address U.S. "security" needs, Ortega declared that Reagan's speech was a display of "disrespect" for the five Central American presidents who had

negotiated the accords and for the agreement they arrived at.

Noting that Reagan was not a signer of the pact, Ortega said he would be "delighted" if Reagan were.

If Reagan had signed the agreement, Ortega observed, "then he would have the right to discuss its terms."

Those who did sign, he added, "are the leaders of independent, sovereign countries. We are not colonies, or semicolonies of the United States."

In answer to Reagan's declared concern about the level of Nicaraguan armed readiness, Ortega noted that the Guatemala agreement provides for negotiations between the Central American countries on the level of arms and the number of military advisers in their respective countries.

The Nicaraguan president emphasized, "We are willing to have all foreign advisers leave the region."

Ortega detailed Nicaragua's compliance with the Guatemala plan, pointing out that Washington's policy of force against Nicaragua had compelled it to establish a state of emergency, and that the Guatemala plan now made it possible for Nicaragua to take the steps it already has to lift curbs on liberties.

Proposes talks with Washington

Discussing a halt to the contra hostilities, he reiterated that the Nicaraguan government is ready to talk with the contra forces in the field, but sees no purpose in talking to the top contras, who are simply creatures of Washington.

The contras may disappear, he added, but Washington will maintain its aggression.

He warned of the danger that with an end to the contra war, Washington might impose a blockade against Nicaragua, launch "surgical strikes" against Nicaraguan targets, and even intervene directly with U.S. troops.

For these reasons, Ortega stressed, it's "pointless" to talk to the contras rather than Washington. This was a reiteration of Managua's longstanding proposal for bilateral negotiations.

Ortega explained that the people of the United States don't want another Vietnam. "The people do not want Rambos, they want men of peace," he said.

Columbia University meeting

The truth of that contention was readily apparent with Ortega's appearance that night as a guest of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University.

The school regularly invites public figures to engage in press conferences with the journalism students.

For this one, they used an auditorium that seats 750, and made tickets available to other Columbia students.

Early that afternoon, one student told the *Militant*, the line of people applying for tickets stretched for several blocks. And several hours before the meeting, the students who did get tickets were lined up to

make sure they got in.

The progress of the meeting itself was illuminating to observe.

Supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution, chanting "*¡No pasaran!*" (They shall not pass) were there in numbers, but were a minority of the audience. The rest of the students, though, greeted Ortega and the delegation that accompanied him, with warm, generous applause.

Ortega skipped the customary opening statement so the students could get right to their questions. They lined up at the microphones and plied him with a range of inquiries about the contra war, U.S.-Nicaraguan relations, and what is happening in Nicaragua itself. He answered all of the queries patiently and thoroughly.

Almost with each response, you could hear the applause increase.

Every appeal for U.S.-Nicaraguan negotiations and an end to the bloody contra war met with strong approval. Explanations of what the Nicaraguan revolution was trying to accomplish and how it was going about it were listened to carefully and, again, greeted with warm applause.

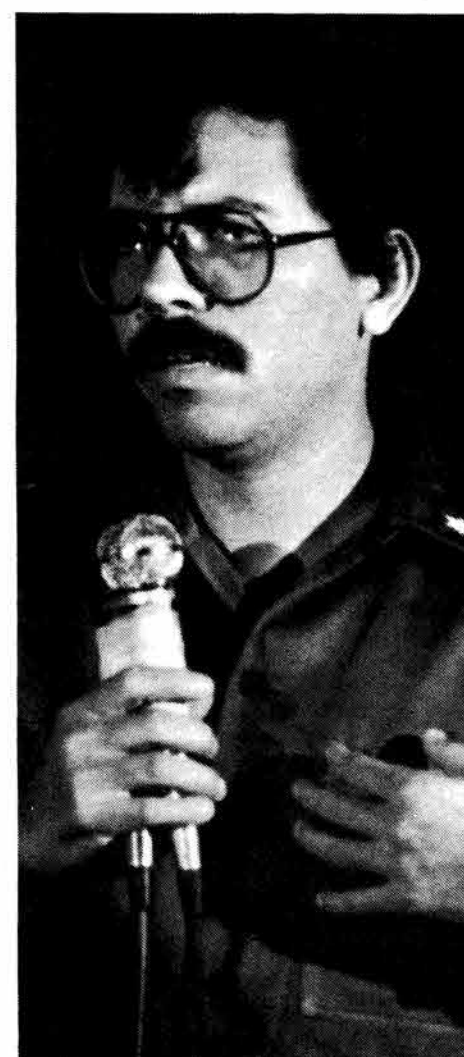
The audience listened with particular interest when Ortega responded to a student who said he had been to Nicaragua and while there had heard much criticism.

Ortega said he was sure this was so. The Nicaraguan people have much to criticize and complain about, he said. When he and other government officials face open meetings of the people, as they do each week, he wryly observed, "the questions are much more critical than here."

But, he stressed, the fact that there are many problems in impoverished, war-torn Nicaragua that people are critical of does not mean they are against the revolution. If they were, the revolution would not survive.

That brought a huge ovation.

But the students seemed particularly affected by Ortega's closing remarks, made virtually as the audience was leaving. The crowd sat back down to listen as he re-



Militant
Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega

turned to the microphone and explained that the Nicaraguan people did not confuse Washington's war policy with the sentiments of the North American people. As he spoke of the need to develop bonds of communication and friendship, there was a standing ovation. It was clear he had won added support for Nicaragua.

Atlanta protest hits killing by cops

BY GEORGE WILLIAMS
AND LINDA GRYTING

ATLANTA — Some 250 protesters marched to City Hall here September 29 to demand justice in the police murder of Eddie Lee Callahan. The action was the third in a series of protests since the killing occurred September 10.

Callahan, a 37-year-old Vietnam veteran, was gunned down by Atlanta police, who poured five hollow-point bullets into his back and one into his side as he lay on the ground.

Numerous squad cars and motorcycle police patrolled the route of the September 29 march. Three police helicopters hovered overhead as the marchers approached downtown. Cops refused to allow the demonstrators to rally at City Hall.

Federal Bureau of Investigation and Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents had an obvious presence, and taped the rally speech of City Council member Hosea Williams.

The cops' show of force made many of the marchers worry about their safety. Repeated police blockades prevented marchers from proceeding along the pre-arranged march route, and at each blockade march leaders had to improvise a new route.

Protest leaders included Williams, City Council member Debby McCarty, and State Rep. Tyrone Brooks.

Several marchers were witnesses to the murder and denounced the cops' slanderous use of lie detector "results" to disprove their statements about the crime.

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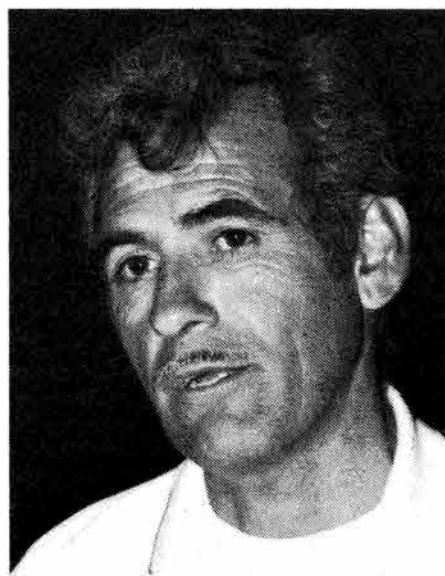
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SPECIAL
OFFER



Tomas Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State.

The Militant

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Coeditors: MARGARET JAYKO and DOUG JENNESS

Circulation Director: MALIK MIAH

Nicaragua Bureau Director: CINDY JAQUITH

Business Manager: JIM WHITE

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

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Pathfinder Building in N.Y. is ready for mural painting

BY STEVE CRAINE

NEW YORK — A scaffolding already covers the entire south wall of the Pathfinder Building in New York City in preparation for the painting of a huge mural illustrating the role of the revolutionary press in leading the struggles of working people.

At the same time as these technical preparations are beginning, the Pathfinder Mural Project is accelerating its campaign to broaden sponsorship and participation in the project. Project organizers are seeking to add to the growing list of prominent figures from the artistic community who are sponsors and contributors to the work, as well as to solicit help and funds from hundreds of unionists, antiwar- and social-justice activists, and others who see the production of this mural as part of their struggles.

Pathfinder is an international publisher and distributor of books relating to the struggles of working people.

With the scaffolding in place, the six-story brick wall is being sealed and a primer coat of white paint is being applied. A grid of chalk lines is then being put on the wall so the outlines of the design can be transferred to the wall, square by square.

The mural project aims to give artistic expression to the centrality of revolutionary publishing and the ideas conveyed by Pathfinder books to the struggles of working people worldwide.

The preliminary sketch for the mural, which is reproduced on this page, centers on a large web press like the one inside the building, on which most Pathfinder books and pamphlets are printed. The press itself is surrounded by and appears as part of a massive procession of the workers of the world. A banner proclaiming, in English, French, and Spanish, "For a world without borders!" is printed on the paper that feeds the press.

Revolutionaries' writings

The mural illustrates some of the many revolutionary leaders whose writings are published by Pathfinder and whose ideas continue to give guidance to fighters the world over. Portraits of these leaders appear on the books being produced on the press and throughout the crowd of demonstrators surrounding it.

Major portraits include Malcolm X;

Maurice Bishop, assassinated leader of the Grenada revolution; Cuban revolutionaries Fidel Castro and Che Guevara; Carlos Fonseca, founder of Marxism in Central America and of the Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua; Augusto César Sandino, Nicaragua's national hero; imprisoned South African freedom fighter Nelson Mandela; U.S. communists James P. Cannon and Farrell Dobbs, founders of the Socialist Workers Party; and leading figures in the world Marxist movement including Karl Marx, Fredrick Engels, V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, and Rosa Luxemburg; among others.

Mike Alewitz, artistic director of the Pathfinder Mural Project, sees the mural as "continuing the tradition of workers in struggle expressing their movements in artistic forms, such as graphics, dance, and song. The political and artistic inspiration for this mural come out of many of the social struggles of today — from the Nicaraguan revolution to the meat-packers' strikes in the Midwest.

"In a period when more and more artists are getting interested in political subjects," he continued, "Pathfinder is providing a centerpiece for artists and nonartists to work together. The painting of the mural will be a political action in itself."

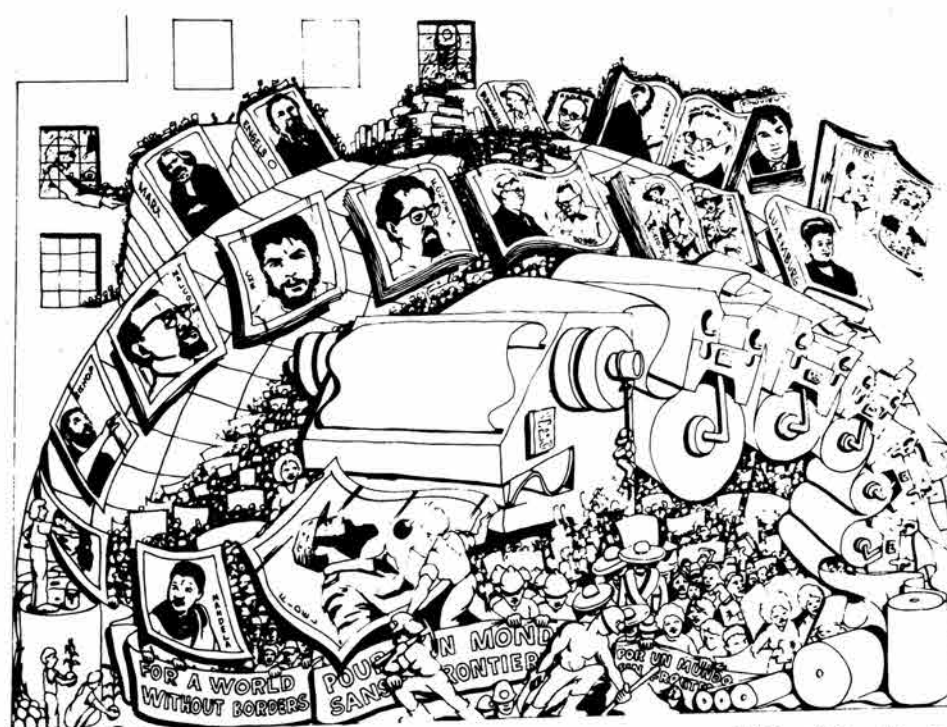
International participation

The mural is internationalist in its politics and will be internationalist in its execution. Artists from a number of countries have been invited to paint portraits and figures in the crowd.

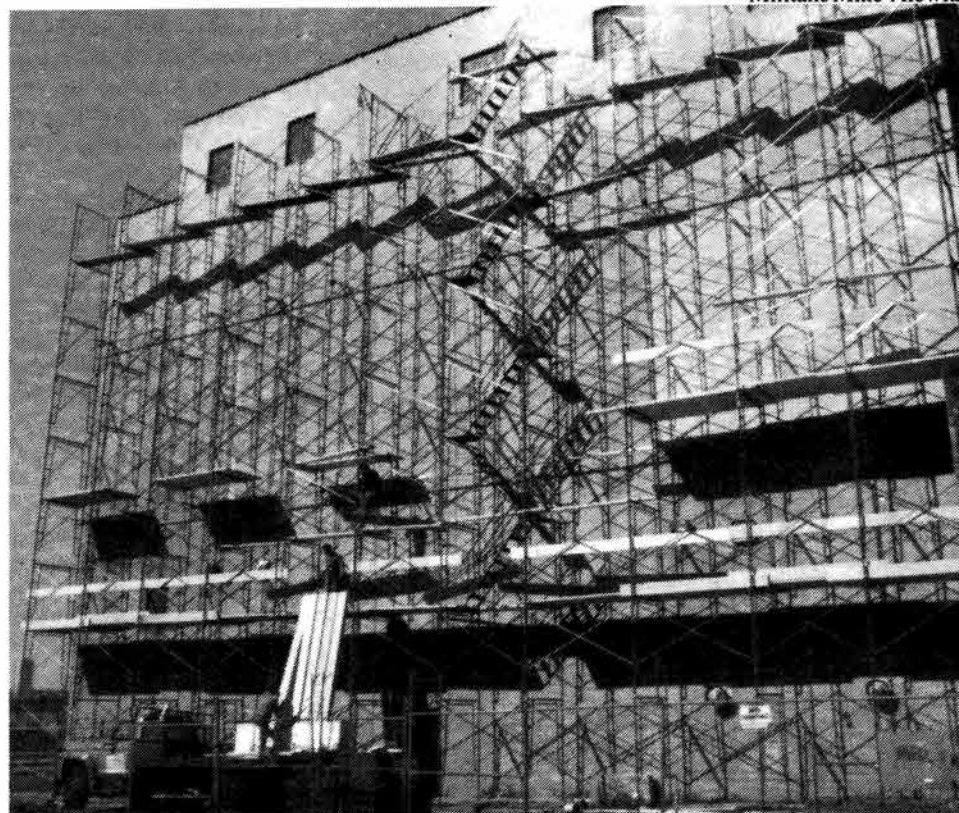
Dumile Feni, an exiled artist and activist of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), has agreed to paint the portrait of Mandela. Other artists are expected from Mexico, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, South Korea, Britain, Cuba, Ireland, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, as well as from the United States.

As part of the project, Pathfinder will help organize speaking engagements for the international artists while they are in this country to work on the mural.

Juan Sánchez, a Puerto Rican artist living in New York, will be helping with the portrait of Malcolm X. The Pathfinder mural, he told the *Militant*, "will truly be a symbol of the people's struggles. It will



Militant/Mike Alewitz



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

At top, sketch of mural to be painted on wall of Pathfinder Building. Below, the building with scaffolding set up in preparation for work.

Book of Che's writings will be out by Nov. 1

BY MARGARET JAYKO

On Oct. 9, 1967, Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto "Che" Guevara was killed in Bolivia while leading a guerrilla movement against the regime there.

Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia of Sydney, Australia, has announced it is publishing a new book — *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution: Writings and Speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara* — to mark the 20th anniversary of his death.

The book is an important and timely contribution to the international discussion on the "rectification" process under way in Cuba, as well as other political questions being discussed today by anti-imperialist and communist fighters around the world.

Meetings are being planned in several countries to launch the book. In Sydney, an event will take place on November 5, followed by meetings in New Zealand, Canada, Britain, and New York and other U.S. cities.

Readers will be able to study in English the real Che, in his own, accurately translated words.

The book confirms Cuban President Fidel Castro's assessment, "They are mistaken when they think that his death is the end of his ideas."

The book opens with articles by Che describing Cuba's revolutionary war and its lessons. Guevara was a combatant and

commander in the Rebel Army of Cuba that overturned the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in January 1959.

Other writings and speeches deal with the challenges of building a new, socialist society in Cuba after the revolution.

"Socialism cannot exist without a change in consciousness resulting in a new fraternal attitude toward humanity... and all peoples suffering from imperialist oppression," Che explained.

A third section features Guevara's speeches to the Organization of American States, Afro-Asian Solidarity conference in Algiers, and the United Nations.

Included also are 48 pages of photographs of Che, many of them never before published, as well as a collection of Che's letters.

The book was edited by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia with the collaboration of the José Martí Foreign Languages Publishing House of Havana, Cuba. *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* is being distributed in the United States by Pathfinder/New York.

