

Coup in Burkina Faso is blow to revolution

BY SAM MANUEL
AND MARGARET MANWARING

The overthrow of the government of President Thomas Sankara in the West African country of Burkina Faso is a crime against the workers and peasants of that country. It deals a grave blow to the democratic anti-imperialist revolution that began on Aug. 4, 1983, headed by the 37-year-old leader.

It also undermines the fight against imperialist oppression throughout Africa. And it has increased the danger of imperialist intervention by Burkina Faso's former colonial ruler, France.

The few press reports about the coup from Ouagadougou have been fragmentary and inconclusive. Most have been based on monitorings of Burkina Faso's national radio from neighboring West African countries. The borders and airports of Burkina Faso have been closed and all com-

muni, presidential aide Frederic Kiemde, and Vincent Sigué, a body-guard of the president. Sigué was at the Pô military base, nearly 100 miles from Ouagadougou, during the coup. He was executed by soldiers there.

Some reports indicate that between 100 and 200 civilians were killed in the fighting, which lasted late into the night. Sankara's wife and two children have been placed under house arrest.

Despite the repression, thousands of people are reported to have streamed to the site of Sankara's grave. The Paris daily, *Libération*, reported that on Sunday, October 18, more than 2,000 students marched to the grave site. They shouted "assassins" and "bandits" at the soldiers guarding the area. The march was dispersed by soldiers.

Four years of advances

Since 1983 the popular revolution in Burkina Faso has advanced through the education, organization, and mobilization of the youth, women, peasants, and workers. Important gains have been registered in literacy, health care, agriculture, and the development of local industries.

These gains have been made under the most extreme conditions of poverty and underdevelopment.

The key tool of social and economic progress has been the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, which have been built in every city, neighborhood, town, and village with the aim of involving the population as a whole directly in politics.

The consistently anti-imperialist policy of the Sankara leadership had won admiration and support from the oppressed throughout Africa. Sankara established links between Burkina and the revolutionary governments of Cuba and Nicaragua, with the Palestine Liberation Organization, and with the fighters against apartheid in South Africa under the leadership of the African National Congress.

The successful Pan-African anti-apartheid conference held in Ouagadougou, during the week before the coup testified to the growing weight and influence of the Burkinabè revolution throughout the re-

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Militant reporters Sam Manuel and Margaret Manwaring were in Burkina Faso to attend the October 8-11 Pan-African anti-apartheid conference. They left the country 16 hours before coup. For more coverage see pages 8 and 9.

munications systems have been severed. The counterrevolutionary regime imposed a 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. curfew.

According to a United Press International report from Ivory Coast, troops loyal to Captain Blaise Compaoré, minister of state and justice, carried out an armed assault on the presidential palace and residence on October 15. Compaoré is also commander of the training school for elite forces at the Pô military base. The Paris daily *Le Monde* reported that Sankara and several of his supporters were killed during the assault.

But an Associated Press dispatch reported that an anonymous official said Sankara and 12 of his aides were executed and buried the following morning in a mass burial just outside the capital city, Ouagadougou. Among the names currently known of those executed are: President Sankara, press secretary Boupaulin Ba-

Contras kidnap U.S. peace volunteer

BY THERESA DELGADILLO

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Witness for Peace volunteer Paul Fisher was kidnapped by contras in Nicaragua on October 17. Fisher was traveling in a civilian pick-up to the town of La Libertad, about 100 miles southeast of Managua when he was attacked. Another truck, headed in the opposite direction, was ambushed in the same area shortly before.

According to Sam Hope, co-director of Witness for Peace, who spoke at a news conference here October 19, Fisher was then kidnapped, two Nicaraguans were wounded, and another Nicaraguan killed.

Fisher's abduction followed the October 10 kidnapping of two members of the local Waslala Peace Commission. Enrique Blandón, a Roman Catholic priest, and Gustavo Adolfo Tifler, a Seventh-Day Adventist minister, were helping facilitate the cease-fire and return of contras taking advantage of the Sandinistas' amnesty program in that

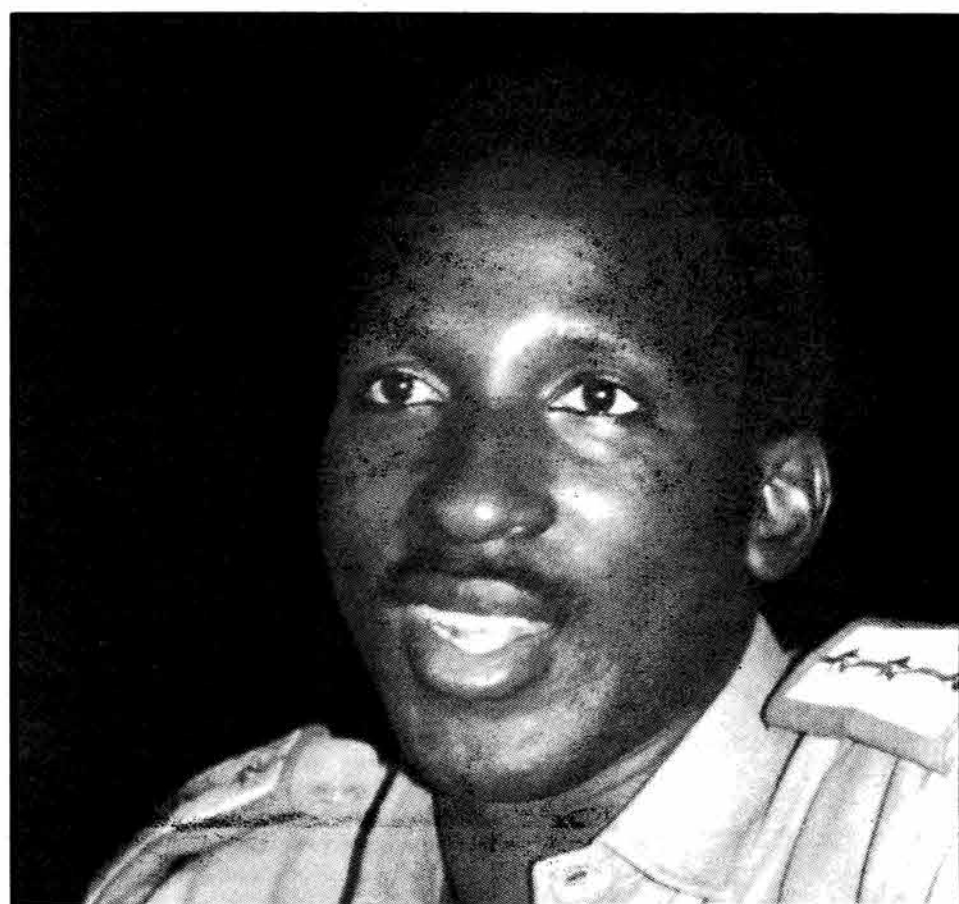
part of Nicaragua.

Ohio Rep. Louis Stokes, who also appeared at the news conference, reported that the State Department had informed him the contras were willing to release Fisher to a "trusted, secure third party."

Fisher, who comes from California, had been in Nicaragua since April, one of 32 long-term Witness for Peace volunteers in the country. He drove an ambulance and traveled to areas where civilians were being attacked by contras. He was a contributor to the recently-published Witness for Peace report "Civilian Victims of the U.S. Contra Wars."

Witness for Peace is calling for protests to the State Department demanding the release of Fisher.

Blandón and Tifler were released October 21. They reported having been mistreated and threatened with death by the contras, who blamed the kidnap victims for being in a military zone.



Militant/Sam Manuel

Thomas Sankara 1949-1987

U.S. naval attack deepens role in war against Iran

BY HARRY RING

The October 19 U.S. naval attack on Iranian offshore oil platforms seriously deepened the U.S. government's involvement in the Iran-Iraq war.

Washington is pushing into the Persian Gulf conflict not out of any concern for freedom of the seas, but rather to stave off the Iraqi regime's defeat in the war. The war began in 1980 when Iraqi forces invaded Iran.

The day of the U.S. attack, Claiborne Pell, Democratic chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, declared that "the dangers of a possible Iraqi collapse are greater than commonly understood."

The bombardment of the Iranian oil platforms was declared to be in retaliation for the shelling of the *Sea Isle City*, a Kuwaiti oil tanker displaying a U.S. flag.

When the U.S. warships were first sent to the area, the White House declared the purpose was to protect shipping in international waters.

But the *Sea Isle City* was not in international waters when it was hit. It was anchored in a Kuwaiti port area. (Kuwait has actively supported Iraq in the war.)

Noting this, White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater bluntly stated that it meant Washington was declaring it would feel free to retaliate for an attack on any ship displaying the U.S. flag, regardless of where the attack occurs.

The shelling of the Iranian platforms has escalated the gulf crisis.

An October 20 *New York Times* dispatch reported: "Throughout the region, diplomats, Arab officials, shipping agents and

other sources regarded the American attack more as another step in a dangerous situation than as a solution to the mounting gulf violence."

For an hour and 25 minutes, four U.S. destroyers pounded the offshore rigs with 1,000 rounds of shells, leaving nothing but smoldering ruins.

The Pentagon said the Iranian crew had been given 20 minutes' warning to get off the platform and claimed there had been no casualties.

Iran said two people were seriously injured.

The day of the attack, NBC news reported that during the shelling Iranians had radioed there were people still on the platforms and asked that the shelling be interrupted. But, the NBC reporter said, the shelling continued.