It will be available in Pathfinder and other bookstores by November 1, or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014; 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England; or P.O. Box 37, Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW 2040, Australia. (416 pp., \$11.95.)

reach many young people who may not be familiar with the contributions of some figures in the mural, like Sandino or Malcolm X.

"As an artist, I have been committed to this kind of work — raising people's consciousness of reality and fighting to change that reality. The mural will definitely serve that purpose."

Another artist who has volunteered to help in the project is Catherine Owens, from Ireland. Her award-winning installation based on the time Winnie Mandela spent in solitary confinement in South African prisons caught the attention of others working on the Pathfinder mural. Winnie Mandela is Nelson Mandela's wife and a leader of the ANC.

Owens has been helping in some of the preliminary stages of the design by searching through files of photographs to find models for the portraits of historical figures. She also expects to help paint some of the portraits in the mural.

"I am especially looking forward to working with artists from around the world and finding out what they are doing in their various countries," she said.

Students at New York University's School of Cinematography will do a documentary video about the whole project.

Sponsors and contributions needed

Progress is also being made in winning financial and political support for the ambitious project. Completion of the mural is

expected to cost tens of thousands of dollars. The scaffolding alone cost more than \$14,000.

Funds are urgently needed to see the project through to completion, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

Some of the artists who have recently added their names to the sponsor list and contributed funds to insure the completion of the mural include actress Julie Christie, folk singer Pete Seeger, filmmaker Chris Spotted Eagle, and poet Sonia Sanchez.

Political activists including Dave Cline, a leader of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and John Linder, brother of Benjamin Linder, the U.S. volunteer killed by the contras in Nicaragua, are also sponsors of the project.

A brochure explaining the project and soliciting contributions and other forms of assistance is available for broad distribution to publicize the project, win sponsors, and help raise funds. The art department at City College in New York has requested copies of the brochure for all its students.

Please fill out the coupon below to become a mural project sponsor or to receive more information. Mail to Pathfinder Mural Project, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

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Bork debate and fight for right to privacy

BY FRED FELDMAN

Two issues, both involving the basic democratic rights of U.S. working people, were at the center of the debate that led to the defeat of President Reagan's nomination of federal judge Robert Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The same issues have also been at the heart of the rulings in a Manhattan courtroom on the suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance against the attorney general, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other federal police agencies.

Griesa vs. Bork

One issue was the right to privacy — the right of people to be free of government surveillance and control over their personal lives and political activities.

The other was the growing tendency of the president and the executive branch, over the past half century, to assert and exercise ever-increasing powers and to override the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.

This tendency resulted in a scandal when the secret Iran-contra arms deals were made public, but it did not originate with the Reagan administration.

Since World War II, presidents have been preparing and waging wars without a declaration by Congress. Increasingly, policies have been set and executed in secret. And for half a century, foes of government actions have been tagged subversives and secretly targeted for spying and harassment under presidential executive orders.

The Reagan administration hoped that placing Bork on the Supreme Court would make it possible to push back or reverse court decisions over the last 30 years — decisions that have extended the right of privacy and other rights won by working people in struggle.

They hoped to win court rulings confirming some of the expanded executive powers that have been exercised outside the existing laws, court rulings, and constitutional structure.

In the socialists' suit against government cops, federal Judge Thomas Griesa ruled in August 1986 that the FBI's spying and disruption operations against the SWP and YSA had violated the right to privacy and other constitutional rights of these organizations and their members.

Griesa reaffirmed and strengthened this ruling one year later, when he issued an injunction barring the government from using the files it had gathered illegally on the two organizations. He made a special point of forbidding government use of SWP and YSA membership lists.

In making both these rulings, Griesa re-

jected government claims that presidential executive orders calling for spying on those termed "subversives" overrode the provisions of the Bill of Rights.

Totalitarian concepts

At the 1981 trial of the lawsuit, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Robert Keuch defended the constitutionality of the government's actions. He cited a 1939 executive order issued by President Franklin Roosevelt, who ordered the FBI to step up "investigative work" against those whose views, as Roosevelt put it, "would tend to be subversive — I believe that is the word — of our form of government."

According to Keuch, the president had the "inherent power" to order such operations against "groups who potentially could be acting inimically to our form of government."

"Subversives" need not violate any law to become targets, Keuch explained. "There can be many actions taken to attempt to influence the policies of the United States, its actions, et cetera, that do not necessarily involve or constitute a violation of the law. . . ."

"There are simply ways that individuals and groups can act that may not necessarily constitute violations of the criminal statutes," he explained, but that nonetheless make them legitimate targets for government surveillance and dirty tricks.

The debate over the Bork nomination highlighted the deepgoing opposition among working people and many others to these totalitarian concepts.

Why Bork lost

The campaign against Bork organized by liberal Democrats in the U.S. Senate counted on the sympathy of millions who opposed Bork because of his stands against democratic rights.

"I believe the American people have a genuine and justifiable fear of government intrusion," Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a leader of the opposition to Bork, told the *New York Times* shortly after the committee's 9-5 vote on October 6 to recommend rejection of the nomination.

A key factor in the defeat of Bork was the fear, expressed most sharply by Democratic senators from the southern states, that attempts to roll back the right of privacy or other democratic rights would meet tough resistance.

The big-business media have centered on the growing numbers of Black voters in the South as the main factor in the decision by most Democratic senators there to oppose Bork. However, as Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama suggested, broader



Federal Judge Robert Bork

considerations were also involved.

"As a Senator from a southern state," Shelby said, "I am well aware of the adverse effect of division and polarization. The seams of our society can be torn apart."

The massive protests earlier this year, involving Blacks and whites, against the attempt to maintain an enclave of white supremacy in Forsyth County, Georgia, was a sign of how much attitudes have shifted in the South and a warning of the response that would greet attacks on the gains of the civil rights movement.

Bork vs. right of privacy

"During the hearings" on Bork's nomination, commented Linda Greenhouse in the October 7 *New York Times*, "privacy. . . came to stand for the whole theme of fundamental rights." The right to privacy was a concept, she noted, "that politicians were suddenly rushing to embrace."

In sharp contrast to Griesa's rulings in the socialists' lawsuit, Bork has argued that there is no general constitutional right of privacy, since this right is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution. The right of privacy, he stated on one occasion, is "one more slogan" used by judges whom he accused of "writing their own tastes into law."

On the other hand, Bork has argued that the president has wide powers to wage war without a declaration by Congress, to carry out policies in secret, and to order wiretapping and other surveillance against those he terms threats to national security.

The expansion of the right of privacy has been intertwined with the civil rights movement, the women's rights struggle, and other battles for democratic rights in the last three decades.

Contrary to the claims of Bork and his right-wing backers, the right of privacy is not a "new right" dreamed up by "activist judges."

Such a right is strongly implied in the Bill of Rights. The Fourth Amendment bars unreasonable searches and seizures.

As if to guard against Bork-like claims that there are no rights like privacy, beyond those specifically listed in the Constitution, the Ninth Amendment declared: "The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

Court battles over privacy

Supreme Court rulings enforcing a right to privacy date at least as far back as 1891, when the Supreme Court barred a federal court from requiring that a plaintiff take a medical examination, in the absence of legislation specifically authorizing this. The ruling was based on privacy rights rooted in English common law.

In its 1942 ruling in *Skinner v. Oklahoma*, the Supreme Court overturned a state law that authorized sterilization of those convicted two or more times of "felonies involving moral turpitude." The court ruled that forced sterilization violated "one of the basic civil rights of man."

However, it was the rise of the massive civil rights movement against racist segregation, and the impulse this gave to other struggles for democratic rights, that impelled the courts to issue rulings that greatly extended the recognized privacy rights of the mass of working people.

By the 1970s, this right had won such wide support that the 1974 federal Privacy

Act declared, "The Congress finds that. . . the right of privacy is a personal and fundamental right protected by the Constitution of the United States."

The first of the court decisions codifying new victories in the battle for this right came in the 1958 case of *NAACP v. Alabama*. The Supreme Court unanimously held that state officials could not require the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to turn over a list of the names of its members.

"This court has recognized the vital relationship between freedom to associate and privacy in one's associations," the decision stated.

"Inviolability of privacy in group associations may in many circumstances be indispensable to preservation of freedom of association, particularly where a group espouses dissident beliefs."

Abortion rights

In 1965, the court ruled in *Griswold v. Connecticut* that the government could not bar the dissemination or use of contraceptives or information about them. The Connecticut law on this subject was condemned as violating "the zone of privacy created by several fundamental constitutional guarantees."

As the struggle of women for the right to have abortions registered gains, the 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade* was issued. "The right of privacy," the court held by a 7-2 majority, "is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy. The detriment that the State would impose upon the pregnant woman by denying this choice altogether is apparent."

Bork rejects this entire chain of legal precedents, which codify rights that are of life and death importance to tens of millions of people, as wrongly decided. To cite two instances, he dismissed the ruling in *Griswold* as "utterly specious" and the abortion ruling as "wholly unjustifiable."

Griesa's 1986 decision in the SWP and YSA case, on the other hand, both affirmed and reinforced the recognition in *NAACP v. Alabama* that the right of privacy is a vital part of the freedom of political association. His ruling affirmed that this right applies to communists and others targeted by the government as threats to "national security."

The fight to defend and strengthen the right of privacy is one of the cutting edges in the fight for political and other democratic rights today. While the battle has led to significant advances, setbacks have also been suffered. One defeat occurred last year in the Supreme Court ruling on the Hardwick case.

Setback in Hardwick case

Michael Hardwick was arrested on sodomy charges when Georgia cops burst into his bedroom and found him with another man. Although the charges were dropped, he sued the officials responsible for this invasion of privacy.

The court majority rejected Hardwick's claim. Appealing to antihomosexual prejudice, the ruling portrayed the issue as whether the constitution recognizes "a fundamental right of homosexual sodomy" and declared that it does not.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice Harry Blackmun pointed out that sodomy — homosexual or heterosexual — was not the fundamental issue. "The right of an individual to conduct intimate relationships in the intimacy of his or her own home seems to me at the heart of the Constitution's protection of privacy."

To date, the U.S. rulers have been unable to use this reactionary court ruling to push back the ability to exercise the right to privacy.

But the government continues to probe for ways to chip away at or reverse these and other hard-won rights. Support for the right to privacy, however, and recognition that it must apply to all, is growing. The massive rally on October 11 in Washington, D.C., in support of full democratic rights for gays was one indication.

The debate over the Bork nomination has spotlighted the fact that the issues in the suit brought by the SWP and YSA against the federal police agencies are right in the center of the battles today to defend and extend the basic democratic rights of working people.

New York City

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Victory rally for political rights

Celebrate injunction barring government from using illegal FBI files.

Hear

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Militant/Roberto Kopeck

New stage in Nicaraguan revolution

Contra defeat, Coast autonomy

Majority of Nicaragua's Black, Indian population lives on Atlantic Coast.

BY MARGARET JAYKO

(Second of two articles)

In last week's article, I wrote that the "decision of the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) of Nicaragua to take advantage of the peace process it set in motion by signing the Central American accords and rapidly moving toward lifting the wartime state of emergency opens a new stage in the revolutionary process in Nicaragua."

This step forward, the article explained, "was made possible by the two key victories that the toilers in Nicaragua have won in the past year: dealing decisive blows to the contra mercenary army; and the political victory on the Atlantic Coast with the adoption and initial implementation of the autonomy plan and the virtual cessation of the armed conflict there." The Atlantic Coast is where a majority of the country's Black and Indian populations live.

This article will examine these two successes and their impact on revolutionary Nicaragua.

'Strategic defeat' of the contras

The Nicaraguan government says that the contras have suffered a "strategic defeat."

This doesn't mean that the war is over. To the contrary, the U.S.-run terrorists continue to murder, kidnap, rape, and torture Nicaraguan peasants and workers, burning down farms, schools, and health centers. And they will keep on doing so until the White House is forced to cut off all aid.

What has been decided in battle, however, is the end of any chance that the contra war can accomplish its goal: the overthrow of the Nicaraguan government.

As Nicaragua's defense minister, Gen. Humberto Ortega, explained this summer, Washington thought "that by now Nicaragua would be undergoing a deep destabilization due to a civil war, with a vigorous counterrevolutionary army capable of liberating zones, territories, and important towns, capable of tipping the military relationship of forces in its favor."

Had Washington achieved this, said Ortega, "it would not only have facilitated the step of U.S. intervention — which remains a real danger — but brought it much closer in time."

After six years of trying, however, the contras have failed to take and hold a single town, much less start a civil war. Their ability to launch major military offensives has been shattered. The Sandinistas estimate they have reduced the number of mercenaries by almost two-thirds since 1984.

"We have basically broken up" the contra army, Ortega concluded.

What Washington has accomplished

The strategic defeat of the contras opened the door inside Nicaragua to the political initiative the Sandinista leadership is now carrying out. Until that was achieved, the course of restoring democratic liberties and accelerating the decline and eroding the morale of the contras through a broad, sustained amnesty campaign was precluded.

The fact that the contras' plans have been dashed, however, doesn't mean that Washington's war has been devoid of any successes. In fact, it has deepened U.S. imperialist intervention in the region and intensified economic, political, and military pressure on the Nicaraguan revolution.

The U.S. rulers have not given up on the use of military force to accomplish their

goal of overthrowing the Nicaraguan workers' and farmers' government.

But to the degree that Nicaragua can continue to defeat the contras militarily and erode their morale, the direct use of military might by the United States will continue to be pushed back because the political price Washington would have to pay for it will keep going up.

Dilemma for pro-U.S. regimes

The strategic defeat of the contras created a crisis for the pro-Washington regimes in Central America. This is what compelled the governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to join Nicaragua on August 7 in signing the Central America pact.

"It was the daily combat of the people's soldiers and the capacity of all Nicaraguans to resist the economic difficulties the [U.S.] aggression has brought us, that made possible the signing of the accords," explained Bayardo Arce, a member of the nine-person National Directorate of the FSLN, at a Sandinista rally on September 18 in Nandaime, Nicaragua.

"Had we not been strong," he added, "had Reagan and his mercenaries defeated us militarily or had we succumbed to the economic and material difficulties, they would be asking us to sign our surrender."

Nicaragua signed the accords, said Arce, because they provide for "a peace that accepts that in Nicaragua there is, and will be, a revolution."

And in a statement by National Directorate member Luis Carrión on August 26 he explained, "If the plans to destroy the revolution had been successful, if U.S. imperialism had been able to bring about a profound political crisis in Nicaragua, there would have been no Guatemala agreement. There would not even have been a meeting in Guatemala."

"If the above had been the case," Carrión continued, "all of the other governments would have been waiting for the moment when the revolution would collapse, and they would not have signed the Guatemala agreements. This shows that the tenacious, heroic, persistent defense of their country and their revolution carried out by the Nicaraguan people has been the cause, the factor, the key to the signing of these agreements."

Minister of the interior and founding member of the FSLN, Tomás Borge, told a women's conference in Managua that same day:

"We shouldn't ask why Nicaragua signed these agreements, but rather, how is it that the other Central American presidents finally signed them?"

"These Guatemala agreements," Borge continued, "would not have been possible, of course, without the factors that contributed to this historic moment in Central America. And these include not only the internal crisis in the United States resulting from the Irangate scandal; not only the fact that there is a severe economic crisis in Central America, a great weariness with the tensions and constant pressure from the United States. But also the fact that the Nicaraguan people support the Sandinista revolution and that the counterrevolution has been defeated in strategic terms."

"Because had the counterrevolution not been defeated, and had the people of Nicaragua turned their backs on the revolution, then we would not have any accord. The domestic relationship of forces inside this

country has been decisive in reaching this reasonable and realistic agreement in Guatemala."

Atlantic Coast experience

The strategic defeat of the contras by itself was not enough to make the initiatives the Sandinistas are carrying out possible, however.

The cease-fire and establishment of autonomy on the Atlantic Coast were also essential. They confirmed in life the correctness of the decision made several years ago to move to replace military and other administrative methods of government with a political battle to lead forward the peoples of the Atlantic Coast along the lines charted by the autonomy plan, and to neutralize and divide opponents.

Nicaragua has several distinct Indian and Black communities that have historically suffered theft of their lands, persecution of their languages and cultures, denial of political rights, and discrimination in employment and education.

The majority of the country's more than 3 million people are Spanish-speaking mestizos, concentrated on the Pacific Coast. On the Atlantic Coast, in addition to mestizos, there are also Miskito, Sumo, and Rama Indians, and English-speaking Creole Blacks and Garífonas.

Until the 1979 Sandinista revolution, the Atlantic Coast was dominated by U.S. and Canadian corporations, with the complicity of the Somoza tyranny. They fostered mestizo prejudice against Indians and Blacks, and kept working people on the two coasts isolated from one another.

In eight years since Anastasio Somoza was overthrown, Nicaraguans have struggled to find a way to overcome racial divisions and mutual suspicions in order to forge a united Nicaraguan nation that, at the same time, protects the identities of the Indian and Black communities. The result is the new autonomy law, drafted by the Indians, Blacks, and mestizos of the Atlantic Coast. It guarantees the political, economic, language, cultural, and religious rights of Indians and Blacks.