In Washington, the Democrat-controlled Congress hastened to register its support for the act of gunboat diplomacy.

The day after the attack, the Senate voted 92 to 1 in favor of it. The lone dissenting vote was cast by Oregon Republican Mark Hatfield.

The Democrats' support for the U.S. operation was illuminated by a special report of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee made public the day prior to the naval action in the gulf. It warned of the "catastrophic" possibility of Iraq being defeated in its war against Iran.

Drawn up by committee staff members who made special visits to Iraq and other gulf countries, the report warned that the defeat of Iraq was "a realistic possibility," adding that this would be "catastrophic for

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Howard Beach defense att'ys smear Black victims

White residents' phone call backs up prosecution

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

NEW YORK — "They're hitting him with crowbars. . . . There's about 12 different guys. . . . The guy's Black. . . . The guy that they're beating up . . . he's screaming 'please don't beat me no more.'"

This was the dramatic call for police help to stop a lynch mob.

It was made by two white residents of Howard Beach.

And it was tape-recorded by the 911 emergency operator.

Over strenuous objections by lawyers defending the young thugs on trial for the attack, the tape was played to the jury here October 13.

The trial began October 7 of four white teenagers charged with murder and manslaughter. The charges stem from the attack on three stranded Black motorists in Howard Beach, Queens, last December.

Evidence of the teenagers' guilt — their own statements as well as eyewitness testimony — is so overwhelming attorneys hired to defend them have not even tried to argue they were innocent of taking part in the attack.

Instead, defense efforts have focused on opening a new round in the assault on the Black victims — seeking to put them and their personal lives on trial.

No one disputes the main facts:

After their car broke down in Queens Dec. 19, 1986, the three Black men were attacked by a mob of a dozen or more white teenagers shouting, "There's niggers on the Boulevard. Let's go kill them."

In the course of the attack Cedric Sandiford was severely beaten and required hospitalization. Timothy Grimes managed to escape the attackers, but Michael Griffith, 23, was chased to his death — struck by a vehicle while trying to run across an expressway.

Jon Lester, 18, and Scott Kern, also 18, have been charged with second-degree murder. Michael Pirone, 17, and Jason Ladone, 16, have been charged with second-degree manslaughter.

A fifth participant in the beatings, Robert Riley, 18, has arranged to plead guilty to lesser charges in return for his testimony about the attack.

Seven other defendants, to be tried separately, face lesser charges.

With no real defense open to them, lawyers for the young thugs began to write a second chapter in the attack on Griffith, Sandiford, and Grimes.

First they systematically tried to exclude Blacks from the jury. Blocked from continuing this by a higher court ruling, they went to work on the victims.

Seizing on the fact that Grimes tried to defend himself from the mob with a knife, and that Sandiford and Griffith — like many young Blacks in this society — have had brushes with the law, defense attorneys tried to transform the three into sinister drug dealers out looking for a fight.

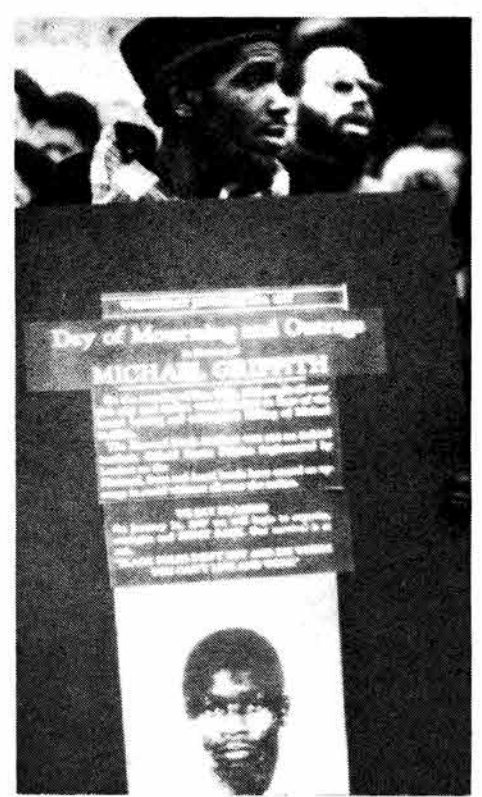
"This indictment is just a piece of paper," defense attorney Gabriel Leone

told the jury in his opening statement. "You are going to hear from witnesses [i.e., the two survivors] who have criminal records. . . . You will hear about cocaine."

Defense attorney Bryan Levinson claimed the Blacks were in reality responsible for the attack on themselves. "They were three antagonistic men spoiling for a fight, looking for trouble," he said, when they "came across some youngsters" in the neighborhood.

And defense attorney Stephen Murphy shouted it was "an absolute disgrace" that his client and the other white youth were on trial, suggesting instead it was the Black victims who should be in the dock.

Kew Gardens, the section of Queens where the legal proceedings are taking place, is an enclave nearly as white as Howard Beach itself.



Militant/Lisa Ahlberg
Protests against racist attack in Howard Beach helped force prosecution of thugs.

Anti-Cuban 'Radio Martí' stirs up spy scare

BY HARRY RING

In defiance of U.S. law, "Radio Martí," a U.S.-government operation, is providing tapes of its broadcasts to the Miami Spanish-language media. An adjunct of the Voice of America, the station was established by Washington in 1985 to beam counterrevolutionary propaganda into Cuba. According to law, such material cannot be disseminated within the United States.

The tapes being distributed by the station are being used to try to create a spy scare within Miami's Cuban community.

Meanwhile, the station's Miami bureau chief, who resigned in September, charged that "Radio Martí" was engaged in an intelligence-gathering operation against Cuba.

Spy scare

Recently the station beamed into Cuba several taped interviews with Florentino Azpillaga, a Cuban army major who defected to the United States.

In one interview, Azpillaga asserted there are some 300 Cuban spies operating in the United States; many in southern Florida.

This lurid charge whetted the appetite of several of the Spanish-language radio stations in Miami controlled by right-wing Cuban exiles.

Despite the legal ban, they had no problem obtaining and rebroadcasting tapes of the Azpillaga program.

One tape was broadcast in Miami simultaneously with the "Radio Martí" program, making clear a copy had been provided.

The United States Information Agency, of which "Martí" is an adjunct, had little choice but to announce it was investigating this matter.

The managers of "Martí" seemed unconcerned. The station's deputy director defiantly declared, "We are not enforcers and we are not policemen."

And the news director of WAQI, which made the simultaneous broadcast, demagogically declared the station was doing so as a test of First Amendment rights.

That's something of a hollow joke coming from people who have used every means at their command — including inciting to violence — to try to muzzle those within the Cuban community who don't buy their poisonous drumfire campaign against the Cuban revolution.

One example of how the Azpillaga claim is being used was a column in the October 6 *Herald* by Guillermo Martínez demanding the FBI make known what it is doing about the charges.

"Who is Azpillaga talking about?"

"If not names, at least a general description of who they might be."

"Is he talking about men and women sent over recently, or about longtime exiles who may have been Castro agents all along?" the *Herald* writer asks.

"Is he talking exclusively about people born in Cuba, or also about American-born Castro sympathizers?"

"Does he mean people who are secretly doing business with Havana, or people whose mission is to breed discord in South Florida's Cuban-American community?"

Two bank employees victimized

This spy-baiting campaign already resulted in a partial victimization of two Cuban-American bank employees in Miami.

Shortly after Azpillaga's spy claim was

broadcast, a former employee of a Spanish-language TV station got a call from "Martí" suggesting he would do well to submit to an interview with the station regarding his reported friendly relations with a Cuban diplomat.

The man reportedly claimed innocence, pointing to his ex-wife, claiming that she and a bank coworker of hers had been friends with the diplomat and that the Cuban may have tried to recruit them to become spies.

The two bank workers were promptly suspended.

But an investigation established that there was not a shred of evidence to substantiate the charge and the two women were reinstated.

Meanwhile, there is no indication that the government is looking into charges by Hilda Inclán, the former Miami bureau chief for "Radio Martí."

She announced her resignation September 16, charging that she had been "forced to instruct my reporters to do intelligence gathering rather than simply being reporters."

She called attention to the fact that in a letter to an Immigration and Naturalization Service official, the station's director said that "the only person authorized by Radio Martí to interview" newly arriving Cuban exiles was the station's chief of "research" operations.

Inclán noted that the research director was neither a reporter nor an editor.

She added that the "research" department was bigger than the editorial staff.

This article includes information provided by Miami correspondents Ernest Mailhot and Marty Anderson.

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—Leonard Boudin

general counsel of Emergency Civil Liberties Committee

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SPECIAL OFFER



The Militant

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Coeditors: MARGARET JAYKO and DOUG JENNESS

Circulation Director: NORTON SANDLER

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.

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

Paper bosses up pressure on Maine strikers

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — International Paper Co. is escalating its war of nerves against striking paperworkers here. On October 14 IP announced it had implemented its final contract offer. It considers the scab work force now in place in the Androscoggin Mill here "off limits" in any future negotiations, and declared only 50 job slots remain open to strikers.

Some 1,100 members of Local 14 of the United Paperworkers International Union and 103 members of Firemen and Oilers Local 246 have been on strike here since June 16. They went out after the giant corporation refused to back off from its demands for deep concessions. These included an end to premium pay for Sunday work, elimination of Christmas as a shut-down holiday, and implementation of a "team concept" productivity scheme. Dubbed "Project: Productivity," it would mean speed-up, significant job loss, work rule changes, and increased safety hazards for the workers.

IP's announcement came the same day strikers, spouses, and supporters gathered for the weekly union/family mass meeting. For several days prior to the meeting, reports had been popping up in the Maine media that the strike was over. Although IP's October 14 statement didn't go that far, it did make clear the company's intent to maintain a permanent scab operation at the mill.

"The people who have filled some 950 jobs," IP spokesman Richard White stated, "are permanent employees, and we have no intention of asking them to leave."

Keith Lavoie, another company representative, said IP management was trying to "put the [strike] behind us and move ahead."

IP's stepped up pressure on the strikers was timed to coincide with the release of the company's third quarter earnings report. It claims a 12 percent increase in net earnings over the same period last year. UPIU President Wayne Glenn said that if the reports are accurate, the figures are due to price increases on IP products, stepped-up sales, and the 1986 acquisition of the Hammermill paper chain.

Contempt hearings open

On October 13, hearings began in an Augusta, Maine, superior court over implementation of a July 7 injunction granted to IP. That court order limited the number of pickets at the mill gates and restricted conduct on the picket line. Eighteen union members, including UPIU International President Wayne Glenn and Local 14 President Bill Meserve, face contempt charges for alleged violations of the injunction.

These two union officials led a massive car caravan August 12 at the conclusion of a special union rally at which Glenn spoke. International Paper's attorney claims Glenn's statements at the rally were "inflammatory."

"You have an incitement to violence, and that's what they did," stated IP attorney Mason Pratt. He charged that scabs were attacked at the conclusion of the caravan, which went by the mill during a shift change. No evidence was presented to back up this violence-baiting of the striking workers.

At the hearing Pratt also charged that the strikers' use of the terms "scab" and "superscab" (which refers to the 40 local members who have crossed the picket line) are "like a word used to describe Blacks in the South in the old days. They are an anathema." IP prefers the more delicate term "replacement worker."

Union attorney Patrick McTeague's motion to dismiss the charges was denied by the judge. The union has responded to IP with charges against 35 scabs for violations of the picket line injunction that prohibits carrying weapons. Confiscations of knives, ax handles, clubs, and guns from scabs have been regularly reported.

Outreach efforts: 'Plan AB'

The October 14 union/family meeting heard reports on Local 14's outreach efforts — "Plan AB," as the Jay strikers call it.

AFL-CIO field representative Pete Kellman explained that the union had spoken with 85 of the 96 UPIU locals in "IP's empire." All were invited to attend an October 21-22 conference in Jay to discuss

how to strengthen the union's position in bargaining with IP and to share information.

In Maine, strikers have recently spoken to unions representing painters, carpenters, machinists, and other paperworkers. In coming weeks, Jay's "labor ambassadors" are scheduled to speak to workers at the Bath Iron Works shipyard in Bath, Maine; International Union of Electronic Workers at General Electric's big plant in Lynn, Massachusetts; the Southern New England District Council of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Fall River, Massachusetts; and a series of UPIU locals in Massachusetts and Maine.

Steve Gould, coordinator of speaking tours for the strikers, reported that a Jay delegation met a "very, very receptive audience" at the recent Massachusetts AFL-CIO convention, and will attend a similar event in Rhode Island October 17-18.

Local 14 member Dick Delessandro reported that he spoke to a rare meeting of all five unions at the Champion Paper mill in Bucksport, Maine. His remarks and the discussion that followed helped turn around the idea that "Jay, Maine, was giving up." Two more checks came from the Bucksport paperworkers, bringing total donations from these unions to Locals 14 and 246 to \$28,905 since the strike began.

Jay striker Brent Gay reported on his recent trip to Rumford, Maine, where he spoke to UPIU Local 900 members who work at Boise Cascade's mill there. Local 900 went through a bitter strike in 1986 and was forced to accept a concession contract and to return to work with scabs still working in the mill. They have been among the firmest supporters of the Jay strikers.

Gay reported that the Rumford paperworkers voted to postpone buying a union hall so that they could keep up their finan-



Militant/Jon Hillson

Strikers and their supporters singing "Solidarity Forever" at weekly meeting.

cial support for Jay. They've already contributed over \$44,000 to the strike.

Jesse Jackson in Jay

On October 12, Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson spoke to a meeting of more than 3,000 union members and strike supporters in Jay. He came at the request of the striking locals.

His statements of support for the strike were enthusiastically received, as were his calls for peace in Central America and getting U.S. forces out of the Persian Gulf. There was thunderous applause for his denunciation of the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Jackson's appearance was a major news item across Maine. Strike supporters felt that having a nationally prominent political figure speak in Jay helped bring their strug-

gle to national attention.

For more information on the Jay strike, contact: UPIU Local 14, Box 272, Jay, Maine 04239.

Members of Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers Local 101 at International Paper's mill in Gardiner, Oregon, are continuing to work, following the expiration of the 10-day termination of contract notice on October 18. The local had the option of striking at that time.

Local members report that IP is preparing for a strike by bringing additional management personnel and more trailers to house scabs. IP also placed big ads for scabs in the major newspapers in Oregon. The company is refusing to schedule negotiations.

Squeezing Arkansas paperworkers, company wages attack on national union

BY TOM LEONARD

PINE BLUFF, Ark. — Members of the United Paperworkers International Union voted 470 to 310 to accept a concession contract at International Paper Co.'s paper mill here on September 21. Members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers who also work in the mill accepted a similar contract the same day. Together, the two unions represent some 1,100 workers at the plant.

The major company takeback in the new contract would eliminate time-and-a-half premium pay for Sunday and holiday work. In the first year of the proposed three-year contract, premium pay would remain. In the second year it would be reduced to time-and-a-quarter. In the third year it would be eliminated.

The contract also calls for no pay raise in the first year, a 2.5 percent increase the second year, and a \$0.35 per hour raise in the final year.

IP is trying to sweeten its concession demands by offering workers a one-time bonus averaging a reported \$1,300 per worker, which would be paid out as soon as UPIU's International leadership ratifies the contract.

Two days after the local contract vote, and without waiting for a response from the International union, IP's Pine Bluff plant manager J.B. Thompson opened a public attack on the International union published as a full-page ad in several major Arkansas newspapers. The ad included an ultimatum in the form of a letter addressed to UPIU International President Wayne Glenn. It said that if Glenn did not ratify the concessions contract within two days, the \$1,300 signing bonus would be withdrawn.

The Chamber of Commerce of this small city of 56,000 then jumped on the bandwagon. Following a meeting with IP officials, they began a public letter-writing campaign directed to Glenn. They accused him of threatening the economic health of Pine Bluff by refusing to ratify the contract.

Pine Bluff Mayor Carolyn Robinson, in another letter, claimed to represent concerned spouses of rank-and-file workers

who had voted for the contract. She insisted that Glenn "honor the majority vote of these dedicated employees."

UPIU President Glenn responded to this attack on the union with his own full-page ad. He accused Thompson of making public a letter to the international union without first making an effort to have private discussions on the contract. He said that if the company would restore the premium pay for holidays and Sundays and add a 3 percent raise the second year of the con-

tract, the International would seriously consider approving the new contract.

The company has responded to these unusual negotiations conducted in the news media by placing the \$1,300 bonus offer back on the table. But the local press has raised rumors of a lock-out or other punitive company action against the union if the concessions contract is not ratified soon. Currently, Pine Bluff unionists are working under the terms of the last contract, which expired on August 31.

New York City

Come to a Victory rally for political rights

Celebrate injunction barring government from using illegal FBI files.

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Mac Warren national leader of Socialist Workers Party. **Leonard Boudin** general counsel of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. **Fred Dube** member of African National Congress of South Africa currently fighting political firing from teaching position at State University of N.Y. **Karen Lantz** vice-president of Independent Federation of Flight Attendants. **Michael Warren** plaintiff in suit against N.Y. Police Department's "Black Desk." **Stuart Russell** Canadian immigration and civil rights attorney. **Morton Sobell** codefendant in Julius and Ethel Rosenberg case. **John Studer** executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund. **Cate Woods** Trenton National Organization for Women. **Angel Domínguez** director of organizing for COTA, the Farmworkers Organizing Committee of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. **Rena Cacoullos** Young Socialist Alliance national secretary. **Yvonne Meléndez** defendant in Hartford frame-up case against 16 supporters of Puerto Rican independence. **Dave Cline** coordinator of New Jersey-New York Vietnam Veterans Against the War. **Thiago de Mello** the Brazilian composer and musician, will perform.

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La Prensa and its director, Violeta Chamorro.

BY HARVEY MCARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — On October 1, the daily *La Prensa* resumed publication here, with no restrictions or censorship imposed by the Nicaraguan government.

From the first issue, *La Prensa* took up its role as mouthpiece for the U.S. government, Washington's contras, and counter-revolutionary groups inside Nicaragua. In doing so, however, it is trying to appeal not only to businessmen and landlords here, but also to those workers and peasants who may be confused and worn down by the six-year, U.S.-organized contra war and the deep economic crisis Nicaragua suffers.

It's the fault of the Sandinistas that the war has dragged on so long, the paper argues.

In its October 1 issue, *La Prensa* editorialized that it was "the errors and political deviations of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) that launched the country into this war." It accused the FSLN of trying to "govern indefinitely in the most absolute totalitarian style," and warned that "we Nicaraguans will never submit to a tyranny."