Sandinista leaders explain today that when they came to power in 1979, they initially made mistakes on the Coast. Instead of beginning with the political, economic, and ethnic realities of the Coast peoples as the starting point for unifying the two parts of the country, the FSLN tended to mechanically implement political and economic plans developed on the Pacific.

The U.S. government capitalized on these problems and managed to recruit some Indians to its contra army, turning what had been solely a political clash into a military one as well.

Autonomy

The military and political conflicts began to subside in 1984 when the Nicaraguan government adopted the perspective of autonomy for the Atlantic Coast. Testimony to the success of this approach of trying to politically win over the coastal peoples is the fact that there are only a few hundred Indians left in the contra ranks today.

The significance of this approach to resolve the potentially fatal problems confronting the revolution on the Atlantic Coast goes far beyond the Coast itself.

As Borge, president of Nicaragua's National Autonomy Commission, has explained, the course charted on the Atlantic Coast was a "premonition" of what the

Sandinistas are now doing in the country as a whole, with the restoration of full civil liberties. The experience of the Atlantic Coast project was necessary in giving broad layers of the FSLN the confidence that political leadership can successfully advance the revolution by broadening its base of support among the toiling classes and neutralizing, dividing, and isolating its opponents.

This, too, is beginning to be explained by leaders of the revolution.

In an interview that appeared in the September 10 issue of *Barricada Internacional*, a weekly published in English and Spanish by the FSLN, Humberto Ortega was asked if the example of the "pro-peace commissions created by community leaders in the Atlantic Coast to discuss autonomy [will] be repeated in the war zones?"

Ortega replied, "Of course."

"We are studying," he said, "the example of the Atlantic Coast and we will use the most positive things from that experience and apply them according to the particular conditions in each war zone."

Elsewhere in the interview, in response to the question of whether there can be a cease-fire in Nicaragua as stipulated in the accords, Ortega pointed out, "we have already seen what happened in Zelaya [Atlantic Coast region] where it was possible to achieve a cease-fire when communications were established with some contra bands who rejected the war-like policy of manipulation of the United States. They realized they were acting against the interests of Nicaragua, and through communication, their attitude changed. They were able to incorporate themselves into the region's economic and public life. Many of these people are now part of our armed forces."

And, in fact, Red Cross officials who helped head up the highly successful cease-fire and amnesty negotiations on the Atlantic Coast were the people brought in to administer the new phase of the country's overall amnesty program, embarked on in the wake of the signing of the accords.

450 paperworkers sign petition for justice for antiwar veteran

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — Everyone at the September 16 union mass meeting here listened quietly as Local 14 Vice-president Felix Jacques read a petition being circulated nationally by Veterans for Peace. It demands justice for Brian Willson, the Vietnam vet who was run down by a Navy munitions train September 1 while protesting the U.S. war drive in Central America.

Jacques urged the strikers to "fill up petitions" when they came to the Local 14 headquarters to pick up their strike benefits checks.

Bob Livesey, the Veterans for Peace member who brought the petitions up to Jay, said the strikers filled the petitions, "and then some." Four hundred fifty-two signatures were on the petitions, which were sent to him in Boston a few days after the meeting.

Livesey, who spent part of his eight years in air force security in Indochina, has been to Nicaragua twice this year. He's encouraging Maine Veterans for Peace to get involved in solidarity work for the Jay strikers.

Young Socialist Alliance leaders on tour

Youth urged to join fight by working class 'to build better world'

BY GREG McCARTAN

Three national leaders of the Young Socialist Alliance have been on tour in California, Texas, and the Northeast to win solidarity for the struggles of workers and farmers around the world and to build the YSA.

YSA National Executive Committee member Francisco Picado spoke to students and young workers in five cities in Texas. "I want to invite you to join the struggle for a better world," he told them, "not just because it is a just struggle, but also because it is one that our side — the side of working people — is winning."

Picado met an enthusiastic response at several Texas campuses. Following his talk at Pan American University in Edinburg, 10 students signed up for more information about touring Nicaragua and one asked to join the YSA. At Texas Tech, in Lubbock, one student joined the revolutionary youth organization and three said they were considering doing so.

In Houston, Picado participated in a panel discussion entitled "Youth Speak Out Against War and Apartheid." Other speakers included activists in the anti-apartheid movement at the University of Texas at Austin who are facing university disciplinary action for their political work, as well as a representative of the Coalition

to Free Clarence Brandley, who faces execution by the state of Texas.

Three students at the University of Texas also expressed interest in joining the YSA following Picado's visit there, and a young Guatemalan worker joined the Houston chapter.

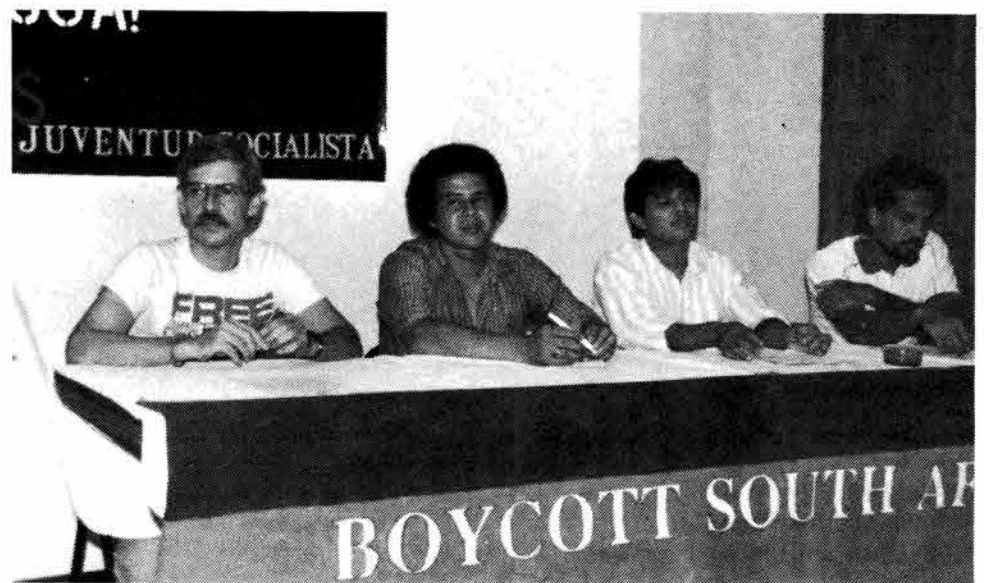
Marea Himelgrin — editor of the YSA's newspaper, the *Young Socialist* — is on a tour of 12 West Coast cities, beginning in California. At Fresno State University, students bought \$180 worth of books, pamphlets, and YSA T-shirts, along with seven subscriptions to the *Militant*.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance on campus invited Himelgrin to give a presentation on the YSA and Socialist Workers Party's victory in their lawsuit against U.S. government spying and disruption.

In the Northeast, YSA leader James Winfield is touring in five states. In Boston, the first stop on his tour, he held meetings at Roxbury Community College, Boston University, and University of Massachusetts, Harbor Campus.

Winfield, a participant in the first Martin Luther King student brigade to Nicaragua, encouraged young people he spoke with to see Nicaragua for themselves.

The following contributed to this article: Greg Rosenberg in Houston, Alma Quiróz in Fresno, and Aaron Ruby in Boston.



Militant/Mary Pritchard
YSA leader Francisco Picado (second from left) at Houston youth speak-out.

International effort boosts 'Militant' subscription drive

Continued from front page

tant for the special introductory rate of \$4 for 12 weeks."

"We are stressing that the *Militant* is weekly and that it has a wide range of coverage of big events in the class struggle," Bernardo said. "This includes the rectification process in Cuba, the events in Nicaragua, and the Central America peace accords."

Bernardo said subscriptions to the *Militant* in Montreal have been equally divided between those who speak English as their first language and those whose first language is French. Eight *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions have been sold in Montreal as well.

Socialist Voice supporters in Toronto have raised their *Militant* bundle from 20 to 50 a week. They take the *Militant* with them on the five plant-gate sales they carry out each week. Johnston said they usually sell five or so copies of *Socialist Voice* at each plant-gate sale. "If a worker says I bought your paper last week," Johnston said, "we encourage them to pick up a copy of the *Militant*."

The *Militant's* coverage of Nicaragua "is the main selling point at the moment," said Johnston. "But people are also open to the idea that there is something more than Reagan in U.S. politics and want to find out about it," he added.

Johnston cited the example of a striking postal worker who bought a copy of the *Militant* because he wanted to know what is going on in the unions in the United States.

Fifty subscriptions to the *Militant* have been sold in Britain since mid-August.

Jon Silberman, a supporter of the British biweekly paper *Socialist Action*, is one of those involved in that effort.

After taking an initial goal of selling 60 subscriptions, Silberman said, *Militant* distributors in Britain have raised their goal to 75. They have also taken a goal of selling 140 copies of *New International* and five subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*. So far, 76 copies of *New International* have been sold.

Silberman said the effort got off to a good start at a coal miners' gala in Nottinghamshire in September, where 60 single copies of the *Militant* were sold, along with three subscriptions.

Silberman explained that *Socialist Action* supporters sell around 100 copies of that paper each week in the Nottinghamshire area. These distributors are also selling between 20 and 30 single copies of the *Militant* each week. Among the 16 people who have bought new *Militant* subscriptions and the three who renewed their subscriptions in Notts are activists in the anti-apartheid and Central America solidarity struggles, a garment worker, four coal miners, and two activists from Women Against Pit Closures.

In Manchester, 13 subscriptions have been sold, two to coal miners at the Agecroft Colliery.

At the annual British Labour Party Conference held recently in Brighton, 27 single copies of the *Militant* were sold, along with four copies of *New International*.

Distribution of the *Militant* in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East is handled by Pathfinder/London. Pete Clifford reports that Pathfinder/London has received seven new subscriptions from European countries other than Britain in the past two months. Several came from Sweden. Clifford said Pathfinder has also recently received two *Militant* subscriptions from the Middle East and one from Africa.

Fourteen new *Militant* subscribers have also been added in New Zealand. Nine subscribed at a conference on Central America in Wellington in July.

Ron Poulsen from Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia, which handles *Militant* distribution in that part of the world, reports that the paper's coverage of Nicaragua is also popular with Central America solidarity activists in Australia. There are currently 42 *Militant* subscribers in Australia.

Fall Sales Scoreboard

Area	Militant subscriptions			New International single copies			Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions		
	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	% Sold
Greensboro, N.C.	115	85	74	20	11	55	10	1	10
Cleveland	105	72	69	20	0	0	15	4	27
Houston	200	131	66	50	0	0	40	11	28
Des Moines, Iowa	125	73	58	35	4	11	15	2	13
Portland, Ore.	80	46	58	40	22	55	30	1	3
Boston	200	111	56	50	0	0	100	23	23
San Diego	85	47	55	25	12	48	40	27	68
Morgantown, W. Va.	130	62	48	25	0	0	5	1	20
Los Angeles	300	139	46	100	50	50	175	63	36
Detroit	200	92	46	35	6	17	25	3	12
Omaha, Neb.	70	32	46	20	5	25	10	7	70
Annandale, N.Y.	20	9	45	-	-	-	-	1	-
Baltimore	140	57	41	40	0	0	10	1	10
Kansas City	105	42	40	25	2	8	20	7	35
Oakland, Calif.	150	60	40	100	14	14	50	9	18
Salt Lake City	150	60	40	25	2	8	25	7	28
San Francisco	180	68	38	50	0	0	70	37	53
Twin Cities, Minn.	180	68	38	75	21	28	20	4	20
Newark, N.J.	350	131	37	75	12	16	125	29	23
San Jose, Calif.	75	28	37	-	0	-	50	19	38
Seattle	300	112	37	50	13	26	50	22	44
Milwaukee	115	42	37	35	0	0	15	1	7
Washington, D.C.	130	47	36	60	0	0	30	10	33
Atlanta	120	43	36	35	15	43	20	6	30
Austin, Minn.	85	30	35	10	0	0	15	2	13
Miami	120	41	34	40	0	0	40	5	13
Philadelphia	150	49	33	50	0	0	50	6	12
St. Louis	175	56	32	50	14	28	10	2	20
New York	600	189	32	350	207	59	150	103	69
Birmingham, Ala.	150	45	30	35	0	0	5	1	20
Phoenix	100	30	30	-	0	0	80	25	31
Price, Utah	48	10	21	10	0	0	2	0	0
Cincinnati	10	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charleston, W. Va.	125	22	18	20	0	0	-	1	-
Chicago	225	39	17	50	0	0	75	7	9
Pittsburgh	175	16	9	-	0	0	10	1	10
Albany, N.Y.	20	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amherst, Mass.	5	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Davenport, Iowa	5	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Louisville, Ky.	5	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S. areas	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Britain	75	50	67	140	76	54	5	0	0
Canada	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
New Zealand	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-
Other Internat'l	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Totals	5,678	2,289	38%	1,745	486	24%	1,392	475	32%
Drive Goals	6,000			2,000			1,500		
Should Be		3,372	56%		1,124	56%		843	56%

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 November 24.

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

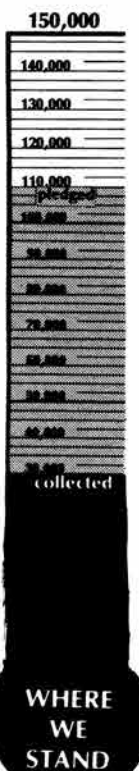
As of October 14, \$109,500 has been pledged and \$29,700 collected.

I wish to help the fund, enclosed is:

— \$1,000 — \$500 — \$100
— \$25 \$ _____ other

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Mail to Fall Socialist Publications Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



Rally supports Colt Firearms strikers

Gov't rewards scab operation

BY STEVE CRAINE

HARTFORD, Conn. — "I'm ready to stay out as long as I have to." This was the determination expressed by Walt Peszko, who, along with 800 other members of United Auto Workers Local 376, has already been on strike against Colt Firearms for more than 20 months. He spoke during a solidarity rally for the strikers held here on September 27.

Peszko explained that unionists from all over the region, as well as bosses, were following the Colt strike with intense interest. "If they see Colt Firearms get away with union busting, companies all over the country will try the same thing," he said.

More than 1,500 unionists and other strike supporters turned out for the September 27 march and rally in downtown.

Bus loads of United Auto Workers (UAW) members came from all over Connecticut and as far away as New York City and Framingham, Massachusetts. There was a contingent of city workers from Boston, as well as representatives of nearly every union in the greater Hartford area — machinists, food workers, Teamsters, postal workers, city employees, and hospital workers.

One of the purposes of the rally was to draw attention to the opening the following day of hearings before the National Labor Relations Board. The board is considering a raft of unfair labor practice charges against Colt.

The strike against Colt's two firearms production plants, in Hartford and West Hartford, began in January 1986, 10 months after the previous contract had expired.

During this 10-month period without a contract, the company tried in many ways to undermine the rights of union members, eventually forcing the workers out on strike to defend their union.

Hector Marquez, who has worked for

Colt since 1973, told the *Militant* that he was one of many victimized in this period. Just before the strike began, he was suspended for refusing overtime work on Saturday. He had told his supervisor he wasn't feeling well, and the supervisor said it was all right for him not to come in. Nonetheless, when he reported for work Monday he was told he was suspended.

The company also tried to cut back on payments to shop stewards for time spent on union business.

Colt is now operating its two area plants with scabs. It was recently awarded a \$48 million contract from the U.S. government for production of M-16 automatic rifles. "No tax \$ for law breakers" was a popular picket sign on the march.

Peszko emphasized that Colt's union busting is part of a nationwide pattern.

"The companies are trying to roll back all union gains," he said, "all the way back to 1933 if they can." He pointed to gains in the fight against racism as one of the many conquests of the union movement that are potentially in jeopardy.

"When I was hired at Colt's, back in 1941," he told me, "they still had a sign on the employment office door — 'We don't hire colored or Irish.'" The UAW got organized shortly after that, he said.

After marching from the federal courthouse on Main Street, the demonstrators rallied in Colt Park, overlooking the struck plant, where they heard brief speeches from dozens of union leaders. UAW International President Owen Bieber was scheduled to appear, but sent a representative in his place.

Mike Burke, vice-president of the striking paperworkers in Jay Maine, pointed to the role of solidarity in long strike struggles. "Only through the support and cooperation of local unions across the nation have we been able to survive," he said.



Some 1,500 attended September 27 rally to back Colt workers on strike for over 20 months. Militant/Steve Craine

W. Virginia slated for above-ground nuke dump

BY JIM ALTENBERG

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced plans to build a nuclear waste processing plant in southern West Virginia. This plant, known as the Monitored Retrievable Storage facility, or MRS, would receive and repackage spent fuel rods from nuclear power plants across the country.

The waste would be stored and processed above ground, unlike other dumps where the waste is buried. Plant promoters claim that it would be a harmless way to store radioactive wastes until a permanent storage facility can be built.

DOE has faced stiff opposition at every site it has considered for a permanent waste dump. No location has been chosen. It is likely that the "temporary" MRS dump would become permanent once the wastes are there.

The government has sought to pressure states into "volunteering" for the MRS project. DOE has offered states and Indian na-

United Mine Workers and environmental activists.

Paul Childress, a leading promoter of the MRS, has offered West Virginia well over \$50 million of DOE money to take the MRS. But Childress is not a DOE official. He is an executive of Babcock and Wilcox, the company that built the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which had a partial meltdown in 1979. He is also in charge of the company's contracts for producing the type of waste-storage casks that the MRS would use.