Another editorial four days later attempted to prettify the U.S.-backed mercenaries, calling them just "another group of Nicaraguans who felt themselves displaced by the new Sandinista government," and equating their war with the popular insurrection that toppled the Somoza dictatorship in 1979.

La Prensa says it supports the Guatemala accords for an end to the contra war. However, every issue carries articles designed to discredit the accords and the steps Nicaragua has taken to implement them. Typical recent headlines included, "Fear peace accords will not be completely fulfilled," "[Accords] obligate us to support Marxist government," "Dialogue incomplete and with many doubts," and "Obvious injustice in dialogue."

La Prensa provides extensive coverage of statements by the Catholic church hierarchy and activities of the right-wing parties, usually exaggerating the size of such opposition rallies. One Social Christian Party march attended by this reporter drew 2,500 people, but *La Prensa* reported 20,000 participants.

A typical 'news' story

The October 1 issue featured an article questioning the amnesty program for contras who give up their arms. It championed the case of Secundino Blandón, an amnestied contra who was later imprisoned here. "The safe-conduct pass that the Sandinista regime gives to contras who take amnesty is apparently worthless," *La Prensa* wrote, carefully avoiding any mention of why Blandón was arrested.

However, Radio Sandino did investigate the case, and reported that Blandón had continued to participate in the contra gangs after he took amnesty. He was part of a sabotage and terror squad, and when arrested had several dynamite bombs in his possession.

The Blandón case is typical of the alleged "Sandinista abuses" denounced regularly in the paper. Other recent examples included protests by landlords against confiscation of their lands for the agrarian reform program, allegations that peasants were victims of shelling by the Sandinista People's Army, claims of a "wave of detentions in [the town of] Diriamba" when nine people were arrested for contra activities, and a campaign in favor of 10 contra prisoners who rioted in the Tipitapa prison in August.

Playing on economic problems

La Prensa highlights economic difficulties such as low food production and the

shortage of public transportation, rice, cooking oil, and gasoline. However, it never mentions the impact of the contra war or the U.S. economic embargo as a cause of the problems, nor the role of Nicaraguan capitalist merchants and landlords who take advantage of shortages to drive the price of basic goods sky-high.

A typical "economic analysis" article was a long interview with Ramiro Gurdian run in the October 2 issue. Gurdian is a leader of the Superior Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), a pro-U.S. group of landlords and businessmen. "Production has fallen because of the great destructive labor carried out by [Minister of Agriculture] Comandante [Jaime] Wheelock," Gurdian said. "He is responsible for the

lack of rice and other basic foods. . . . Production cannot be increased here as long as there are laws that make the producer a second-class citizen. There is an apartheid against the private producer here."

Gurdian called for ending government control of banking, insurance, and foreign trade; returning nationalized companies to private ownership; and ending the measures taken to control internal trade and guarantee minimum supplies for workers and peasants.

Attacks on Fidel Castro

La Prensa regularly carries features from the U.S. government and U.S. capitalist press. The October 2 issue ran a lengthy article from the *Wall Street Journal*

that claimed the contra war is necessary to "democratize" Nicaragua and that the FSLN could not be trusted to fulfill the Guatemala accords. Three days later, the paper featured an interview with Morris Bushby, U.S. special envoy for Central America, who reiterated Washington's support for the mercenaries.

The paper also devotes considerable space to anticommunist propaganda, especially articles attacking Cuban leader Fidel Castro. The first issue carried two articles denouncing Castro as a corrupt dictator. Both were based on allegations made by Cuban defectors in the United States. One article was written by the government-run U.S. Information Service, and the other was taken from a program on the U.S.-run Radio Martí.

...and how it is financed

Both have been recent recipients of financial and technical aid from the U.S. government.

In an interview published in the New York daily *Newsday* October 11, *La Prensa's* general manager Jaime Chamorro, acknowledged — for the first time — that the paper received "essential" backing from the government-funded National Endowment for Democracy in Washington. The paper would not be able to publish without these donations, he admitted. The grants totaled \$254,000 over the past two fiscal years, according to Chamorro.

Less than 10 days after Radio Católica resumed broadcasting, U.S. Rep. Cass Ballenger (R.-N.C.) arrived in Managua with eight cartons of electronic parts for the station, valued at about \$35,000. "We wanted the Catholic Radio to come on the air full blast," Ballenger told the *Washington Post*. He said he would continue fundraising efforts in the United States.

The *Post* also reported a National Endowment for Democracy grant of \$20,000 recently went to a tiny group of relatives of prisoners in Nicaragua. The group, called the January 22 Movement after the date of its formation in 1987, held its first public protest action October 1. It was attended by six people. Subsequent marches by the group calling for freedom for alleged political prisoners have not exceeded a few dozen.

The January 22 Movement, attempting to present an image of independence, has said it would not accept money from the U.S. government. But after discussion with the U.S. embassy, the group's directors told the *Post*, they were still "befuddled" as to whether the money they had received was public or private.

The National Endowment for Democracy was created by Congress and works with both government and privately contributed funds.

BY STEVE CRAINE

When the first issue of *La Prensa* rolled off the press on October 1, it meant that the CIA now has a political voice it can get into the hands of thousands of Nicaraguans every day.

The following day, Radio Católica, broadcasting outlet of the Catholic church hierarchy, also went back into operation in Managua.

The reopening of these previously banned organs of the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary opposition to the Sandinista government was a result of the new opportunities for dialogue and debate opened up by the signing of the Central America peace accords in early August.

Both *La Prensa* and Radio Católica, in addition to standing in political solidarity with the murderous contra armies that are attacking Nicaragua, are directly representing Washington's interests in the country.

D.C. gathering marks gains in El Salvador

BY FRED STANTON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "This week our people achieved a great victory," Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) representative Ramon Cordona told a reception celebrating the seventh anniversary of the FMLN, which is leading the armed resistance to the U.S.-backed regime of José Napoléon Duarte in El Salvador.

"The Duarte government has run out of absurd preconditions to avoid dialogue with us. After three years, a meeting took place between the leaders of the FMLN and Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) and representatives of the government."

He described the atmosphere outside the four-day meeting in El Salvador as festive, with thousands of Salvadorans standing vigil beneath Salvadoran and FMLN flags.

The result of the 20 hours of talks was the establishment of two commissions — one to explore possibilities for a cease-fire, the other to discuss other points of the Central American peace accords.

Cordona reported that after the meeting with Duarte, eight FMLN and FDR leaders addressed the people. FDR President Guillermo Ungo said, "Our presence here signifies that we are a force that cannot be left out of determining the future of our country, and we accept that responsibility."

Cordona pledged that the FMLN and FDR will continue working to find a political solution to the crisis in El Salvador, insisting on "a national dialogue that includes the majority political and social forces of the nation."

counter continuing opposition from the military and the oligarchy, but that the main obstacle will continue to be the U.S. government.

Cordona concluded, "The success of the revolutionary movement in building its military strength and political support throughout the country, its deep roots in the masses, and the Salvadoran people's collective will and awareness mean we will never give up. We are confident we will

achieve peace and social justice. ¡Venceremos! [We will win!]"

Also speaking at the reception was Billy Tayac of the American Indian Movement.

Tayac saluted the fighting peasants and workers of Central America as his own brothers and sisters. "The same blood flows through our veins," he said.

The reception was attended by more than 60 antiwar and solidarity activists, diplomats, and trade unionists.

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Antiwar and anti-apartheid actions held

BY FRED FELDMAN

Behind a colorful banner demanding, "No aid to the contras. \$\$ for jobs, not war. End U.S. Support for Apartheid!" 400 people marched and then held a rally in Cleveland October 10. The banner was carried by a lead contingent of members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

The march was sponsored by a broad coalition including unions, church groups, peace organizations, and anti-apartheid activists.

Several days of antiwar and anti-apartheid activities in the Detroit area were capped October 4 by a march and rally of 1,500 against U.S. intervention in Central America and support to the South African apartheid regime.

The Detroit events coincided with the nationwide actions called for by the "Days of Decision," a coalition of antiwar groups. Protests were held in Boston; Washington, D.C.; Charleston, West Virginia; and many other cities at the end of September.

The Sunday march was sponsored by the Detroit Coalition for Peace and Justice, representing 150 area organizations. About half the participants were students, many of them attending their first demonstration.

Forty of the students came from Ply-

mouth-Canton High School. In addition to contingents from other high schools, there were contingents from the Ann Arbor and Dearborn campuses of the University of Michigan and from other colleges.

The rally was chaired by Detroit city council member Maryann Mahaffey. City Council President Erma Henderson also spoke.

Shuping Coapage of the African National Congress called for "comprehensive economic sanctions" against South Africa. Fernando Rodríguez, a unionist from El Salvador, expressed hope that the peace talks called for in the pact signed by five Central American governments would end murders by the death squads and the military.

The events in Detroit opened September 30 when Detroit Mayor Coleman Young hosted a news conference for David Linder, the father of Benjamin Linder, the U.S. volunteer worker who was murdered in Nicaragua by the contras.

Young declared Detroit to be a "sanctuary city" for refugees from Central America and backed the October 4 protest.

David Linder spoke to 800 students at the Plymouth-Canton High School the following day. Later he spoke to 200 people at a meeting in Southfield, just north of Detroit.

Linder and a unionist from Guatemala spoke to a meeting of members of the International Association of Machinists and the United Auto Workers, and to a meeting of 50 in Toledo, Ohio.

1,500 in Boston

On September 27, Boston Common was the scene of a rally of some 1,500 people. Three feeder marches, the largest being made up of students and religious groups, flowed into the rally.

BY JON HILLSON
AND AARON RUBY

BOSTON, Mass. — A major threat to the existence of unionized school bus drivers here was turned back October 10 when school department officials and leaders of Local 8751 of the United Steelworkers of America — the bus drivers' union — agreed to accept binding arbitration.

The announcement came after an eight-hour meeting in the offices of Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn. It ended a strike that began September 10, the first day of school here. The strike set off a furious media campaign aimed at breaking the defiant union.

A week prior to the announcement on arbitration, the bus drivers had rejected the "final offer" of the three companies that contract with the city for the transportation of 27,000 students.

Boston School Superintendent Laval Wilson opened school department offices October 5 to hire "replacement drivers" — scabs — making good his threat to do so in the event of Local 8751's refusal to submit to company demands.

The school department claimed it had taken 170 applications for the drivers' jobs, including 41 from union drivers.

The scab hiring threat outraged and united the ranks of Local 8751, who voted by a 4-1 margin October 5 to submit all contract issues to binding arbitration.

At an emergency meeting the Boston School Committee — which has spearheaded resistance to the drivers since the union won recognition a decade ago and which determines the tone of the bus company negotiations to this day — agreed to arbitrate only "economic issues."

The agreement reached in the lengthy meeting in Flynn's office proposes only economic issues be taken up by the arbitration team, while noting the "status quo" in "some contract language" on work rules would remain unchanged.

Uncertainty between the union and the school department had thus "been resolved," USWA District 1 Director William Foley told the news media October 10, ending the strike.

In their contract effort, the bus drivers had sought to narrow the wage gap between higher and lower paid workers and to win sick days, holiday pay for days on which schools are closed, and first-time-



Militant/Jon Hillson

"Days of Decision" march in Boston September 27 protesting U.S.-sponsored wars in Central America.

About 40 students went from the rally to protest the landing of helicopters at Tufts University, part of the Reserve Officers Training Corps program at the school. After the protest, they rejoined the gathering.

The rally was chaired by Susan Moir, a leader of United Steel Workers of America Local 8751, which organizes school bus drivers in Boston, who were on strike at the time.

About 1,000 students protested the appearance of Robert McFarlane, former na-

tional security adviser to the White House, as part of the "Distinguished Lecturer Series" at the University of Arizona in Tucson on October 1.

Some 300 people — about a third of the audience — walked out on McFarlane to join the protesters who carried signs reading "Hands off Nicaragua" and "U.S. Out of the Persian Gulf."

This article is based on reporting from Marty Pettit in Cleveland, Kibwe Diarra in Detroit, Aaron Ruby in Boston, and Ursula Kolb in Tucson, Arizona.

Missouri vigil demands — 'Free S. Africa!'

BY DEREK BRACEY

COLUMBIA, Mo. — "What do we want?" Hilary Shelton asked the crowd.

"Divestment!"

"When do you want it?"

"Now!"

"Why?"

"To free South Africa!"

That summed up the purpose of the anti-apartheid vigil here at the University of Missouri at Columbia (UMC) on October 10.

More than 1,300 people came to mark the United Nations Anti-Apartheid Day and the one year anniversary of the shantytown at Francis Quadrangle on the campus here.

Contingents from St. Louis; Kansas City; and Lawrence, Kansas, joined the protest, and participants held candles for each of the 1,285 reported apartheid-related deaths in South Africa during 1986.

Shelton, a student at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, talked about the struggle to get the university to divest from South Africa.

Kathryn Benson, a UMC student, described a court battle taking place between the campus administration and the anti-apartheid movement in Columbia. Benson was one of 41 protesters arrested for trespassing during a protest on the quadrangle in February.

Her trial began October 8. The case represents a struggle for the right of students to protest on campus. The charges against the others arrested have been dropped. Hers is a test case challenging the legality of the arrests.

The main presentation was by Damu Smith, executive director of the Washington Office on Africa, who addressed the question of sanctions against the apartheid regime.

He talked about the debate in Congress over whether to extend limited sanctions another year.

"The Reagan administration is saying that sanctions have worsened the situation in South Africa. They haven't said that about the sanctions imposed on Nicaragua, Cuba, or Libya," Smith told the demonstrators.

"Sanctions didn't declare the state of emergency in South Africa, the apartheid government did. Sanctions aren't keeping Nelson Mandela in jail and sanctions aren't imprisoning schoolchildren. It is apartheid!"

Boston bus drivers beat back threat to union

ever company payments to the pension plan.

All that will now be decided by arbitrators.

The average driver's pay is \$10,000 a year.

The significance of the strike — front-page news here for a month — is explained by the history of the union itself, which emerged out of the battle to desegregate the Boston school system in the mid 1970s.

Since its formation, Local 8751 has been a champion of the federal court order and busing plan. Today it is the most outspoken defender of desegregation in Boston.

The union is majority Black and Latino.

To win economic benefits and justice for a union whose members are only guaran-

teed five hours of work a day but who must be on call for 10, the local has had to wage six strikes in the past decade.

Each strike has been more difficult, leading to the just concluded fight, where Wilson, the School Committee, and the media openly sought to break the union, trying unsuccessfully to turn bus drivers into city employees, who by law can't strike.

In this latest strike, the drivers responded to the School Committee's campaign by taking their case to organized labor, the Black and Latino communities and parent organizations. As they began to counter the lies that they were money-grubbing workers, uninterested in the city's students, they won increased support.

Shell cuts jobs, safety at chem plant

BY LINDA SULPACIO

DEER PARK, Texas — An attempt by Shell Oil to eliminate jobs in its refinery here has created a major safety problem in the plant and surrounding communities. The job cut is being protested by operators and mechanics in Local 4-367 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW).

Last spring, Shell said it was going to combine two units in the plant. The units process chemicals that are highly explosive, corrosive, and dangerous to health. An explosion could level a square block and set off a huge fire.

Shell brushed aside protests against combining the units, which came from operators who pointed out the dangers in requiring them to cover more equipment and monitor more systems than before.

Shell announced it was postponing the combination until November, but in reality put the plan into effect immediately on a "trial" basis. One of the operators was reassigned as a "backup," increasing the workload on the rest.

Shell claims its operating procedures are safe. But a May 9 company memorandum referred to "two as yet unexplained shutdowns," during which the liquid that keeps one of the systems from overheating stopped circulating. This could have resulted in "some very unfavorable conditions," the company admitted. That was

management's term for a possible explosion.

Back in May 1980 a unit processing similar substances at Deer Park blew up.

When the company dismissed their objections, the operators appealed to OCAW District Council 4. At the urging of a representative of the union's health and safety office, they filed a complaint with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The workers also spoke to meetings of their union local and executive board. They drafted a letter to the editor of the local paper, which turned into a petition that was signed by 146 union members.

The petition explained that the job combination is "extremely dangerous." In an emergency, it points out, "it takes one experienced operator to keep the equipment and the conditions safe on just one of these jobs. This job combination will double the responsibility of the operator during these upset conditions, which are routinely expected."

Local 4-367 secretary-treasurer Alan Barnes met with the Deer Park City Council to explain the threat to the community. The *Deer Park Progress* ran a report on the situation. The article was widely circulated in the plant.

Linda Sulpacio works at the Deer Park refinery and is a member of OCAW Local 4-367.

Subscribe to
the Militant

Help get out the truth about coup in Burkina Faso

BY NORTON SANDLER

The October 15 overthrow of the Burkina Faso government and the murder of President Thomas Sankara and other leaders of the revolution in that country is a severe blow to workers and farmers around the world.

From 1983, when the revolution took place, until today, little was written about Burkina in the U.S. press, including the radical press. An exception has been the numerous articles that have appeared in the *Militant*. Much of that coverage was based on eyewitness reporting trips to the West African country. These enabled our readers to get an accurate picture of the record and accomplishments of the Burkina revolution under the Sankara leadership.

That record includes the important October 8-11 Pan-African anti-apartheid conference attended by 600.

Militant reporters Sam Manuel and Margaret Manwaring attended the conference. They left the Burkina capital, Ouagadougou, on a midnight flight October 14, some 16 hours before the coup began. Information collected by Manuel and Manwaring contributes to news and analysis of the overthrow of the revolution that appears in this week's issue of the *Militant*.

We are making a special effort to circulate this issue to unionists, anti-apartheid activists, campus groups and individuals, and other political activists who don't normally get the *Militant* every week. We will encourage them to take advantage of the special introductory subscription offer of 12 issues for \$4.00 and to purchase a copy of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*.

We are also taking steps to circulate the current issue to the media, particularly the Black and campus press. They too will be encouraged to subscribe.

The circulation effort will include a special mailing to activists in the United States

and the Caribbean who have been supporters of the Grenada revolution and have participated in the debate surrounding the 1983 overthrow of the revolution and assassination of its central leader, Maurice Bishop.

Special steps are also being taken to get some copies to London in time for the October 24 anti-apartheid demonstration there.

Local distributors in this country will note that they have received extra copies of the *Militant*. This is so supporters can participate in the promotional effort along the same lines as the circulation office here in New York — that is, getting it to activists and the media. Those who will be especially interested in the Burkina coverage are workers, students, activists, and others who have read the *New Internationalist* article on "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop." In some cities *Militant* Forums are being organized on the overthrow of the Burkina revolution.

Four thousand extra copies of this issue of the paper are being printed, and additional copies can be obtained by contacting the business office in New York.