Other MRS supporters have made wild claims that the facility would bring thousands of new jobs to the area. They have even opened up an office where applications can be obtained to work in this plant that is still far from being built. In an area where no jobs are available, where roads are crumbling and public services poor, these promises appear attractive.

But the MRS has not been popular, despite a relentless campaign aimed at intimidating southern West Virginians into accepting it. Activists opposing it have faced slanders, have been branded in the press as terrorists, and have been kept out of meetings organized to discuss it. A statewide drive to stop the plant is now being put together.

The MRS is not just a nuclear waste dump, as dangerous as that is in itself. It is a nuclear manufacturing plant. Highly radioactive waste will be processed into a more concentrated form there.

It is a deadly threat to the health, safety, and environment of those who live around the plant and near the roads and rail lines leading to it. Fuel rod concentration poses the risk of creating a critical mass, making possible a nuclear chain reaction and explosion. Accidents and spills can release radioactive material into the air, soil, and water.

It is estimated that 1,300 shipments by truck and rail per year to and from the MRS will be required. But the DOE has refused to perform safety tests on the actual casks used in shipment and storage. Instead, they have said they will rely on computer-simulated tests. And West Virginia's narrow, twisting roads make accidents very likely.

The MRS, and the increased use of nuclear power that it would facilitate, can be a powerful club against the United Mine Workers of America in the hands of the coal operators. Union contracts expire in January 1988. Many of the major coal producers are owned by giant energy companies, which also have huge investments in the nuclear industry.

The fight to stop the MRS can be an important aid to the union in its upcoming contract battle, and in the coming years.



Militant/Lou Howort

tions in the United States tens of millions of dollars to take it. Three sites were proposed in Tennessee, but the state government rejected them all. The state's report said MRS was unnecessary, expensive, and based on unproven technology.

West Virginia state officials and MRS advocates point to the promises of money and jobs in their drive to get the MRS built here. McDowell and Wyoming counties, the proposed location, have been plagued for years by massive layoffs and shutdowns in the coal mines. Official unemployment figures stand at 20 percent. Hundreds of residents leave the area every year.

Governor Arch Moore, who has quite readily thrown open the state treasury to any company with a scheme for jobs in the state, supports the MRS. State lawmakers have announced their willingness to overturn a law that currently prohibits storage of nuclear waste in West Virginia. This law was won a few years ago by efforts of the

Garment workers in Sweden win strike victory

BY CATHARINA TIRSEN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Two hundred seventy garment workers in the southern Swedish city of Malmö won a big victory September 16 after a week-long strike. They forced their employer, Malmö Strumpfabrik, to take back the local union president it had fired.

The company had made earlier threats to fire the union leader, Bengt Svensson, for trying to improve the working conditions and raise the wages of garment workers. This plant had gained notoriety throughout Sweden after a TV film had exposed the terrible pace of work, heat, and uncomfortable working conditions imposed on the workers for low, piecework wages.

According to Strumpfabrik, Svensson had, in his capacity as president of the union local, talked to one of the workers, who turned off her noisy machine for 18 minutes. This, the employer said, caused "a stoppage of production."

Svensson was also accused of slandering the company on a local radio station. Moreover, according to the employer, he had taken a leave for union work that had been approved by the wrong person.

Under Swedish law a company must present reasons based on facts for dismissing a worker. But even if the Labor Court does rule a dismissal illegal, the company can still get rid of the worker simply by paying a sum of money specified in the law.

The only way to stop the dismissal of Svensson was to strike. "If they can do this to Bengt, we will go back to the conditions of the 1930s," said Inga Engström and Eli Madsen, two striking workers.

"I have been here for 22 years, and I know we wouldn't manage without a union," Cvetlana Lisolajiska said. "We have low wages. We work so hard, so hard. And still they come and tell us to work harder."

But also according to the law, the company could legally fire all the workers if the strike went longer than a couple of days. The company took legal action against 143 workers for conducting an "illegal strike."

The strikers and Svensson got wide support from trade union locals all over Sweden within a matter of days.

The national Clothing Workers Union supported Svensson and clearly indicated that it wouldn't stand in the way of the strike. In Sweden unions risk millions in fines if they don't work to stop an "illegal" strike.

The strikers went back to work for one day to make it possible for the union to negotiate with the company as stipulated by the law.

But there were no negotiations worthy of the name. The company just stated its intention to carry through what it had decided.

The next day the garment workers struck again. The strike was bigger and more determined than before. This, and the growing solidarity from other unions, forced the company to back down. Svensson got his job back, and he and the union local received damage payments. The complaint against the 143 workers was withdrawn.

This was the first victory of this kind for workers in Sweden after years of setbacks and defeats.

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

Nicaragua's Indian contras take amnesty

BY CINDY JAQUITH

WAWA, Nicaragua — At 11:00 a.m. September 28 a pulley-towed raft docked on the bank of the Wawa River here. Ringing the civilian passengers were dozens of armed youth in camouflage uniforms. Known as the "kisanes," many of these teenage soldiers had hair down to their shoulders or Afros. Awaiting the raft on this side of the river were armed men and women from the Sandinista People's Army (EPS) and Ministry of the Interior (MINT).

The commanders of the kisanes greeted the EPS and MINT officers and began chatting. Then the kisanes and Sandinista troops took up separate defense positions, as a political rally started.

Wawa is located about 20 miles west of Puerto Cabezas, the main city in the North Atlantic region of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. The villages between here and Puerto Cabezas are protected by EPS and MINT troops.

The villages on the other side of the river are defended by the kisanes, who are organized in what are called the Indigenous Militias. They are led by the Miskito Indian group Pro-Peace Kisan, which coordinates its defense operations with the Sandinista military.

Two years ago, Pro-Peace Kisan and Sandinista troops were shooting at each other. Today, they jointly defend the civilian Indian populations in this area against U.S.-armed contras.

The kisanes no longer receive their uniforms and guns from the CIA. Now they are armed and supplied by the Nicaraguan government.

Cease-fire agreement

The rally here was held to celebrate the second anniversary of a cease-fire agreement signed in Wawa by Pro-Peace Kisan and the Nicaraguan government. The agreement ended the military hostilities between the two and opened up a political dialogue over how to jointly advance the struggle for peace, Indian rights, and economic development in this part of Nicaragua.

Before 1985, "there were errors on both sides," said Pro-Peace Kisan commander Juan Salgado in his speech at the rally. The Sandinistas initially made mistakes in the way they sought to bring the revolution to this region, but so did those Miskitos who joined Washington's contras and began fighting the Sandinistas.

Today, Salgado continued, the task is to "unite to advance the government of the Atlantic Coast," a government that more and more Miskitos feel is theirs for the first time.

Salgado spoke at length about the autonomy law that has just been adopted by Nicaragua's National Assembly. It guarantees full language and cultural rights to all the Indian and Black communities of the Atlantic Coast. It establishes the right of Atlantic Coast residents to elect autonomous regional governments that will exercise broad decision-making powers over the area's natural resources, education, social services, and economic development projects.

"Our rights are well-defined in this law," said Salgado. "And the Nicaraguan government is fully in agreement with it."

He delivered his speech in the Miskito language, which was then translated into Spanish. Many in the crowd were Miskitos from villages where Pro-Peace Kisan is active. Salgado told them the autonomy law would soon be available in Miskito "so you can all read it."

Accelerating amnesty drive

The rally here was part of a flurry of activities in the North Atlantic region to convince contras to take amnesty in light of the Guatemala accords signed in August. The accords call for an end to military conflicts in Central America, including a halt to U.S. aid to the contras, expulsion of contra bases from Honduras, and amnesty for those who have taken up arms.

This reporter spent a week in the region as part of an international delegation of women who live and work in Nicaragua.

While we were here there was a steady stream of contras turning in their arms. One day, 11 came right into Puerto Cabezas itself to ask for amnesty. The next night another six showed up at one of the city's amnesty centers.



Rally in Puerto Cabezas during Multiethnic Assembly earlier this year. Assembly of the peoples of the Atlantic Coast approved regional autonomy, which has become pole of attraction for Indians abandoning ranks of the contras.

On September 26, our delegation visited the Miskito village of Krukira. There we were told that eight contras, who all grew up in the village, had just returned and laid down their arms. Krukira is the hometown of Brooklyn Rivera, one of the most prominent Miskito contra commanders.

Juan Salgado told our delegation that several Miskito contra units had recently entered Nicaragua from Honduras to probe the possibility of ending hostilities.

In the city of Puerto Cabezas, amnesty stickers were posted up everywhere. They read as follows: "Return to your home. Your family is waiting for you. Take advantage of the Guatemala accords." "Amnesty is: Peace, Family, Work." "Without bases in Honduras, there are only two roads left: coming home — or death."

Amnesty stickers and posters were displayed not only on government buildings but also on many private homes. Thousands of Miskito war refugees have poured into Puerto Cabezas in the last few years.

Some families have a son or husband in the contras. Many have relatives who fled to Honduras and are living in camps run by the contras and Honduran army. Everyone's hopes are pinned on the greater possibility now of convincing these family members to come home.

Commissions for Peace and Autonomy

Before the signing of the Guatemala accords, Nicaragua already had a full amnesty program for contras. It was most advanced here on the Atlantic Coast. Most Miskitos who joined the contras did so thinking they were fighting for Indian rights.

Once the Nicaraguan government embraced the demand for autonomy on the Atlantic Coast, large-scale desertions from the contra ranks began. Pro-Peace Kisan is one example. In the gold-mining region west of here, Sumo Indians who deserted the contras have formed Indigenous Militias as well.

On the Río Coco, the river that borders Honduras, there are also many amnestied ex-contras. Some are functioning as border guards, working with the Sandinista army.

The amnesty process here has been spearheaded by the Commissions for Peace and Autonomy. These were initiated two years ago by Miskito women whose families had been torn apart by the war. Along with some church and Red Cross officials, the women began making contact with contras and appealing to them to return, explaining that autonomy meant a whole new world was opening up for Nicaraguans who are Indian.

The reconciliation commissions now being established in other parts of Nicaragua are modeled on the success of the Commissions for Peace and Autonomy.

The main Miskito contra units that remain in the North Atlantic region operate on the Río Coco or in the Prinzapolka area, we were told. In addition, there is a concentration of contras belonging to the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the main CIA-

run mercenary group, in the gold-mining areas. They are mainly Spanish-speaking Nicaraguans.

Direct talks with contras

During our stay in the region, Nicaraguan government officials themselves were holding direct talks with some contra commanders. At the rally here in Wawa, Salvador Pérez described some of the questions being discussed. He is the head of the MINT for the region.

Pérez explained that any contra who turns in his weapon immediately returns to his community with a written guarantee of his safety. He gets paid for the gun and also receives financial aid until he can start working again.

Party supporting U.S. gov't stages Managua rally

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The right-wing Social Christian Party (PSC) held two rallies and a march here on September 27. The PSC is a pro-U.S. government and pro-contra organization. It has had some leaders and members imprisoned for participating in contra sabotage and terror groups.

Two competing PSC meetings were held, since the party recently underwent a split. One drew 600 people, including delegations from the U.S. and Honduran embassies. The other, which drew 2,500 people and ended in a street demonstration, included leaders of the Christian Democratic International and representatives of the Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and West German governments.

The meetings and march took place without incident as Sandinista police directed traffic around the demonstrators.

The political line of both rallies was the same: charges that the Sandinista government is worse than the Somoza dictatorship, overturned in 1979, and demands to end the draft, release all imprisoned contras and Somozaist National Guardsmen, dissolve the community-based Sandinista Defense Committees; and expel all Cuban and Soviet personnel from the country.

The PSC speakers made no reference to the U.S.-organized contra war and economic embargo, as they blamed the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) for all the economic problems facing the country.

They appealed to mothers who did not want their sons to serve in the army, calling steps taken to defend Nicaragua an "FSLN military adventure," and urging draft evasion.

PSC Vice-president Julio Ramón Vilchez called for a "civic insurrection" against the government to begin on November 7 if all their demands were not met. That's the deadline set by the Guatemala accords for

However, there are some contras who genuinely want to stop fighting and receive amnesty, but are reluctant to give up their weapons.

While laying down arms is "the best possible solution," Pérez said, the government is open to other amnesty arrangements on the Atlantic Coast.

Pérez appealed to everyone to join in the military defense of Nicaragua. He stressed that one does not have to be a Sandinista to join the army or MINT. Another option is to join the Indigenous Militias, he said. All one needs to agree to "is to defend the Nicaraguan nation from imperialism, defend autonomy, combat racism, and fight against the return of Somozaism," he concluded.

implementation of a cease-fire and ending all restrictions on civil liberties.

The PSC leaders and many march participants were professionals, business people, or students, but the rallies also included hundreds of peasants and farm workers. They were brought from throughout the country by PSC organizers.

Some of the peasants the *Militant* interviewed did not seem to be pro-contra, but were not integrated into the mass peasant or farm workers' unions. They did not see themselves as benefiting from the revolution, and this left them open to the PSC's counterrevolutionary propaganda.

Luis Membrena works as a day laborer on private farms near Posoltega. He said he would like to get land of his own to work but does not know how to apply for it under the agrarian reform program begun after the revolution. His biggest complaint against the government was the shortage of consumer goods.

Socorro Gómez and Carlos Morena also work as farm laborers. They said they did not belong to the Rural Workers Association "because it only organizes the state farms and the big private farms," not the smaller farms they work on. They complained bitterly about shortages and high prices and the lack of a state-subsidized workers' store where they lived.

Clemente Castro, a peasant from San Dionisio, said he was not a PSC member, but he had a son who was arrested for contra activity. He came to the march because PSC organizers said they would help get amnesty for his son.

Several young men from the capital city, Managua, complained that "there are no jobs and no one can go to school anymore," and cheered calls to end the draft. They later admitted they were draft evaders and didn't want to apply for work or higher education for fear of being inducted into the army.

Cuba builds new child-care centers

'Minibrigades' make rapid progress

BY SUSAN LaMONT

With an outpouring of enthusiasm, the Cuban people have thrown themselves into a massive voluntary construction campaign that is transforming their country.

They've started with Havana — the capital city of two million on the western end of the island. By the end of this year, 600 family doctors' offices, 6,800 housing units, 10 health clinics, and 11 special schools will be completed — all brand new. In addition many existing hospitals, theaters, and other buildings will be remodeled and expanded.

The plans are for the construction campaign to continue for the next few years and be extended to the rest of the country.

Most impressive of all are the figures for the number of new child-care centers being

by their regular workplace, and coworkers pitch in, if needed, to make up for the brigade members' absence.

For example the new child-care center "Little Steelworkers" where Castro spoke was built by a minibrigade from the Antilana de Acero steelworks. Workers there make steel for Cuba's growing construction needs, as well as for export. On top of meeting its own heavy production schedule, the steel complex has six minibrigades.

There are already more than 20,000 minibrigade members in Havana. The Cubans are confident that nearly twice that number can be organized. Some 3,000 are women.

Castro recalled that the minibrigade movement was an idea that emerged in Cuba with the Cuban revolution, as a mass action, just like organizing defense of the country, which is also an enormous mass movement. Since the 1970s, however, the minibrigades had been allowed to disappear.

Their rebirth in the past year is an essential part of a bigger change — known as the "rectification" process — which is transforming all aspects of Cuban life.

Over the past decade, there had been a drift toward substituting administrative mechanisms — like the Economic Planning and Management System, which was supposed to organize the whole economy — for involving the Cuban people themselves in running their society. The result was growing inefficiency, bureaucratic red tape, corruption, and disaffection.

The "rectification" process is taking steps to turn that around. It means deeper involvement in and control by the workers and farmers in solving the problems they face and moving their revolution forward.

Nothing makes this clearer than the response of the Cuban workers to the new minibrigade movement.

Campaign a 'miracle'

Castro has referred to the movement as a miracle. More is being accomplished than

For a more detailed description of the work of the minibrigades and other accomplishments of the Cuban revolution, see the October 16 Militant, which reprints Castro's speech of July 26, 1987.

built in Havana itself: 50 in 1987, and 50 more in 1988. The completion of these new centers will meet Havana's current demands for child care by providing space for 21,000 more children.

All this is part of a bigger plan to expand the capacity of Cuba's daycare centers from the current 100,000 spaces to 200,000.

On September 2 Cuban President Fidel Castro spoke at a ceremony opening the first of the new centers in Havana. He described the "minibrigades" that have made this remarkable accomplishment possible.

"The minibrigades," he said, "are creating a new spirit in construction which is spreading across the country."

The brigades are small work crews (the typical size is 40) made up of volunteers who leave their regular jobs temporarily to work on a specific construction project. Office workers, factory workers, and others participate. They continue to be paid



Impact Visuals/Judy Janda

Cuban children in day-care center near Havana. Plans to build 100 new centers are well under way, due to minibrigades' success.

anyone dreamed possible, and it's barely started.

Problems that had seemed unsolvable for years are being tackled and resolved. Projects that were slated for the distant future are being worked on now. Others that had been begun and were never finished are being completed.

Castro talked about this in his speech at the daycare center opening. "Here one can concretely see the new style of work and the results of the rectification process. We are in a new area [in Havana], and you all know what used to happen: buildings were put up but the streets weren't paved, no aqueduct or sewage system was installed, no stores, schools, or daycare centers were built."