Circulation of the Burkina news and analysis will help the drive to win 6,000 new readers by the end of November. Next week's *Militant* will carry initial figures on the October 17-24 subscription target week. Even before the target week began, the pace of subscriptions coming into the business office had picked up.

Helping to boost the drive are supporters in Greensboro, Houston, and Des Moines who have raised their subscription goals. Several other areas also report that they are considering raising their goal.

Militant salespeople got a good response from participants in the large October 11 demonstration for lesbian and gay rights in Washington, D.C. Demonstrators purchased 29 *Militant* subscriptions and 320 single copies.

'New International' is sold many ways in New York

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

NEW YORK — Supporters of *New Internationalist*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, are on a campaign to sell 2,000 copies of the publication in the United States and internationally by November 24.

In New York, 207 copies of *New Internationalist* have been sold since mid-August. The sales have been carried out in a dozen different ways.

We began the drive by encouraging distributors of the magazine to read it carefully. That way they'd be likely to think of someone they know, perhaps at work or someone they meet when they sell the *Militant* at a plant gate, who'd be interested.

The ice was broken when a garment worker bought a copy of *New Internationalist* on a plant gate sale. Then a member of the Machinist union at Kennedy Airport bought a copy from a coworker. Sales of this kind have since gone from zero to two or three a week. But more importantly, these beginning sales were the result of dozens of discussions initiated with coworkers and fellow activists about the political topics covered in the magazine.

Workers asked questions about the two speeches by Fidel Castro in the magazine.

'Militant' Prisoner Fund

The *Militant's* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who need help paying for the paper. Please send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

What is the "rectification process" in Cuba? Does it differ from what's going on in the Soviet Union? Why isn't there anything about the rectification process in the U.S. press.

And they would want to talk about other topics covered in the magazine, like the overthrow of the Grenada revolution, or the Autonomy Process on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, or the FBI's 50-year assault on democratic rights.

The distribution campaign got a big boost at the Caribbean Day street festival attended by tens of thousands in Brooklyn in September. Supporters began the day by plastering the parade route with posters of the cover of *New Internationalist*. We staffed a Pathfinder literature table from noon until dusk. Before the day was over nearly 50 copies of *New Internationalist* were sold.

The Pathfinder bookstore here has taken on a goal of selling one copy of *New Internationalist* every day. We are close, but haven't quite made the one-a-day projection. But we have gotten good results by encouraging people who come into the store frequently to pick up a copy. One man who drops by regularly bought a copy for himself and another copy for a friend behind bars who is a political prisoner.

Other bookstores and a couple of newsstands have taken consignments. So far, 25 copies have been sold this way.

Three to four copies are also being sold every Saturday on literature tables put up around the city by *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* salespeople.

Through this experience New York supporters have learned that anyone who's interested in politics is going to be interested in and have an opinion on the issues taken up in *New Internationalist*.



Crowd at film festival held in Burkina in February

Militant/Ernest Harsch

Fall Sales Scoreboard

Area	<i>Militant</i> subscriptions			New International single copies			<i>Perspectiva Mundial</i> subscriptions		
	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	% Sold
San Diego	85	66	78	25	12	48	40	28	70
Boston	200	151	76	50	25	50	100	33	33
Greensboro, N.C.	140	99	71	20	14	70	15	6	40
Des Moines, Iowa	125	87	70	35	4	11	15	2	13
Cleveland	105	73	70	20	0	0	15	4	27
Houston	200	134	67	50	0	0	40	11	28
Portland, Ore.	80	51	64	40	25	63	30	3	10
Baltimore	140	85	61	40	0	0	10	1	10
Washington, D.C.	130	76	58	60	25	42	30	19	63
Morgantown, W. Va.	130	75	58	25	0	0	5	1	20
Los Angeles	300	169	56	100	58	58	175	76	43
Omaha, Neb.	70	38	54	20	5	25	10	7	70
Miami	120	65	54	40	0	0	40	13	33
Atlanta	120	63	53	35	15	43	20	12	60
San Francisco	180	94	52	50	0	0	70	44	63
Detroit	200	102	51	35	6	17	25	4	16
Annandale, N.Y.	20	10	50	-	-	-	-	2	-
Kansas City	105	52	50	25	2	8	20	8	40
Birmingham, Ala.	150	72	48	35	0	0	5	3	60
Milwaukee	115	54	47	35	18	51	15	4	27
Twin Cities, Minn.	180	83	46	75	25	33	20	4	20
Seattle	300	135	45	50	22	44	50	23	46
Salt Lake City	150	67	45	25	3	12	25	7	28
Oakland, Calif.	150	66	44	100	14	14	50	12	24
Austin, Minn.	85	37	44	10	0	0	15	2	13
San Jose, Calif.	75	32	43	-	-	-	50	19	38
New York	600	255	43	350	234	67	200	130	65
Newark, N.J.	350	146	42	75	25	33	125	37	30
St. Louis	175	73	42	50	14	28	10	2	20
Philadelphia	150	62	41	50	0	0	50	8	16
Phoenix	100	36	36	25	0	0	80	29	36
Charleston, W. Va.	125	40	32	20	0	0	-	1	-
Cincinnati	10	3	30	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chicago	225	49	22	50	0	0	75	12	16
Price, Utah	48	10	21	10	0	0	2	0	0
Pittsburgh	175	27	15	-	-	-	10	2	20
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	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Britain	75	55	73	140	106	76	5	0	0
Canada	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
New Zealand	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
Other Internat'l	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Totals	5,723	2,859	48%	1,770	652	33%	1,447	598	40%
Drive Goals	6,000			2,000			1,500		
Should Be		3,810	64%		1,270	64%		953	64%

Nicaragua artist will work on N.Y. mural

BY STEVE CRAINE

NEW YORK — The first of a series of international artists who will be working on the Pathfinder Mural Project arrived here October 20. He is Arnoldo Guillén, a leading painter from Nicaragua.

Guillén will paint a portrait of Augusto César Sandino, the leader of Nicaraguan resistance to U.S. occupation in the 1930s and the symbol of today's Sandinista National Liberation Front. Along with the Sandino portrait, the mural, on a six-story wall of the Pathfinder Building in Manhattan, will include representations of many other leaders of the international workers' movement.

Pathfinder is the principal publisher in the United States of the works of many of the revolutionaries who will be pictured in the mural.

Guillén, director of the National School of Plastic Arts in Managua, Nicaragua, will be in this country for one month. In addition to painting Sandino on the Pathfinder mural, he will be visiting some half dozen other cities, speaking about art and the revolution in Nicaragua.

Guillén is a founding member of the Na-

tional Union of Plastic Artists, which is part of the Sandinista Association of Cultural Workers (ASTC). He has exhibited in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Cuba, the United States, Mexico, Spain, West Germany, the Soviet Union, Japan, and Brazil. He has twice won the National Plastic Arts Competition sponsored by the ASTC.

In 1984, and again in 1986, Guillén won prizes at the Havana Bienal, a major art festival for Third World artists. His 1986 entry was entitled "This land will not sell out, will not surrender."

In an interview with Guillén in the FSLN daily *Barricada*, published in July, the artist commented that his career as a fulltime painter was made possible "because the revolution has allowed all the arts to take on their true worth and dimension."

Before the revolution, he noted, he chose not to try to make a living as a painter because that would have required depending on "so-called collectors, who bought paintings for their snob value, not because they were interested in them."

While in the New York area, Guillén

will speak at at least four colleges and a high school. On Saturday, October 24, a reception will be held in his honor by Ventana (a cultural organization in solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution); Artmakers, Inc.; and the Pathfinder Mural Project. The reception, followed by a party, will be at Musicians Union Local 802, 330 West 42nd Street, second floor, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Guillén will also be visiting Boston, November 2-5; Newark, Delaware, November 6; Washington, D.C., November 7-8; Chicago, November 9-14; and Minneapolis, November 16-17.

Supporters of the Pathfinder mural are seeking sponsorship and financial help for the political and artistic project from a broad base of activists, as well as from figures in the art world. To become a sponsor of the Pathfinder Mural Project and/or contribute funds, complete the coupon below.

- ☐ Please add my name as a sponsor of the Pathfinder Mural Project.
- ☐ Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of \$_____. Make checks payable to the Anchor Foundation.
- ☐ I would like _____ copies of the mural project brochure.
- ☐ I would like to work on, paint, or document the project.



Arnoldo Guillén, leading Nicaraguan painter, will paint Sandino on Pathfinder mural during current tour.

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Country _____
Signature _____
Organization/union/school _____

Role of socialist press to be theme of rallies

BY FRED FELDMAN

Across the country, supporters of the drive to raise \$150,000 for the Socialist Publications Fund are now setting plans for public meetings in their regions. The theme of the meetings will be the vital role that the socialist publications play for participants in today's struggles of workers, farmers, and youth around the world.

As we go to press, the fund stands at \$117,000 pledged and \$36,400 collected. Many more pledges are needed to bring the amount pledged up to and over the \$150,000 goal.

The meetings, and the process of building them, can bring supporters of the publications fund into contact with many more potential readers and financial contributors. In addition to the money pledged and collected at the meetings themselves, these events can inspire other supporters to join

the fund-raising effort where they work and live, and in the organizations that they participate in.

Many of the meetings will center on the importance of supporting the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New Internationalist* in order to get out the truth and explain important developments in world politics.

At the meeting being held in Atlanta October 31, the featured speaker will be Militant staff writer and Socialist Workers Party leader Sam Manuel. He recently returned from reporting on the anti-apartheid conference in Burkina Faso, just before the military coup that overthrew the revolutionary government.

The coup, and the resulting murders of President Thomas Sankara and other leaders, dealt a big blow to the workers and farmers of Burkina Faso, Africa, and throughout the world.

The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are providing unique coverage and analysis of this setback to revolutionary struggles in Africa and throughout the world. The meetings also provide an opportunity to highlight the socialist publications' role in telling the truth about:

- The rectification process in Cuba, which seeks to intensify the politicization and mobilization of the working people to solve problems ranging from shortages of housing and child care centers to the struggle against corruption.
- The struggle of U.S. paperworkers, meatpackers, and other workers fighting concession contracts.
- The light shed on the battle for democratic rights in this country by the debate over the nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court.
- The struggle against U.S. intervention in Central America, the significance of the Guatemala peace accords, and the advances of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Another aspect of the meetings, in many cases, will be the role that Pathfinder books and pamphlets play in furthering the closer collaboration and exchange of experiences and views among revolutionary forces around the world, including by educating fighters in the United States. An example is the role of Pathfinder as the North American distributor of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, a collection of Guevara's writings and speeches published by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia.

The meetings will also discuss the work now under way to create a six-story mural on the wall of the Pathfinder Building celebrating the revolutionary literature that is published there.

Many *Militant* readers will be helping organize and publicize these political events as well as attend them. For more information about the Socialist Publications Fund meeting in your area, contact one of the offices listed on page 12.

Meetings planned in Canada to protest attacks on rights

Mac Warren, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and veteran Black rights fighter, will speak in Canada at two meetings on the issue of democratic rights. One will be in Montreal October 29, the other in Toronto, October 31.

Warren was barred from entering Canada September 19 and subjected to racist and political abuse by Canadian and U.S. customs agents. Five days later he returned to Canada and was permitted to enter without interference. So far, Canadian officials have refused to state their

ical beliefs. Braxton is a member of the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada.

Warren will be accompanied to Canada by John Studer, executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund, who will also speak at both meetings.

The meeting in Montreal will be Thursday, October 29, 7:00 p.m., at 1212 Panet, Room 200.

The Toronto meeting will be Saturday, October 31, 7:30 p.m., in the Debate Room at Hart House, University of Toronto.

Braxton will join Warren and Studer at the Toronto meeting, and other speakers are being invited.

In the United States, there have been a number of protests lodged with U.S. and Canadian officials over the victimization of Warren and the attack on the right to travel that it represents.

In the Midwest, a petition declared that Warren's experience represents "a danger to the liberties of citizens of Canada and the United States alike."

Signers of the petition included Merle Hansen, president of the North American Farm Alliance; John Taylor, executive director of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union; J.F. Bohlman and Paul Swanson, both rail union officials; Marylyn Felion, Witness for Peace; Sara Morello, chairperson, Omaha Youth for Peace; and Pat McKee Velasquez, Chicano Awareness Center.

Thirty-five participants in the National Rainbow Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, signed a similar petition, with a number of public figures adding their names. Eleven of them also became sponsors of the Political Rights Defense Fund.

In Seattle, a PRDF supporter who is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 189, obtained the signatures of 14 coworkers on a protest petition.

To help defray the cost of this fight, a PRDF activist in the Los Angeles Longshoremen's union obtained a \$60 contribution from a coworker.



Militant/Harry Ring
Mac Warren interviewed by Canadian reporter at Montreal airport September 24. Warren was admitted to Canada that day, after being harassed and barred from country by immigration cops September 19.

reasons for detaining Warren at the border and forcing him to return to the United States.

In Montreal, Warren will be joined on the platform by a number of fighters for democratic rights. They include John Braithwaite, of the Association for the Development of Afro-Canadian Citizens; Joanne Galipeau of the Quebec Human Rights League; Raymond Johnston, vice-president of the Quebec Teachers Federation; a representative of Local 510 of the Canadian Auto Workers Union; and Bob Braxton, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union who was fired from his job because of his polit-

Labor news in the Militant

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.

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 Internationalist*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, and Pathfinder books and pamphlets.

As of October 21, \$117,000 has been pledged and \$36,400 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.



African anti-apartheid meeting is new step

Ouagadougou participants project action

BY SAM MANUEL
AND MARGARET MANWARING

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — "The anti-apartheid movement has made a big contribution to the revolutionary process in Burkina Faso by developing awareness against racism and apartheid through the activities of the people. Even beyond our borders this movement has won over other forces and has won other victories. We hope that one day these successes will permit us to hold a similar conference in Johannesburg. . . .

"This forum has been very useful. It's true that Ouagadougou has not answered all the questions. It's true that the forum has not found all the solutions. But we should be pleased because we have been able to make progress, and we have made this progress together."

These were among the points stressed by Thomas Sankara, the late president of Burkina Faso, at a news conference at the closing of the Pan-African anti-apartheid conference held in the capital city, Ouagadougou, on October 8-11.

On October 15 the government led by Sankara, the National Council of the Revolution (CNR) was overthrown in a bloody coup organized by Blaise Compaoré the minister of state assigned to the president's office. On October 16 supporters of Compaoré executed Sankara and 12 of his supporters in the CNR.

Since the Aug. 4, 1983, revolution the government of Burkina Faso has stressed the responsibility of the African governments and peoples to lead the fight against apartheid in South Africa. The conference was a historic initiative in that direction. No conference like it had ever taken place on the African continent before.

Plan anti-apartheid action

It brought together 600 participants representing 16 African nations to discuss and plan coordinated actions against the apartheid government. The conference was conducted in both French and English.

Mali, which had recently been involved in a border war against Burkina Faso, sent a substantial delegation. Proimperialist regimes such as those in Cameroon, Gabon, and Ivory Coast also sent representatives.

Sankara explained in his closing news conference, "Actions taken by Burkina Faso will not be individual or isolated. We will bring other representatives of African states to break with their shilly-shallying."

Sankara had planned to take the proposals of the conference to each African head of state and to the members of the Organization of African Unity.

Other participants in the conference included the African National Congress of South Africa, South West Africa People's Organisation, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid.

Not only did the conference represent the first time an effort has been made to appeal to African governments to oppose apartheid, but also the first attempt to involve millions of youth, women, workers, and peasants in this fight.

More education on apartheid

Participants from Burkina Faso, along with the ANC, SWAPO, and others, emphasized the need for more education, even in Africa, about apartheid. They explained the need for sanctions, boycotts of South African goods, and campaigns by mass organizations and governments to raise funds and material aid for the liberation of southern Africa. Through these campaigns every citizen of Africa could be involved in the fight against the apartheid regime.

Burkina Faso representative Mamadou 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 peoples."

"It is on them that the struggle for liberation rests," he pointed out. "Victory over apartheid will be attained through solidarity among the peoples, especially through solidarity among the peoples of Africa," Traoré emphasized.

A conference resolution urged African

governments to permit or intensify the establishment of anti-apartheid movements in their countries.

Strengthened international movement

The conference also strengthened the international movement against apartheid. Observers were present for all or part of the conference from Britain, France, Canada, the United States, Cuba, Guadeloupe, the Soviet Union, Iran, and Iraq.

Discussion took place on the role and significance of the international anti-apartheid movement, especially in Europe and North America.

An activist from the Netherlands reported on the campaign there against Shell Oil Co. Shell has admitted to delivering oil and fuel to the armed forces of South Africa.

He reported that in response to the campaign Shell has circulated a 250-page report to its subsidiaries advising them on how to circumvent the boycott. The report recommends an aggressive campaign to change Shell's image by recruiting Africans to management positions and enlisting them in defending the company's policies in South Africa.

Ivory Coast position

A voice of accommodation to the apartheid regime was raised by the delegate from the government of the Ivory Coast. Boubacar Keita, vice-president of the Student Movement of the Ivory Coast, condemned armed struggle against the South African government.

Keita also opposed the imposition of sanctions. He parroted the demagoguery of the U.S. and British governments that sanctions only hurt Black South Africans. He added that sanctions would also threaten to destroy what other African countries had gained economically. He concluded freedom would be won through a long and slow dialogue with the apartheid regime.

Keita's proposal to have all African countries open diplomatic relations with South Africa as a first step toward dialogue was met with shouts and boos. A few participants walked out during his address.

Keita's stance was roundly condemned by subsequent speakers. Karim, Ouédraogo, a young Burkinabè responded, "We cannot beg for liberation. Those who advocate this kind of dialogue are the shame of Africa. The dialogue has been drowned in the blood of African people."