The opening of the new daycare center, he said, "is the most important social project by the minibrigades that we have inaugurated. It is a symbol, because it is the pioneer of a program of 50 centers. . . ."

"It constitutes a real symbol of what can be done . . . when the effort is serious, when we move away from bureaucratism, theorizing, and all kinds of foolishness, and work seriously to solve the country's important problems."

The excuse used to be, the Cuban leader noted, that there weren't enough construction workers or materials to move ahead on building things like new housing for Havana.

When it came to child-care centers, new construction had come to a virtual standstill.

Recalling these old attitudes, Castro said, "There were five daycare centers to be built during the five-year period and they weren't being built. And if someone asked about the daycare center at such-and-such a place that wasn't being built, they said it was because there wasn't enough manpower, and for the other one there weren't enough construction materials. . . ."

This description hit home for the thousands of workers and local residents attending the opening ceremony, who applauded enthusiastically. At the old rate, Castro emphasized, it would have taken 100 years to accomplish what is now going to be done in two.

Child care a top priority

The Cubans understand that meeting the need for child care is essential if women are to continue making headway in becoming part of the work force. Before the 1959 revolution, only 10 percent of women worked outside the home, mostly as domestic servants. Many were forced into prostitution. Today, women make up 38.1 percent of the work force.

"The 210 children registered [at the new center] mean 210 mothers who are working in production or services," Castro said. "It means that the mothers, as doctors, engineers, architects, middle-level technicians, or workers in any industry or service, are producing for the country and for the people." This helps the development of the country as a whole.

It also means the best possible care for young children who receive education,

meals, medical care, and expert attention.

Castro contrasted Cuba's approach to that of capitalist countries, where working mothers are forced to fend for themselves in finding child care. Family and friends are drafted to watch children, but often mothers have no choice but to leave the children unattended.

'Mini-' minibrigades

In the current construction efforts there are even "mini-" minibrigades, crew members who volunteer over and above the work they're already doing to undertake another project. Castro spoke on September 2 about workers building a hospital who volunteered to help put up an apartment house in the evenings when their regular work ends.

Even though the minibrigade members are not skilled construction workers, they are doing first-rate work, Castro explained.

"The minibrigade has begun to mean quality in construction, which is essential," he said. "The habit, and even the idea of quality had been lost."

"If Che [Guevara] was right," Castro said, "in saying that quality is respect for the people, then bad quality shows lack of respect for the people. It is a sign of lack of consideration for the people, and a lack of culture. We will take care to ensure quality."

The modern, well-designed, soundly built new daycare center — complete with solar collectors on the roof — was proof that this goal is being met.

Guatemalan children sold on international baby market

The sale of children is not a nightmare. It actually happens.

The Havana International Service reported in a September 14 broadcast that a large, illegal network selling three-month-to six-year-old children exists in Guatemala, where the unemployment rate stands at 43 percent.

Guatemalan Congressional Deputy Mario Tarracona reports that in 1985, 218 children were taken out of the country; 423 were removed in 1986. In the first five months of this year, the number had already reached 600.

The traffickers' network includes doctors, attorneys, and others who, with the support of government officials, steal children from unwed mothers or very poor women to be sold in other countries at a later date. The Guatemalan Congress' Children's Protection Commission reports that one child can bring a price of \$3,000 to \$4,000. Other sources indicate that profits per child can be as high as \$20,000.

The Guatemalan paper *El Gráfico* reports that many of the children are bought by persons or organizations to be sold to parents of children who due to accident, illness, or hereditary defects need an organ transplant. — S.L.

Nicaragua women's march backs Sandinista peace efforts

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Some 10,000 demonstrators, many of them working-class women, joined a march here organized by the Nicaraguan Women's Association (AMNLAE) September 29. AMNLAE called the march to protest the U.S.-backed contra war against Nicaragua, and to support the steps the Nicaraguan government has taken to implement the Guatemala accords.

The march ended at the offices of the United Nations, where a delegation delivered a letter asking the UN to intervene against the U.S.-sponsored war.

AMNLAE General Secretary Lea Guido then addressed the crowd, recalling how women had occupied the UN offices 10 years ago under Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship to protest the murders committed by his National Guard.

"We fought against the dictatorship to win democracy and our equality," Guido said. "Ten years ago, protesters were met with tear gas. Today, the streets belong to the people."

Most of the slogans raised in the march focused on the contra war. "For the defense of democracy, no more funds for the contras," went one chant. "Don't disarm the people, keep the military service [draft]," was another. "The women of the Wholesale Market support the Guatemala accords," read one large banner.

Many marchers also took the opportunity to answer demands raised here by right-wing groups. "No general amnesty," was a popular slogan. It referred to the

right wing's demand for the release of all imprisoned contras and ex-members of the Somozaist National Guard.

Workers reacted angrily when asked their opinion of the rightist demand to return properties confiscated from Somozaists and contras. "Impossible," said Adolfo Marengo, a mechanic's helper at the state-owned METASA metal fabrication plant. "We suffered so many years under the old owners, but now the plant belongs to the people. We would never give it back."

"We'll never let them take back the land from the peasants," added Luisa Membrana, a worker at the Café Mejor food-processing plant. "So many peasants had no place to live and work, but now they have land of their own. The future of the country depends on their keeping that land."

Many marchers expressed a determination to keep on demonstrating, especially as the wartime restrictions on civil liberties are lifted and they expect more activity by right-wing groups.

"It may bother the right wing, but AMNLAE women have guts," read the sign carried by one young worker. "This means we revolutionary women can mobilize the people, but the rightists can't," she explained. "It's okay if they reopen [the pro-contra daily] *La Prensa*," said Ivana Avilez, another Café Mejor worker. "But we'll meet them with the same determination and firmness. We won't let them turn back the revolution."

Behind Tibet independence protests

BY MARGARET JAYKO

In an attempt to prevent further publicity about recent protests demanding independence for Tibet, the Chinese government, on October 8, ordered all international reporters out of Tibet. Travel to Tibet by foreigners has been banned, and telephone and telex communications with Tibet have been halted.

At least 14 people were killed and scores of monks arrested during the protests, which began on September 27.

This was the first official report of anti-government actions in Tibet since 1959.

Despite the reactionary character of the leadership of the proindependence forces in Tibet, the Chinese Stalinists' repression, in the name of progress and socialism, is an obstacle to winning the Tibetan people to communism and reinforces support for the Buddhist hierarchy.

The first demonstration in Tibet's capital, Lhasa, took place on September 27. A group of lamas, as the monks are called, and their supporters marched to the Jokhang Temple, the most sacred shrine of Tibetan Buddhism. They chanted, "Tibet wants independence" and waved the red and blue flag of Tibet, which has been outlawed by Beijing.

Cops attacked the protest. Twenty-one lamas and five other Tibetans were arrested.

Protests were also reported in Shigatse, Tibet's second-largest city, as well by exiles on the Nepal-Tibet border and in India.

The Chinese regime immediately condemned the action.

The official New China News Agency quoted Xiokang Tubdain Nyima, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region, saying, "Actions by a few people are only aimed at splitting the motherland and sabotaging Tibet's excellent situation, and these individuals must be dealt with seriously."

The second demonstration happened on October 1, the 38th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Thousands of Tibetans, led by monks, held a proindependence march.

They chanted slogans in Tibetan: "Free Tibet," "Chinese out of Tibet," and "Dalai Lama, come back to Tibet," referring to the traditional spiritual and political leader of Tibet, who has been in exile in India since 1959.

The crowd torched police cars and the station where the lamas arrested previously were being held. Youths tore up flagstones

from the pavement and hurled them at cops.

The police fired into the crowd as it gathered in the square in front of Jokhang Temple. Several people were killed.

Three days later, on October 4, the Chinese government blocked off all main roads out of Lhasa and sealed off three monasteries. Security forces occupied the Jokhang cathedral and raided monasteries, tearing down pictures of the Dalai Lama. A 10:00 p.m. curfew was put in force.

In response to the Chinese government's fear that big protests might erupt on October 7, the 37th anniversary of the Chinese invasion of Tibet, two plane loads of heavily armed security forces were flown into Lhasa on October 5. They ordered "separatist elements" to surrender by October 15 or "they would be treated seriously."

The third protest occurred on October 6. Scores of monks, watched by some 2,000 bystanders, marched to government offices in Lhasa. Eighty monks were arrested, the largest number of lamas arrested in more than a decade. Reports described them being beaten with wooden sticks and cudgels by police.

Dalai Lama visit to U.S.

The outbreak of protests appears to have been prompted by a 10-day visit in September by the Dalai Lama to the United States to drum up support for his five-point program for Tibet.

His demands include an end to the policy of settling large numbers of Chinese citizens in Tibet; respect for human rights of Tibetans; negotiations on the future status of Tibet, which is currently an autonomous region within China; a halt to the storing of nuclear weapons and nuclear waste in Tibet; and the withdrawal of the 350,000 Chinese troops stationed in Tibet.

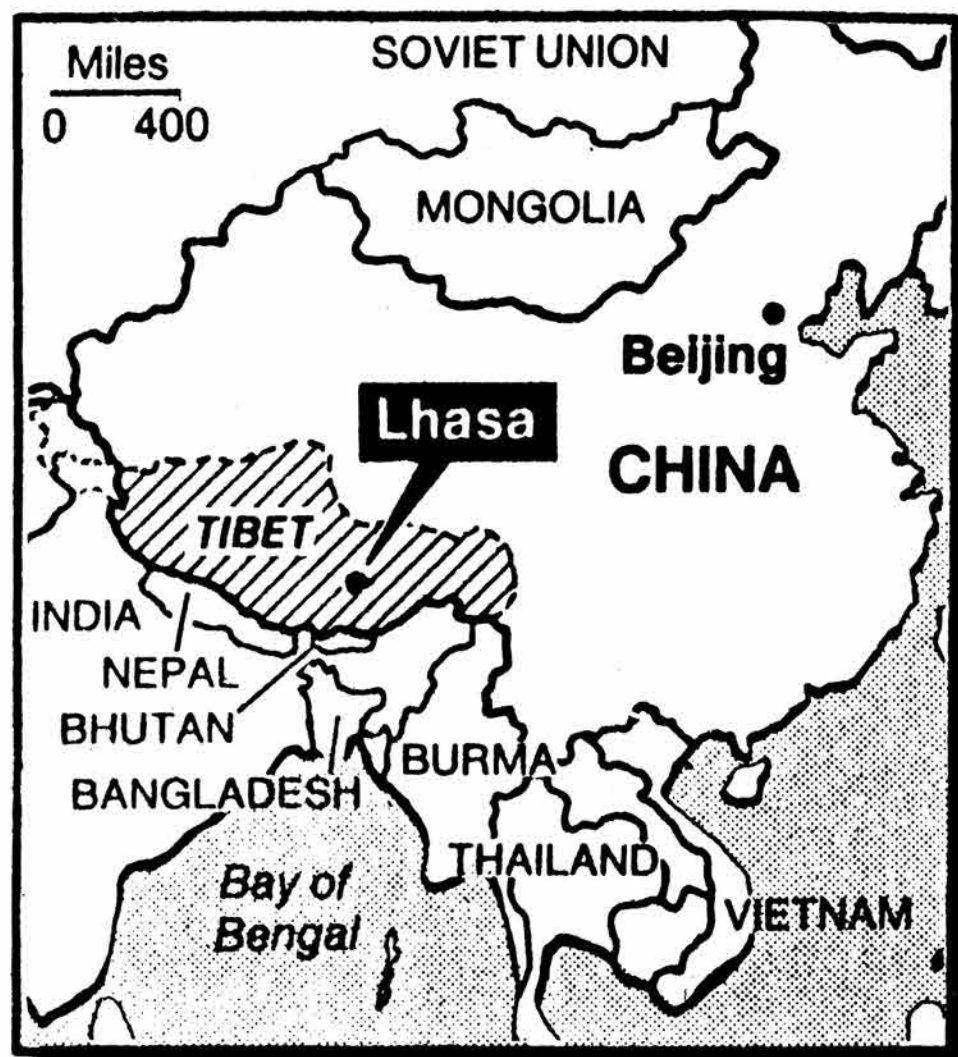
The response in Washington to the protests and the Dalai Lama's appeal for support was divided.

In June the House of Representatives had tacked two amendments onto a State Department authorization bill criticizing China's "violation of human rights" and military "occupation" of Tibet.

And on October 6, the Senate voted 98-0 for a similar amendment.

The Senate actions reflected Congress' desire to take advantage of the Chinese government's repression of the protests to make anticommunist propaganda.

The State Department, on the other hand, acting on the administration's desire to continue strengthening Chinese-U.S. economic and political ties, voiced strong



opposition to the Senate action.

One State Department official was quoted in the October 7 *New York Times* as saying that any possible benefits of the Senate action for the Tibetan people were "insufficient to outweigh the almost certain damage to the U.S.-China bilateral relationship."

Another official quoted by the *Times* said the congressional resolution and meeting with the Dalai Lama "sends the wrong signal to more-violent elements and could lead to more bloodshed."

At a rare news conference from Dharmasala, India — his home in exile — the Dalai Lama told reporters on October 7 that the demonstrations in Lhasa were caused by "discontent and suffering" and that the time has come for greater pressure on Beijing to negotiate a peaceful settlement with Tibet.

Speaking over Voice of America radio later, he urged better relations between the United States and China as a way to better the lives of Tibetans.

The Dalai Lama's conciliatory tone reflects his desire to reach an agreement with Beijing that will allow him to return to Tibet without totally discrediting himself among his followers.

Background

Chinese control over Tibet dates from the 18th century, China establishing "sovereignty" — a loose form of domination. The Dalai Lama — the "god-king" who was both the supreme religious and political leader — continued to exercise authority over internal affairs, but China regulated Tibet's foreign relations and was entitled to station an army in the country.

In 1911, following the Chinese revolution of that year, the Tibetans ousted Beijing's representatives.

It wasn't until 1950, the year after China's anticapitalist revolution, that Beijing sent armed forces into Tibet to bring it once more under Chinese control.

Tibet was one of the most backward regions of China. In 1955, the population breakdown was: agricultural workers, 600,000; herdsmen, 200,000; monks, 150,000 (15 percent of the population); then nobility, merchants, artisans, and beggars totaling 50,000.

A description in the April 2, 1959, *New York Post* is illuminating:

"The Dalai Lama presides over a system of government that is dominated at all levels by nobility and clergy. There are about 150 aristocratic families in Tibet. . . . Ownership of land . . . is monopolized by the monasteries and nobles. *Ula* — a feudal obligation to provide free transportation and other unpaid services to nobles, monks and officials — still exists."

The Chinese Stalinists pursued an administrative and bureaucratic course in Tibet, as they did in the rest of China. Instead of politically educating, organizing, and mobilizing the Tibetan people to take steps toward dismantling the feudal theocracy that exploited them and kept their land in a state of extreme backwardness, the regime tried to force social-reform measures on the population. Actions like curtailing feudal privileges and introducing education for the youth were accompanied by the closing down of monasteries and the attempted forced collectivization of agriculture.

Armed Tibetan resistance to the Chinese began among the Khamba tribesmen in Eastern Tibet as early as 1954 and broke out again in 1956. At the same time, an underground resistance movement developed.

A mass uprising in 1959, led by the religious hierarchy, was put down by Chinese troops.

Hostilities were further fanned during the Chinese "cultural revolution" which began in 1966.

In Tibet, this violent, intrabureaucratic struggle resulted in the destruction of virtually every monastery and temple, forcing the monks to become farmers or laborers, forced collectivization of Tibetan farms, the selling overseas of many priceless cultural and religious relics, and other rights violations.

In 1979, the Chinese government issued a public apology for the violence perpetrated on Tibet during the Cultural Revolution. It has begun to rebuild some of the temples and monasteries, foster a revival of Tibetan culture and language, and provide preferential treatment for Tibet in the building of roads, schools, housing, and medical centers. The Chinese government has also been carrying out negotiations with the Dalai Lama, trying to get him to return on Beijing's terms.

Yet Tibet remains woefully more impoverished than the rest of China. Its per capita annual income is about \$80, less than half China's national average. According to official statistics, 70 percent of the people are illiterate.

The 1983 population estimate was 1.9 million, of whom 500,000 are Chinese. Another 4 million Tibetans form the majority of the population of vast adjacent areas of China, India, and Nepal.

As of 1979, 1.5 million Tibetans were engaged in agriculture, including 500,000 nomadic herdsmen.

Chinese modernization efforts have resulted in the creation of 260 small- and medium-sized factories and mines producing electric power, coal, building materials, lumber, textiles, chemicals, and animal products.

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London rally will demand end of apartheid

BY PETE CLIFFORD

LONDON — Tens of thousands of people are expected to converge on this city October 24 for a massive demonstration against apartheid rule in South Africa and Namibia.

The demonstration has been called by the Anti-Apartheid Movement, a long-standing organization with 200 local chapters throughout Britain. Thirty-five national trade unions are also affiliated to the anti-apartheid campaign. The demonstration will demand that the British government impose "sanctions now" against the apartheid regime.

In appealing for support for the October 24 demonstration, the Anti-Apartheid Movement states: "No government has done more to protect the apartheid regime from economic sanctions than Mrs. Thatcher's."

At the center of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's concerns has been the protection of \$20 billion in British investments in South Africa, which constitute some 38 percent of the total foreign investment in that country.

Opposition to Thatcher's course has strengthened in the last year. This was reflected at the annual conference of the Labour Party held in September. Delegates there unanimously passed a resolution calling for a program of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against apartheid and for support to the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa and the South West

Africa People's Organisation of Namibia (SWAPO).

Speakers scheduled to address the October 24 action reflect this breadth of support. Joining SWAPO President Sam Nujoma and an ANC speaker on the platform will be Norman Willis, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress (British equivalent to the AFL-CIO); Bernie Grant, one of four Black Labour Party candidates recently elected to Parliament; and Joan Lester, representing the National Executive Council of the Labour Party.

The National Union of Students has conducted a major campaign to mobilize for the demonstration and is organizing buses from throughout Britain to attend. NUS President Vicki Phillips will speak at the action.

Strong support is also coming from the industrial unions. Contingents of miners are coming from the main coalfields. Their union, the National Union of Mineworkers cosponsored with the Anti-Apartheid Movement a September conference that called for an end to British importing of South African coal.

The National Union of Railwaymen has issued a special call for its members to attend the demonstration. In addition to distributing publicity about the action, the rail union has recently produced a pamphlet detailing the plight of rail workers under apartheid. It also describes the successful strike by South African rail workers last spring.



A 1986 anti-apartheid protest in London

Gov't, death-squad terrorism on increase in El Salvador

BY SETH GALINSKY

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — A billboard on the road from the international airport to downtown San Salvador proclaims, "Welcome to Salvadoran Democracy." But the true face of this U.S.-backed regime is revealed by the continued and increasing use of terror against all opponents of the government.

Kidnappings, disappearances, and official and unofficial acts of repression have been on the rise in recent months, as José Napoleón Duarte's regime tries to intimidate all political and working-class opposition to his rule.

In May a bomb destroyed the offices of a coalition of three committees of mothers of the disappeared and political prisoners. That same month a leader of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) was shot while protesting outside the Mariona Prison, where many victims of the regime are held, often without being charged.

Recently, political prisoners at Mariona Prison were attacked in their cells by prison guards and soldiers of the Salvadoran army. Five prisoners were wounded by machine-gun fire and hand grenades as they were sleeping. Among the wounded were Fermín Rauda, well known to international delegations for his work in the UNTS, and José Vladimir Centeno, son of Humberto Centeno, a central leader of the union federation.

Another nationally known trade union figure, José Salvador Ubao, secretary-general of the Union of University Workers at the National University, was kidnapped September 1 by heavily armed men. He is believed to be alive, but the government refuses to state whether he is in their custody.

One aspect of the intimidation campaign of the government is a concerted effort to portray the UNTS and other political organizations as fronts for the outlawed Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), which is leading the guerilla struggle in the country.

The government, with the cooperation of the major newspapers here in the capital, has used the capture of human rights activist Gloria Alicia Galán García to advance this campaign.

Galán García, a member of the Committee of Mothers of the Disappeared, Political Prisoners, and Assassinated, was attacked by men dressed in civilian clothes September 3 following a demonstration against the kidnapping of Ubao.

She was taken to the offices of the Treasury Police, where she was beaten repeatedly while her head was covered with a rubber hood.

After a day of this torture, the Treasury Police paraded her before a carefully organized press conference, where she read a prepared statement indicating that she belonged to the FMLN and that the mothers' committee was under its command.

Behind Galán García while she read the police statement, but hidden from the view of the press, a man kept a gun pointed at her head throughout the press conference. Since then she has been imprisoned at Ilopango Prison.

Seeking more propaganda mileage out of this case, *El Diario de Hoy* and *La Prensa Gráfica*, the country's two main dailies, printed a two-page color ad accusing García of being a fighter for the FMLN. The ad repeated Galán García's supposed admissions at the press conference and supplied some blurry pictures purportedly showing Galán García with a gun in a guerilla encampment.

The ad later appeared as a poster that was plastered up all over San Salvador.

These cases of terrorism by government forces or by government-sponsored death squads have continued even as the Duarte regime is being promoted by Washington as the model for Central America.

On September 18 a leader of the Christian Committee for the Displaced was kidnapped, beaten until he could not walk, and thrown in the Mariona Prison.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Israelis machine-gun Arab school children

Israeli soldiers opened fire with Uzi submachine guns on a protest of Palestinian schoolchildren. A woman passerby was killed and five other people wounded. Officials said soldiers fired the Uzis at the Arab protesters' legs when they refused to disperse.

The assault occurred October 12 in the town of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank.

The previous day, a 10-year-old girl was critically wounded by Israeli soldiers firing at Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied Gaza Strip.

The attacks climaxed two weeks of Israeli violence against Palestinian demonstrators. The protests were triggered when three Palestinians were gunned down by Israeli troops after allegedly trying to run a checkpoint near the Brier Palestinian refugee camp in Gaza.

At Al Azhar Islamic University in the city of Gaza, a reported 20 youths were wounded when Israeli soldiers opened fire on a campus protest by 3,000 students.

Meanwhile, it was reported that at least 40 people — Arab and Israeli — are slated for trial on charges of participating in illegal demonstrations. Most of these occurred in 1984 and 1985. Four people were to be tried for joining in a protest that occurred five years ago.

Uruguayans sign to prosecute military

More than half a million Uruguayans have signed petitions for a national referendum to scrap a law that gives amnesty to members of the military who committed human rights atrocities.

In a nation of 3 million, 550,000 people have already signed the petition and another 80,000 are being collected to insure meeting legal requirements.

In 1973 the military imposed a dictatorship in the name of combatting the Tupamaros, a guerilla force. In the 12 years of harsh repression that followed, the unions, the Socialist and Communist parties, and other dissenting forces were targeted.

When the military grip was finally loosened in 1984, a civilian government was elected with the tacit support of the military. In office, it put a bill through congress barring prosecution of members of the military for their crimes.

It is estimated that 50,000 people were jailed during the repression, with many of them tortured. At one time the

tiny nation was said to have the highest per capita number of prisoners anywhere.

Still unaccounted for are 170 people, including nine children, who were "disappeared" by security forces.

India launches assault on Sri Lankan Tamils

India has mounted an invasion of the northern and eastern areas of the island country of Sri Lanka to accomplish what the Sri Lankan government there could not — the suppression of the movement of the Tamil people for equal rights, self-determination and, if need be, an independent homeland.

Airborne Indian commandos were dropped into the northern tip of Sri Lanka October 12.

It was reported that as many as 12,000 Indian troops are now fighting the Sri Lankan Tamils.

An October 13 *New York Times* dispatch from Sri Lanka said the Indian forces were "battling their way through fierce Tamil guerilla resistance."

An initial Indian force came to the island, which is off the southeast coast of India, as "peacekeeping" troops, in an agreement with the Sri Lankan government.

The agreement, signed last July, was made after Sri Lankan government troops had fought unsuccessfully since 1983 to crush the armed Tamils fighting to end the oppression they have suffered as a national minority.

Tamils comprise 18 percent of the Sri Lankan population. A much greater number are Sinhalese.

India has a big Tamil population and its government has taken the posture of supporting Tamil rights in Sri Lanka.

The India-Sri Lanka accord provided that the Sri Lanka government would press for legislation expanding the civil rights of the Tamils, including semi-regional autonomy for the northern and eastern regions of the island.

But it was also agreed that India would station 8,000 troops in Sri Lanka to enforce the accord and to disarm the Tamil liberation fighters.

Since the accord was signed there has been no progress on winning approval in the Sri Lanka parliament for the civil rights measures assured to the Tamils.

In September the government did agree to appoint an interim administrative council for the northern and eastern provinces. A majority of the council members were to be members or supporters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest of several militant groups fighting for an independent Tamil homeland.

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CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Malcolm X Speaks. A documentary film containing footage from speeches by the Black revolutionary. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Support the Neville Toxics Struggle. Chemical Workers Demand to Be Tested. Speaker: Brent Hardwick, chairman, Neville Chemical Santa Fe Springs bargaining unit of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-128. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Nicaragua: How the U.S. Media Distorts the Truth. Speaker: Miranda Collette, editor of *Barricada Internacional*. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Nov. 1, 2 p.m. Reception to follow. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

The Central America Peace Plan, a Setback to the U.S. War. Speaker: Malik Miah, member National Committee of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

FLORIDA

Miami

The Central America Peace Accords and the U.S. War in Nicaragua. Speakers: Chaplain Morrison, American Friends Service Committee; representative Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish and Creole. Sat., Oct. 17, 8 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

AIDS: Fight the Disease, Defend Its Victims. A Discussion for Working People. Speakers: Rev. Robert Carver, Episcopal Church Task Force on AIDS; Sebastian Simmons, Patients With AIDS; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 24, Pre-forum dinner, 6:30; forum 8 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Citizens Conference on Privacy and the Constitution. Speakers and workshops on privacy in the workplace, government intrusion into political activities, and reproductive health. Sat., Oct. 17, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alumni Hall, Georgia State University. Donation: \$15. Sponsor: Georgia American Civil Liberties Union and others. For more information call (404) 523-6201.

Socialist Educational Conference:

"Grenada's Revolution — Its Achievements and the Lessons of Its Destruction." Speaker: Sam Manuel, *Militant* newspaper staff writer. Class 1, Sat., Oct. 31, 1 p.m.; Class 2, Sun., Nov. 1, 10 a.m.

"Rally Against Apartheid." A socialist publications rally. Speaker: Sam Manuel, just attended Pan African anti-apartheid conference in Burkina Faso. Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m.

All conference events held at 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Translation to Spanish. Donation: classes, \$1 each; rally \$3. Sponsors: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Environmental Impact on Honduras of U.S. Contra War. Speaker: Juan Almadore, Honduran doctor and environmentalist. Sat., Oct. 17, 7 p.m. San Lucas Church, 2913 W North St.; Tue., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. Swift Hall, the Divinity School, University of Chicago Quadrangle (program in Spanish); and Wed., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. Leveron Hall, room G113, Northwestern University, Sheridan Rd., Evanston. Sponsor: Green Flag. For more information call (312) 752-4461 or 489-4533.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The Guatemala Peace Accords — New Stage in the Nicaraguan Revolution. Speakers: Beverly Treumann, director of NICA language school in Estelí, Nicaragua; Aaron Ruby, chairperson, Boston Young Socialist Alliance, taught in Nicaragua 1980-85; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

Austin

What's Behind the War in the Persian Gulf? Speaker: Lynne Banner, antiwar activist who has lived and traveled in the Middle East. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

Minneapolis

Rally in Defense of Democratic Rights. Speakers: Fred Halstead, Political Rights Defense Fund; others to be announced. Sat., Oct. 31, 7 p.m. Central America Resource Center auditorium, Newman Center, 1701 University Ave. SE. Sponsors: Political Rights Defense Fund, Central America Resource Center, Back Room Anarchist Books, Mayday Books, Pathfinder Bookstore, Paul Robeson Bookshop. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

U.S. Out of the Persian Gulf! Demonstration at Federal Building, 4th St. and 5th Ave. Tue., Oct. 29, 4-6 p.m. Sponsor: Emergency Committee to Protest U.S. Presence in the Persian Gulf.

St. Paul

Crisis in the Auto Industry — Causes and Solutions. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Oct. 17, 8 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

South Korea — Workers in Struggle. Speaker: Will Reissner, former staff writer for *Intercontinental Press*. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Why the Bork Nomination Failed. Speakers: Ed Lewis, president of Kansas City Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Teri Van der Waal, Kansas City National Organization for Women; Marilyn Brown, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 4725 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0224 or 561-4980.

St. Louis

Cuba Today, an Eyewitness Account. Speaker: Cathy Sedwick, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 17, 7 p.m. 4907

Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

Maurice Bishop and the Legacy of the Grenada Revolution. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 24, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Bork Nomination and the Fight for Democratic Rights. Speakers: Andrea Morell, national leader of Socialist Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

U.S. Out of the Persian Gulf! Speakers: Georges Sayad, Socialist Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Queens

Hear Bernadette Devlin McAliskey. Fri., Nov. 6, 9 p.m. The Breffni Inn, 40th St. and Queens Blvd., Woodside. Donation: \$10. Proceeds to send legal observers to Birmingham 6 appeal and Liam Quinn trial in Northern Ireland. Sponsor: Committee for Legal Justice in Northern Ireland. For more information call (718) 833-7741 or 436-4770.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Nelson and Winnie, a video on Winnie Mandela, a leader of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Sun., Oct. 18, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

Why Is There a Housing Crisis? Speakers: Ervin Brisbon, president, Confederation of Greensboro Resident Councils; John Cox, recent volunteer on housing construction brigade in Nicaragua; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 25, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

U.S. Policy in Nicaragua. Speaker: Ray Hodgson, mayor of Bluefields, Nicaragua. Sat., Oct. 17, 7 p.m. East End Neighborhood House, 2749 Woodhill Rd. Sponsors: East End Neighborhood House, Simba Wachanga. For more information call (216) 696-8215.

OREGON

Portland

Youth and Students Speak Out Against Apartheid and Contra Aid. Speakers: Marea Himelgrin, editor, *Young Socialist*; Natasha Mickelson, Roosevelt High School Peace Club. Sat., Oct. 17, Dinner, 5:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

What Is Socialism? a discussion with Marea Himelgrin, national leader of the Young Socialist Alliance and editor of the *Young Socialist*. Fri., Oct. 16, 11 a.m. Reed College Student Union; Fri. Oct. 16, 2 p.m. Roosevelt High School; Tue., Oct. 20, 2 p.m. P.C.C. Sylvia, Pine Room; and Tue., Oct. 20, 4 p.m.

Lewis and Clark College, Thayer Room. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Socialist Workers Party Campaign Rally. Hear Richard Gaeta, socialist mayoral candidate and other activists speak out. Sat., Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

The Meaning of the Rectification Campaign. A talk on the current situation in Cuba. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

UTAH

Price

The Exploitation of Women — A discussion of the issues facing women and the fight for women's rights. Speakers: Judy Stranahan, Socialist Workers Party, member of International Ladies' Garment Workers Union Local 294; others. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., Suite 19. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Conflict in the Persian Gulf. Speaker to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

The Legacy of the Grenada Revolution. Video and discussion. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Open House and Reception for Marea Himelgrin, editor of the *Young Socialist*. Sat., Oct. 24, 5-8 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Grenada Four Years After the U.S. Invasion. Speaker: Steve Clark, managing editor of *New Internationalist*. Sun., Oct. 25, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Morgantown

The Philippines, an Unfolding Revolution. Speaker: Mark Satinoff, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

The 1983 Overthrow of the Grenada Revolution: The Lessons for Today. Speaker: Steve Clark, managing editor of *New Internationalist*. Sat., Oct. 24, Dinner reception, 6 p.m.; forum 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Publications Fund. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

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Just plan ahead — If you're tired of Post Office lines, for a \$2 fee you can now order stamps by phone and charge them to a credit



Harry Ring

card. The catch? They deliver them by mail.

"Yes, We Have No Bananas" — The International Banana Assn. has protested a slated PBS documentary on AIDS in which a

banana is used to illustrate the use of a condom. "The banana is an important product," declared the prez of the IBA, "and deserves to be treated with respect and consideration."

Copout — In fairness, we note the PBS response to the banana folk: "Considerations of taste made it desirable to use a prop instead of the human anatomy to demonstrate the proper use of a condom."

"Civilizing" the Philippines? — The newsletter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women reports that three of its members met with striking workers at a U.S. base area in the Philippines who were

protesting "the harassment of their union officials and the forced boxing matches of their women workers to entertain the U.S. servicemen."

Job opening — Congressmembers from the Kansas farm belt proposed legislation to get another bankruptcy judge for the state to help cope with the increasing caseload. Bankruptcies in Kansas jumped 56.6 percent in two years.

Those golden arteries — What with millions of people experiencing high blood cholesterol levels and the feds okaying several remedies, the market for cholesterol-lowering drugs is expected to hit the \$1 billion mark. Enthused one

Wall Streeter, "The cardiovascular market is most promising for the next five years."

The bright side — Marketing specialist Laurel Cutler advised Campbell's soup pushers that what with the concern about herpes and AIDS, the pleasures of food may increasingly become a substitute for sex.

Just don't get excited — The FDA found that the wiring in a particular pacemaker might be fatally defective, but permitted the maker to send a innocuous letter to doctors. The company assures the danger is "minimal," saying the defect merely causes the gadget to skip a beat now and then.

Isn't that odd — We only now learned it, but during the alleged gas crisis of the '70s, when Congress imposed a tax on gas guzzlers, a "quirk" in the law exempted cars over 6,000 pounds. By a quirky coincidence, the Rolls Royce and Bentley are in that weight class.

Could be — Since the advent of remote channel changers, TV program switching has increased 75 percent, according to J. Walter Thompson, the folk who provide a lot of your commercials. But not to worry, JWT advises its clients. Viewers are "quite likely to consider a good commercial as entertaining as programming on another channel."

Pan-African conference in Burkina hits apartheid

Continued from front page
port for the anti-apartheid struggle.

Several delegates noted that Burkina Faso had taken the lead on this proposal. The Bambata committee, which organized the conference, was established as a grassroots, nongovernmental organization. The Burkina Movement Against Racism and for Friendship of the People (MOBRAP) organized support for the conference from the 30 provinces in the country.

A representative of MOBRAP explained that the purpose of the provincial committees was to involve people at every level in the conference and to educate about the struggle against apartheid. The committees raised funds in workplaces and in the villages.

Many of the Burkinabè delegates explained that their decision to hold the conference was a result of the many anti-apartheid activities held in the country

since the revolution.

After the official opening ceremonies, conference participants decided to open the discussion to everyone attending. Its proceedings were also broadcast on radio and television in Burkina Faso and to neighboring countries. The Ouagadougou daily *Sidwaya* carried regular reports.

"Our duty is to collaborate with the women and youth of South Africa and Namibia," said Colette Nana of the Women's Union of Burkina. "Too much has been said and too little has been done. Our aim is to do away with routinism," Nana explained.

Other women delegations included the National Women's Union of Mali, the National Union of Women of Mauritania, and the National Union of Women of the Republic of the Congo.

Somé Jonas, president of the National

Bureau of Students of Burkina Faso, told the delegates, "All the youth and women of Africa denounce all commercial relations with apartheid. He reported that the Burkinabè youth were planning to march in protest against apartheid October 24.

A lively discussion developed on several points over the four days of the conference. Many delegates stressed the need for mandatory, comprehensive sanctions against South Africa. Others expressed frustration at the reluctance of the United States, Europe, and Japan, and many African countries to apply sanctions in any meaningful way.

Still others emphasized military aid, including the possibility of military intervention by African states as the most effective action to end apartheid.

ANC leader Shope explained, that he understood the difficulties in many countries. But, he said, "Fighting for total and comprehensive sanctions against the racist regime is the most effective way in which the international community can help our struggles today. That movement is growing stronger day by day."

He continued, "South Africa must be liberated by the South African people. No one can do the fighting for us."

"All of the international solidarity actions should be increased in order to hasten the fall of the Pretoria regime."



Under apartheid, South African miners are separated from their families for most of the year.

D.C. march demands action on AIDS

Continued from front page

much more could be done. Money that is used for war could be used for a lot of better things."

A Central America solidarity group marched by chanting loudly, "Stop AIDS, not Nicaragua" and "Money for AIDS — not the contras."

A veteran's contingent also marched. As the huge march crowded into the Mall near the Capitol, Eleanor Smeal, the former president of NOW, spoke. "We must carry today's message to the White House — we will have full civil rights for gay people," said Smeal. "This is one of the largest marches in American history — we are too large to ever be denied again."

Smeal captured the victory that marchers felt had been won in stopping the Bork nomination. "We are feeling powerful because Bork has been stopped — that the right to privacy stays for Blacks, stays for women, and now must be extended to lesbians and gays. We must unite with all the movements for social change, including the labor movement, because united, justice will be ours."

Virginia Apuzzo, a longtime gay rights leader, linked the march to the civil rights movement that destroyed legal racial segregation. She said, "This day was born out of Birmingham and Little Rock. We are the sisters and brothers of Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. We are here to win."

Actress Whoopi Goldberg addressed her remarks to the Reagan administration and Congress: "When the kids in Florida who suffer from AIDS got their house burned down, Reagan, did you tell them it was wrong? If America is just, then why didn't the president support them, comfort them?"

Jesse Jackson, candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, pledged support for gay rights. He called for increased federal spending on AIDS research and education. "We gather today to insist on equal protection under the law for every American, for workers' rights, for women's rights, for the rights of religious freedom, the rights of individual privacy, for the right of sexual preference," said Jackson. "We came together for the rights of all the American people."

Other speakers included Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers of America, and two members of Congress, representatives Gerry Studds and Barney Frank, both Massachusetts Democrats who are openly gay.

A moving part of the rally was the hooking together of a quilt with the names of 1,920 victims of AIDS. The patchwork quilt, made up of panels created by friends and family members, was laid out on the mall during the march for the first time.

Most of the people remembered in the quilt are men, but a few are women. And one was for baby Jessica, a child who died from AIDS. The quilt, which measures 150 by 470 feet, cost about \$50,000, money raised mainly by small donations.

The United Farm Workers organized a contingent, and there were some union signs in the crowd. But there was not a big, organized union participation.

On the night before the march 300 unionists attended a reception at AFL-CIO headquarters. It was hosted by more than a half dozen union locals.

Speakers at the labor reception included Bill Olwell, vice-president, United Food and Commercial Workers; Norman Hill, co-chair, A. Philip Randolph Institute; Anna Podia, Coalition of Labor Union Women; United Auto Workers District 65 Vice-president Julia Kushner; Arturo Rodriguez, United Farm Workers vice-president; Willie Baker, vice-president, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; and Howard Wallace, Gay-Labor Alliance of San Francisco.

Julia Kushner noted, "This issue is a debate not just outside, but also inside the labor movement. Our union has fought for anti-discrimination clauses in our contracts."

Joslyn Williams, president of the Metropolitan Washington Council (the Washington, D.C., Central Labor Council), welcomed the unionists to Washington. Williams said, "Through your efforts organized labor has finally come out of the closet. You have opened the door and helped to untie the chains of ignorance that held us in prison. This is a historic occasion. This is a fight that you have been fighting for years but labor has been late in joining."

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢
Oct. 21, 1977

"Don't cry. If one is dying for his country there is no need to cry."

These were Andrés Figueroa Cordero's first words to his brother as the ailing member of the National Party of Puerto Rico was carried from a plane at the San Juan airport October 7. Andrés' brother had broken out in tears when he saw the pallid, frail figure of Andrés in a wheelchair, a Puerto Rican flag draped across his shoulders.

Outside, thousands of people greeted the Nationalist with shouts of, "¡Libertad! ¡Libertad! ¡Libertad!"

Freedom!—to hail Figueroa Cordero's release.

Freedom!—to demand that President Carter release the other four Nationalists imprisoned with Figueroa Cordero.

Freedom!—to tell the United States to get out of their country so that Puerto Ricans can run their own affairs.

The night before, Cordero was also given a hero's welcome at a rally of 350 in Chicago.

There Nelson Canals, head of Puerto Rico's National Committee to Free the Nationalist Prisoners, read a message Figueroa Cordero had written but was too weak to read.

"My release is a victory for the Puerto Rican and North American people, which should be dedicated to work for the release of other political prisoners, especially the other four Nationalist political prisoners, Lolita Lebrón, Oscar Collazo, Irving Flores, and Rafael Cancel Miranda," Figueroa Cordero said.

The five were imprisoned in the early

1950s for armed actions carried out in support of Puerto Rican independence.

THE MILITANT
Published in the interests of the Working People
Oct. 22, 1962
Price 10¢

(The Cuban missile crisis did not begin until President John Kennedy's speech of Oct. 22, 1962. The item below refers to events leading up to it.)

Oct. 17 — The great majority of the American people are opposed to a U.S. military attack against Cuba. President Kennedy has begun to court this majority sentiment by attacking Republican advocates of immediate invasion. At the same time he continues his own efforts to strangle the Cuban revolution and preparations for a direct U.S. military assault at some future time.

A Washington dispatch in the October 14 *New York Times* says "authoritative sources here report that close and occasionally provocative surveillance of Cuba by the U.S. military has met with no resistance from Premier Castro's Government"

In other words, the only reason there haven't been any shooting incidents directly involving U.S. and Cuban forces so far is because the Cubans have refrained from responding to provocation — and the provocations are great. James Reston reported in the October 12 *Times* that the Kennedy administration "is sending its planes over Cuba night and day."

Since Cuba now has anti-aircraft systems, radar and jet fighters, the question must be asked: "Is the U.S. government trying to provoke a shooting incident?"

Help get the 'Militant' around

The *Militant* strongly urges our readers to make a pledge now toward the \$150,000 fall Socialist Publications Fund. The fund is aimed at maintaining and expanding the readership and coverage of the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Marxist journal *New Internationalist*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, and Pathfinder books.

Your pledges and contributions have a vital role in helping the *Militant* get out the truth about workers, farmers, and their allies who are fighting for justice around the world.

This issue, for instance, carries a report by Sam Manuel from the West African country of Burkina Faso, on the pan-African conference against apartheid recently held there.

Because the *Militant* tells the truth to working people about what is happening in the world — from Jay, Maine, to the Persian Gulf — it is a tool for fighters who are trying to chart a way to defend the interests of the oppressed and exploited.

Malcolm X, a leader of the fight for Black liberation who was one of the outstanding revolutionary figures of our time, appreciated the *Militant's* role. He said in a 1965 speech: "The *Militant* newspaper is one of the best in New York City. In fact, it is one of the best anywhere you go today because everywhere I go I see it. I saw it even in Paris about a month ago; they were reading it over there. And I saw it in some parts of Africa where I was during the summer. . . . If you put the right things in it, what you put in it will see that it gets around."

The international role of this newspaper has expanded further in recent years. Our reporters provide eyewitness coverage of events of the struggles of working people in the United States from meat-packers in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to farmworkers in Washington State. In the last couple of years *Militant* correspondents have gone to Cuba, Trinidad, Haiti, Indochina, the Philip-

pinas, Angola, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Ireland, Great Britain, Guyana, Grenada, and many other countries to get the facts that never make it into the big-business media.

In addition, since the Nicaraguan revolution of July 1979, the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* have maintained a bureau of reporters in that country to provide regular coverage of the revolution and Washington's war to overthrow it.

And the *Militant* is read by growing numbers in Canada, Britain, Iceland, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere who are hungry for the world view of the struggles of workers and farmers that the *Militant* provides on a weekly basis.

There is no mystery about how the "right things" in the *Militant* get around the world. The *Militant's* role is made possible by its supporters — readers, distributors, and financial contributors.

These include the hundreds who are participating in the current campaign to win 6,000 new subscribers for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

The \$150,000 fund is vital for making possible further steps forward for the *Militant*, and for the other socialist publications.

As we go to press, the fund stands at \$109,500 pledged and \$29,700 collected. The top priority is to bring the pledges up to and above the \$150,000 goal. Hundreds more pledges are needed.

In the coming weeks, supporters of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the other socialist publications in many parts of the United States will be holding public meetings to discuss the unique contributions these publications make to advancing the struggles of working people.

We urge all our readers to support, publicize, and attend these meetings, and to make a pledge now to the Socialist Publications Fund by filling out the coupon on page 6.

U.S. steps up aggression in gulf

Continued from front page

port by stating, "There's been no change in our policy."

Meanwhile, an administration source "privately" volunteered that commanders in the gulf want to know what action they should take if they encounter "a ship in need" not flying the U.S. flag.

And the Pentagon added that rules on the U.S. mine-sweeping operation in the area now include the right to attack any Iranian ship that U.S. forces say has been caught laying mines, or carrying them.

The *Post* noted that administration spokespeople "indicated little willingness to press Iraq to stop its now almost-daily attacks on Iranian oil tankers or Iran-bound vessels."

A *Post* dispatch from the United Arab Emirates the previous day observed:

"While the American buildup in the gulf was conducted in the name of protecting free navigation at sea, U.S. policy is now seen to be compromising that principle by tolerating Iraqi attacks on foreign tankers carrying Iranian crude, yet seeking to thwart any Iranian retaliatory action. . . ."

And the same issue of the paper reported that the U.S. helicopter assertedly fired on by an Iranian gunboat October 6 was not a patrol aircraft, as the Pentagon had reported, but a heavily armed Army gunship. Washington used the alleged incident as a pretext for attacking four Iranian ships on October 8.

In its moves to choke off Iran, Washington has gained more practical support from neighboring Arab regimes.

These regimes have been reluctant to openly align themselves with Washington, recognizing how badly this would discredit them.

At the same time, the rulers of the gulf-area Arab states fear the impact within their own countries of Iran's refusal to bow to U.S. military power. Such defiance of U.S. imperialism, which has plundered the resources of the entire region, strikes a sympathetic response among the masses of the people there. They might demand their own rulers do likewise.

On a visit to the area, U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington told reporters, that Washington was "very satisfied with the support we are getting from the gulf countries."

"We are getting ship repairs done," he said. "We are getting refueled and resupplied. We are getting what we need."

There are now 80 U.S. warships in the area, carrying thousands of military personnel. And there are the planes and helicopters.

Iran claims to have shot down one of the helicopters that recently attacked its boats in the gulf. Washington denies this.

But it does admit that so far, two helicopters have

crashed. One plunged into the sea October 4. One crew member is missing and presumed dead. Three others were injured. Another chopper crashed during the summer, killing four crew members.

Maintenance of the helicopters, the backbone of the minesweeping operation, is becoming a major problem, Navy people told the *New York Times*.

"The relatively delicate machines are operating in the worst possible conditions of high heat, humidity, sand storms and salt spray," the paper reported October 7.

"Conditions are so bad," one naval officer said, "that helicopters require as many as 40 man hours of maintenance for every hour spent in the air."

The dispatch added: "The Navy's difficulties are compounded by the fact that, while vast stretches of water must be searched with vulnerable equipment, it is relatively simple for the Iranians to toss mines from small sailing vessels or from speedboats. . . ."

Despite these difficulties and dangers, Washington is plunging in ever deeper.

One reason the Reagan administration is able to press this confrontational course with Iran is that it has the support of the Democrat-controlled Congress.

Democratic leaders in the Senate and House have complained that Reagan has thumbed his nose at the War Powers Act, which requires that Congress be given voice when the U.S. military is in a war situation.

But at the same time, they hasten to assure, they fully support the gunboat presence in the gulf.

To further the White House effort to isolate Iran, both the House and Senate voted in favor of a total ban on Iranian imports.

On October 6, the Senate voted 93-0 for the resolution. In the House, the same day, the vote was 407 to 5.

The Congress members conceded that a ban would have little practical effect since Iran can readily sell its oil elsewhere.

The sentiment behind the resolution was summed up by House Speaker Jim Wright, the Texas Democrat. "We can assuage our anger," he declared.

Why is the U.S. military force in the Persian Gulf? For the same reason that it's in Central America.

Washington and Wall Street are determined that no matter the cost they will remain the world's dominant imperialist power. They can no more abide Iran exercising its right of self-determination than they can Nicaragua doing so.

The many people in this country who oppose the aggression against Nicaragua should also oppose the aggression against Iran.

The U.S. gunboats should get out of the Persian Gulf!

The U.S. men and women on the ships and aircraft in the region, whose lives are in daily peril, should be brought home now!

'Overtime' and the bosses' drive to extend workday

BY DOUG JENNESS

Striking paperworkers in Jay, Maine, are wearing a T-shirt that sports a pig with wings and proclaims, "Sure I'll work Christmas . . . when pigs fly."

One of International Paper's demands is that Christmas be eliminated as a shutdown holiday. The company has already gotten rid of Easter and July 4th as days it will close down its mill in Jay.

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

The huge paper company is also putting the arm on the workers to give up double-time pay for working Sundays.

In Hartford, Connecticut, where workers have been on strike for 20 months against Colt Firearms, a union activist was suspended before the strike began for refusing to work "overtime." (See article on page 7.)

Both of these cases spotlight one of the big problems facing working people — the employers' never-ending drive to lengthen the working day.

The battle over the working day takes place in many ways. One is the petty pilfering of minutes from workers' rest and meal breaks, often without regard for contractual agreements.

Another way is through what has become known as "overtime." This actually is misnamed and can more accurately be described as stretching out the normal work day. Increasingly, working "overtime" isn't voluntary; it is a condition for keeping a job.

The concept of "overtime" arose because workers, through struggle, forced the government to limit the workweek to 40 hours. This victory was codified into law in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

In spite of this law, millions of workers don't work 40 hours; they work 50, 60, 70, or more hours a week. The employers have gotten around the law by dubbing more than 40 hours' work as "overtime." In most instances, they pay a higher hourly rate for these "extra" hours. But this is still cheaper than hiring additional employees for whom they have to pay benefits and so on.

This division between "normal time" and "overtime" is increasingly artificial. Moreover, it isn't the most important division of the working day.

One part of the working day is the time in which workers create the equivalent value to what they need to live and to keep on working — that is, for the food clothing, shelter, and other things necessary to subsist. And to raise children that will eventually replace them on the labor market.

But it doesn't take the full working day for workers to produce enough value to ensure their labor power will continue to be renewed. If, for example, it takes only three hours of labor each day to achieve this, workers will get paid for the value of what they produce in three hours. This is spread over the total number of hours worked each day, creating the impression they are paid for every hour of work.

Workers are hired for an entire day and they keep working beyond what is necessary to replace their labor power. During these extra hours, they are producing value for the employer.

Naturally, once their hired laborers have produced enough to survive, the owners of the mines, factories, mills, and big farms want to keep them working for as many additional hours as possible. Each of those hours of work puts more money in the bosses' pockets. And if they don't have to pay overtime or premium pay, they rake in even more.

The ideal situation for the owners would be to work their employees 24 hours, seven days a week. But they can't do that because there are physical limits to how long humans can work.

Many employers, however, do try to keep production running around the clock every day by using shifts. For their machinery to stand idle overnight or on weekends and holidays is useless to them. So they're always trying to find ways of maximizing the number of hours each worker can work.

That's why all across the country the number of involuntary "overtime" hours worked is going up and holiday and Sunday work is increasing.

The employers don't give a tinker's damn about the wear and tear on workers who are forced to work 10, 12, and 14 hours a day. Nor do they have any interest in the workers having some time for themselves or to relax with their families and friends.

Workers who are driven to work longer hours, returning home every day more and more exhausted, are more likely to be physically and emotionally worn down. And they will likely live shorter lives.

But that's no problem for the employers. There's more than enough workers to replace them.

The degrees to which the employers can be prevented from lengthening the working day depends on how much power workers are able to bring to bear through their unions in defense of their interests.

A lesson about why not to talk to cops on the job

BY MIGUEL ZARATE

The most valuable lesson workers at O'Brien Meats Inc., a small packinghouse near Omaha, have learned in recent months is not to talk to cops. Unfortunately, we learned this one the hard way.

I was hired with a number of other folks in the fall of 1986. Local 271 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union began to get reorganized in December

UNION TALK

1986. Prior to that time, the union membership had dwindled down to two members and the local hadn't met for over two years.

A number of meat-packing fights began in the area about the same time. Unionists at Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) in Dakota City, Nebraska, were locked out in December. A few months later, these unionists voted to go on strike after the company began preparations to restart the plant with scabs. Unionists also went on strike at the John Morrell & Co. packinghouse in Sioux City, Iowa, just across the river from the IBP plant.

Some of us at O'Brien Meats wanted our union local to become more involved in extending solidarity to meat-packers in these fights and with those under attack where we work.

Our reorganized local held its first union meeting in May 1987. Everyone had questions and there was a lot of discussion. We talked about some of the rights guaranteed in our contract. We also voted to begin a food collection in preparation for visits to the striking meat-packers at IBP and John Morrell.

Within a week of the union meeting, the company claimed it had found three bolts in meat about to be processed. The bosses immediately concluded that this was a deliberate act of sabotage. This assertion was preposter-

ous to many because foreign materials had been found in products prior to that time.

For example, nuts and bolts from a hydro-flaker machine on its last legs worked loose and fell into a vat of ground up meat. Paint has also been found in meat. And just the day before, a thermometer was found in meat as it was being sliced.

O'Brien Meats Inc., hired a detective from the Baker's Detective Agency, a private company that claims its objective is to "weed out dishonest workers." Roughly translated, that means getting rid of union activists.

This cop began calling workers in for questioning. Many mistakenly thought if we didn't cooperate, we'd be fired. As it turns out, three of us were fired anyway.

Workers have the right to refuse to talk to cops regardless of whether they are from the FBI, CIA, or local police. This practice of refusing to talk to cops should also extend to agencies like Baker's Detectives.

The mere act of cooperating in an investigation like this gives the cops undeserved "authority" to pry into workers' business.

Shortly after the cop concluded his investigation, three of us were fired, supposedly for falsification of our job applications.

We immediately filed grievances explaining that we had been fired because of union activity. We also filed charges against O'Brien Meats with the National Labor Relations Board.

After we were fired, a meeting was held to inform the union membership. It was clear from the meeting that virtually every worker had been questioned about their union activity.

At this stage there was still a lot of confusion about the role of the cop. One worker decided that he had to take a polygraph test to clear himself of guilt, because after three of us were fired he was being placed on the hot seat.

Testimony at the arbitration hearing showed that the cop's job was not to find anyone innocent or guilty of

sabotage. His job was to "weed out" union militants. But both he and the plant manager testified that they didn't know about the union activity of the three who were fired until the day of the arbitration hearing itself. But they quickly contradicted each other.

For example, the cop said he began his investigation in a completely objective way, checking out every worker in the plant. He said the investigation quickly narrowed down to six people. They turned out to be six recently hired employees, who the cop claimed were the most likely to commit such an act of sabotage. But company records showed that six other recently hired workers were never investigated. The ones who were investigated all attended union meetings.

At the arbitration hearings, four of us had a chance to explain the truth.

The local has dues check-off. The company had noticed a substantial increase in union membership in three months' time. And a supervisor attended a union meeting after getting the company owner's approval to do so.

Testimony from union activists directly contradicted that of the company cop. But it boiled down to the word of the cop against the word of the union member. The cop said that a worker had given him the full names of six likely suspects, yet that worker testified that this was impossible since he didn't know the workers' names.

The cop also testified that a worker fingered six people who were supposedly communists or gays. Again, the worker stated that this was a complete fabrication.

The results of the hearing won't be known for a little while. But in the meantime it's clear that the company has done real damage because we weren't prepared to refuse the cop investigation from day one. For us the verdict is in: If you're pro-union and believe in solidarity, never talk with cops.

Miguel Zarate is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 271 in Bellevue, Nebraska.

LETTERS

Senegalese revolutionist

I have been reading the *Militant* for a year and a half, and I find it very interesting. It covers a lot of fields so that internationalist fighters can learn from fights led by workers, peasants, and oppressed nationalities all over the world.

I am a Senegalese revolutionist, and the *Militant* helps me understand about the fight of Black people in the United States.

In the July 31 issue I read a short account of the meeting here in Dakar between the African National Congress and a group of white liberals from South Africa. Despite the fact that this important meeting took place here, *Militant* readers should know how Senegalese President Abdou Diouf treats anti-apartheid fighters in this country.

On Aug. 22, 1985, Diouf arrested many leaders of the Senegalese Democratic Alliance (ADS), which was organizing what we called the "demonstration of Africa" against apartheid. The ADS is a coalition of five political parties, including my party, the Socialist Workers Organization (OST).

The arrest of these fighters provoked a big protest throughout Senegal and in several other African countries. Thanks to these mobilizations, all the defendants were freed.

American workers and oppressed people should know this reality of the Diouf regime.

Zaccharia
Dakar, Senegal

Art and revolution

A standing-room-only audience attended a Militant Labor Forum on "Art and Revolution" in Philadelphia October 1.

The presentation by Mike Alewitz included a report with slides on the 1986 Havana Bienal, a big international art festival held in Cuba.

Alewitz explained how the Cuban revolution of 1959 had transformed Cuban society, including by opening up art for the participation and enjoyment of all working people.

He also talked about the mural

project that will make the Pathfinder Building in New York City an artistic and political landmark.

Included in the audience were 12 farmworkers from southern New Jersey who were attending their first Militant Labor Forum.

Halket Allen
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Minn. AFL-CIO

On September 22 delegates to the Minnesota AFL-CIO convention passed a resolution opposing U.S. policy in Central America.

The resolution urges the national AFL-CIO to take a stand opposing contra aid. It also endorses the Central American peace accords signed August 7 in Guatemala and supports labor unions critical of the government in El Salvador. It will be offered for consideration at the federation's national convention this fall.

The vote took place two days after John Linder — brother of Benjamin Linder, the U.S. engineer murdered in Nicaragua by the contras — finished a week-long tour of the state.

Linder spoke about his brother's death and urged Minnesotans to press for an end to contra aid. He addressed many unionists during his tour, along with students and others.

Elliot Seide, Minnesota-area director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees introduced Linder to the biggest public meeting of the tour. Seide pledged to press opposition to contra aid within the labor movement. He was instrumental, along with other unionists, in pushing for the resolution on the convention floor.

The motion was introduced shortly after a speech by David Jessup, special assistant to the director of the AFL-CIO's American Institute of Free Labor Development in Washington, D.C.

He showed a film accusing the Sandinistas of oppressing labor unions and praised José Napoleón Duarte, El Salvador's president, for land and labor reform. The film did not go over well with many delegates, several of whom spoke strongly against Jessup's

lies when the resolution came up for floor debate.

"It troubles me that the federation's position seems so close to the position of Reagan," said Seide. He continued, "A president who does everything possible to harm workers and farmers in the United States certainly can't be doing anything for workers and farmers abroad."

During the debate, six delegates from different unions spoke on the resolution's behalf, often to boisterous cheers. The resolution passed overwhelmingly on a voice vote to much applause.

Argiris Malapanis
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Disagrees completely

I completely disagree with your paper.

Capitalism does have its evils, but so does Communism, and the trend is for people to pour into capitalist countries such as Canada and the USA, not into the USSR.

The article on Panama's General Noriega was completely false. Please don't send me any more papers.

Y.B.
Omaha, Nebraska

Heartless doctors

Men with symptoms of heart disease are 10 times more likely to be recommended for coronary bypass surgery than are women with similar symptoms, according to a report published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*. An article on the report appeared in the *Washington Post* this summer.

Why such a discrepancy?

Not because women are less likely to suffer from heart disease, the nation's leading killer; in fact, it affects both sexes relatively equally.

"It is an enormous, disturbing difference that cannot be explained by the distribution of heart disease in the population," said Jonathan Tobin, assistant professor of epidemiology at New York's Albert Einstein College of Medicine and principal author of the report. "Here is a case where social perceptions are masquerading as scientific fact. Unfortunately, sexism is just as common



Barricada/Róger

in medicine as it is everywhere else."

Elaborating on this point, Tobin said he sensed that "doctors often make inaccurate assumptions about the relative contributions of men and women to society."

The report's authors found that many doctors feel that the surgery, a costly procedure, simply is not as effective for women as for men, a feeling not well supported by the facts.

The study also found that women are twice as likely as men to have their symptoms — such as chest pain and shortness of breath — dismissed as something other than heart disease by their doctors.

And when physicians did recommend further tests for patients, with men it was most likely to be an attempt to determine the severity of the illness. But with women it was usually an effort to confirm the presence of disease.

M.J.
Jersey City, New Jersey

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

Maine strike builds solidarity

Jay paperworkers to host Oct. 21 support conference

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — The campaign to broaden support for the 1,250 paperworkers on strike here against the giant International Paper Company continues to move forward.

This was the message of reports and discussion at the regular Wednesday "union family" meeting, which more than 1,100 strikers, spouses, and supporters attended October 7. The workers, on strike since June 16, are members of United Paperworkers International Union Local 14 and Firemen and Oilers Local 246.

On October 5, a delegation from the Jay locals headed by Local 14 Vice-president Felix Jacques, met in Atlanta with other locals involved in contract battles with International Paper. (Locals in DePere, Wisconsin, and Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, are also on strike; workers are locked out at the Mobile, Alabama mill.)

They were able to win approval from the UPIU international leadership for proposals to strengthen unity among union members working for IP.

Local 14's plan centers on sending delegations of Jay strikers to the nearly 100 UPIU locals that represent IP workers. They also want to reach members of other unions.

Other locals in turn are being encouraged to send delegations to Jay, reported Jacques. That way they can see for themselves IP's massive scab-herding operation at the Androscoggin Mill. (According to the Lewiston, Maine, *Sun*, the company has hired 1,000 "replacement workers.")

These efforts will help build an October 21 conference of paperworkers, which the Jay strikers are inviting other locals to attend. The conference will hear area reports and discuss how to be more effective in fighting IP's concession drive. The day-long event will be held in Jay.



Women strikers from Jay flank New England Patriots player on picket line at Sullivan Stadium near Boston. Paperworkers and supporters joined garment workers, teachers, farm workers in backing NFL players' strike October 4.

Jacques' report was greeted by a long and loud standing ovation.

The meeting also heard a report by Local 14 President Bill Meserve, who addressed the frustrations some members are feeling after four months on strike. "Where do we focus our discontent, our anger, and our disappointment," over the lack of progress in contract negotiations, he asked.

This is the first strike at the IP mill here in 61 years. Workers have grown used to getting a new contract every few years simply through negotiations.

Now they face a new situation. This time, unlike in the past, the company is stonewalling negotiations. On September

29, for example, a negotiating session was finally scheduled for the first time in weeks. The session lasted nine minutes. This impasse has been frustrating for union members, Meserve said.

Some of this frustration has been directed at the negotiating committee or the UPIU International leadership. When we "have to lay blame," he continued, it has to be "on the right people."

The "right people" are IP management, he explained, which offered Local 14 a choice: "humiliate yourself, or go on strike."

He reviewed the union's offers to extend the old contract a year, and then two years, without any changes. IP refused, demanding major concessions in wages and work rules.

Most critical is the company's insistence that the scabs hired during the strike are permanent replacements and that negotiations can only proceed on that basis. This means there aren't negotiations in any real sense, Meserve said.

The company, he went on, is trying to

create a back-to-work movement. By hiring massive numbers of scabs, it is trying to "intimidate, coerce, and break" the Jay unions.

Meserve warned the meeting that one tactic the company might try would be to propose a contract on the condition that "half the scabs stay, and ask us to take it back for a vote" by the locals.

This, he said, would be "wrong, dead wrong."

"We're fighting for a just cause, not personal greed. We want to be treated fairly, with dignity," the union president said. Trading jobs to get only some workers back would destroy the union. "We don't want to get the local trapped in this situation," he said, to a thunderous round of applause and chants of "Union in, scabs out!"

A delegation of International Paper workers from Corinth, New York, headed by UPIU Local 7 President James Walker, received a warm reception at the meeting. The Corinth workers' contract expired September 30. So far, Walker reported, IP has offered "\$10 towards a pair of safety boots."

Ray Hinckley, a UPIU official from Georgia-Pacific paper corporation, reported to the meeting that locals in five GP mills had passed strike authorization votes.

Unionists from the area brought solidarity messages and nearly \$3,000 in contributions to this week's meeting. Joining them was Holly Gerlaugh, from the Augusta, Maine, Committee for Peace and Justice. Her solidarity message, which compared the Jay strikers to unionists fighting for justice in El Salvador, was given a big round of applause.

Meanwhile paperworkers at International Paper's mill in Gardiner, Oregon, issued a 10-day termination notice to the company on October 8. The workers are members of Local 101 of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers.

They passed a strike authorization vote on September 23. Issuing the notice means that the local is free to strike after 10 days. IP has also refused to conduct serious negotiations with the Gardiner local.

Ohio strike ends; union fights to regain jobs

BY NED WEBSTER

COSHOCOTON, Ohio — The strike here against Stone Container Co. ended September 24 after members of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 544 decided to return to work.

The strike began August 17. Stone Container, which showed a \$58 million net profit for the first six months of 1987, demanded concessions that included loss of premium pay for weekend work and elimination of the last two holidays for which production is shut down — December 24 and 25. The company makes corrugated paper.

During the 39-day strike, the workers were confronted with court injunctions, a curfew, firings and contempt charges for strike activity, and surveillance and harassment by company security.

A Labor Day rally of 1,500 strikers and supporters was attacked by 85 sheriff's deputies from Coshocton and surrounding counties, who used clubs, tear gas, and rubber bullets. Several people were arrested and injured that day. The cops also raided the union's headquarters, forcing those inside to run a police gauntlet to get outside.

During the strike, the company was able to keep a significant level of production going with management personnel brought in from around the country and about 45 scabs.

Wood chips, the raw material for mak-

ing corrugated paper, continued to be delivered by the small outfits, some family-run, that supply Stone. The company has made it clear it intends to keep the scabs on as permanent employees and that its goal is to break the union.

Local 544, with 180 members, gathered a lot of support throughout the strike. Two rallies attended by 1,500 people and one of 600 were held. The Coshocton County Trades and Labor Council and scores of local unions expressed solidarity, and many made donations of money and food. But, with the company's ability to maintain production and the complicity of the courts and government, mounting economic pressure forced many strikers to consider returning to work.

These conditions and the desire to maintain unity within Local 544 led members to decide to accept the concessions contract. The two shut-down holidays were lost immediately, and, although hourly wage increases are included in the contract, by the end of the fourth year, the loss of premium pay will still amount to an average loss of \$.97 per hour.

Stone Container allowed only 51 union members back to work immediately. More will be recalled as production returns to normal levels, management personnel that were shipped in leave, and some scabs quit. The battle now facing Local 544 is to win the recall of everyone, including three members fired for strike activity, and to defend members facing contempt charges.

Women unionists win one in Jay

BY JON HILLSON
AND SUSAN LaMONT

JAY, Maine — Cynthia Bennett is a member of United Paperworkers International Union Local 14 with 11 years in International Paper's Androscoggin River mill. On September 21 the Maine Human Rights Commission ruled Bennett had "just cause" and that IP in fact was guilty of discrimination against women workers.

Ten female coworkers had signed Bennett's grievance against IP, which refused to give female hourly employees their own locker room, separate from management's. The grievance was taken to the Human Rights Commission after being denied through the normal grievance channels.

"They wouldn't give us separate facilities," Bennett said.

Women union members and supervisory personnel were forced to share common shower and changing rooms in the plant. The company rejected Bennett's grievance, she said, claiming it wasn't part of "contractual language."

Union men, however, have their own facilities. Local 14 backed Bennett's grievance.

Bennett, a tall, outspoken woman, first applied for a job at IP in 1975. At that time, there were no women working in the mill.

A few months later, she was hired along with one other woman. Since then more women have followed — around 10 percent of the Jay mill's work force is now female.

The fight to win their own bathroom isn't the first skirmish Bennett and other women workers have had with IP. Their biggest challenge was proving that they could stay in the mill and do the work. The company, of course, was convinced they wouldn't last. Women had to fight to get their own locker room. They had to force IP to provide toilet facilities in the lab area, where many of the women workers are concentrated.

Female paperworkers are a significant part of the Jay strike, as well as being members and leaders of visiting solidarity delegations from paper mills across the state.

For its part, International Paper is not too happy about having to make this minimal concession to union independence. Company spokesperson Joseph Pietroski told the *New York Times* that to avoid the cost of adding a second women's locker room and to equal things out between the male and female workers, the company may simply remove the partition that separates the two men's facilities.