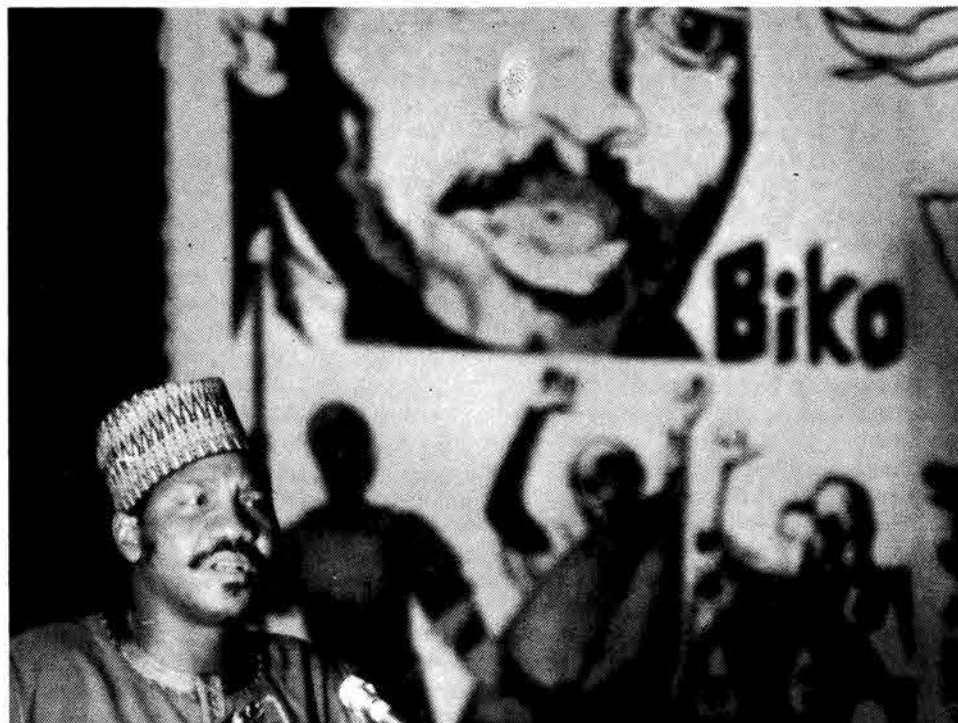
The Pan-African Congress of South Africa (PAC) was also invited to the conference. PAC representative, Bojan Jordan questioned the effectiveness of sanctions and the importance of the international anti-apartheid movement. He challenged the perspective of the ANC, which seeks to unite in struggle all those who oppose the Pretoria regime to fight for a democratic South Africa.

Jordan complained that the organizers of the conference had given a more prominent standing to the ANC in its resolutions and at special sessions of the conference. In a bid to obtain equal billing with the ANC, supporters of the PAC proposed that the two groups make a gesture of unity on the platform of the conference.

Simon Lewis, a member of the ANC delegation rejected this proposal. He explained, "Unity was not broken on a platform in Burkina Faso. It cannot be regained here. Unity can only be regained on the battlefields in South Africa."

For many of the conference participants this was their first opportunity to hear the different views expressed by the two groups. Over the course of the discussion a majority of the participants came to accept the leading role of the ANC and rejected attempts by the PAC and its supporters to obtain equal standing in the conference.

In its final declaration, the conference adopted a series of proposals to advance a united fight against apartheid. The overthrow of the Sankara government a few days later dealt a traitorous blow to the conference and the fight against apartheid. This gathering remains a part of the legacy of the internationalist policy the Burkina government, under the leadership of Sankara, was carrying out.



Militant/Sam Manuel

Joseph Gaba, head of UN special committee on apartheid and Nigeria's ambassador to UN, speaks to 600 participants representing 16 African countries.

Cubans join Burkinabè in celebrating Che

BY MARGARET MANWARING

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — At the same time this city hosted the Pan-African anti-apartheid conference, the people here held a series of activities to greet an important delegation from Cuba. The delegation included Camilo Guevara March, the son of Che Guevara, and Tirso Saenz, who had worked closely with Che as the vice-minister of industry in Cuba in the 1960s.

These activities were organized to mark the 20th anniversary of the death of this fallen revolutionary fighter.

"He who loves his people, loves all peoples" and "Che: proletarian internationalist", were themes displayed on banners and discussed in meetings and newspaper articles, on radio and television, and in a speech presented by President Thomas Sankara at the opening of a pictorial exposition of the life of Che.

Everywhere the Cuban delegation went they were greeted by crowds of Burkinabè youth. As Sankara explained, throughout Africa youth turn to Che. "Youth thirsty for dignity, youth thirsty for courage, youth thirsty for ideas" find in Che the source of conviction and determination they seek.

"For us Che is not dead," said Sankara, "Che is Burkinabè because he participates in our struggle. He is Burkinabè because his ideas inspire us. He is Burkinabè because his star is emblazoned on our emblem."

Sankara greeted Camilo Guevara: "We do not greet you as an orphaned son. You cannot feel alone, for you will find in each of us, we hope, brothers, sisters, comrades. You are here among the citizens of Burkina because you have followed resolutely in the footsteps of Che. Che belongs to us all. Che is father to us all."

Events to mark Guevara book

BY MARGARET JAYKO

Mirta Muñoz, a coworker of Cuban revolutionary leader Che Guevara, will speak at the first meeting to launch *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution: Writings and Speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara*, a new book by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia of Sydney, Australia.

Joining her at the November 5 event in Sydney will be David Deutschmann, editor of the book.

The volume marks the 20th anniversary of the death of Guevara, who was murdered on Oct. 9, 1967, by the Bolivian military.

Muñoz was a member of the July 26 Movement's urban underground. Guevara was a leader of this movement, which spearheaded the struggle that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in January 1959.

Muñoz also worked with Che when he was a central leader of the new government, including in the Ministry of Industries and in the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America (OSPAAAL).

She helped edit the issue of the OSPAAAL magazine *Tricontinental* commemorating the 15th anniversary of Che's death. Muñoz is currently head of the press section of the presidential staff of the National Assembly of People's Power. People's Power constitutes Cuba's elected representative governing bodies.

In London there will be a public rally to launch the book on Wednesday, December 2.

Speakers will include:
• Dr. Oscar Fernández Mell, Cuban am-

bassador to Britain. Mell was also a participant in the revolutionary struggle led by Fidel Castro.

• Solly Smith, chief representative of the African National Congress of South Africa in Britain.

• Tony Benn and Bernie Grant, Labour Party Members of Parliament.

• Betty Heathfield of Women Against Pit Closures, an organization formed to support the National Union of Mineworkers.

• David Deutschmann.

The rally will take place at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London WC1.

On November 27 the Cuban embassy in Britain will host a reception to mark the book's publication.

On November 10 there will be a book meeting in Brisbane, Australia.

Other book launchings will be held in Melbourne, Australia; Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland, New Zealand; and in Canada and the United States.

The book was edited in collaboration with the José Martí Publishing House of Havana.

Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution is being distributed in the United States by Pathfinder in 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 (U.S. \$11.95); 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England (£ 7.25); Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia, P.O. Box 37, Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW 2040, Australia (\$18.95); or DEC Book Distributors, 229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4, Canada.

4 years of revolution in Burkina Faso

BY FRED FELDMAN

Before the revolution that opened up in the West African country of Burkina Faso in 1983, up to 20 percent of the men in many villages there went blind by the time they were middle-aged as a result of what the peasants called "poor man's disease."

The September 3 *New York Times* reported, however, that by 1987 it looked like onchocerciasis, or river blindness, was on the road to being wiped out in Burkina. "Today over 90 percent of the program area is under control and the riverine area is safe for resettlement," said Ebrahim Samba, who administered the World Health Organization program aimed at controlling the disease. "Over 3 million children born in the last decade are fully protected from becoming blind with oncho."

As a result, peasants have been able to resume cultivating about 1,000 square miles of farmland that had been abandoned due to fear of the disease, which was spread by river-bred flies.

The gains toward eradicating river blindness in Burkina Faso, which has been in the forefront of this effort in West Africa, are one of the advances in health care in the countryside made possible by the Burkinabè revolution. These include the vaccination of more than 2 million children against measles, meningitis, and yellow fever; the establishment of health clinics in 7,000 rural villages; and the bringing in of teams of Cuban doctors to help organize and staff a medical-care system.

The key to this advance, as to the other gains scored in Burkina in the four years of the democratic revolution, was the mobilization of the working people under a government that represented their interests. These advances have now been dealt a savage blow by a military coup that toppled the government and murdered President Thomas Sankara and other leaders.

Burkina Faso is a country of 7 million people. Conquered in the last century by the French colonialists, who named it Upper Volta, the country gained its independence in 1960. But France and other

subsistence agriculture, others desperately try to eke out a living by growing ground nuts or cotton. Only 10 percent of peasants have draft animals for plowing. The other 90 percent farm with hand tools and human muscle-power.

Factory workers make up less than 1 percent of the population, and there are few factories.

Meeting even the most minimal needs of human beings was enormously difficult under these adverse conditions. Far from accepting them as inevitable, however, the new government began taking the initial steps toward overcoming the imperialist heritage of backwardness and poverty and improving the living conditions of the working people.

"The August revolution . . . is a democratic and popular revolution," Sankara declared in a Oct. 2, 1983, speech which, under the title "Discourse on Political Orientation," laid out the basic program of the revolutionary government.

"Its primary tasks are to liquidate imperialist domination and exploitation and cleanse the countryside of all social, economic, and cultural obstacles that keep it in a backward state. From this flows its democratic character.

"Its popular character arises from the full participation of the Voltaic popular masses in this revolution," the programmatic speech stated, "and their resulting mobilization around democratic and revolutionary slogans that express in real terms their own interests against those of the reactionary classes allied with imperialism.

"The popular character of the August revolution also lies in the fact that, in place of the old state machinery, a new machinery is being constructed that will guarantee the democratic exercise of power by the people and for the people."

A network of Committees for the Defense of the Revolution was formed. In many cases, these were successful in drawing peasants, workers, and others into political life for the first time. A popular militia was initiated, and arms were distributed to factories, offices, and villages.

To provide more resources for developing the country and raising the living standards of the most oppressed, the pay of top civil servants, was cut.

The revolutionary government won a particularly strong following among the youth.

Agrarian reform

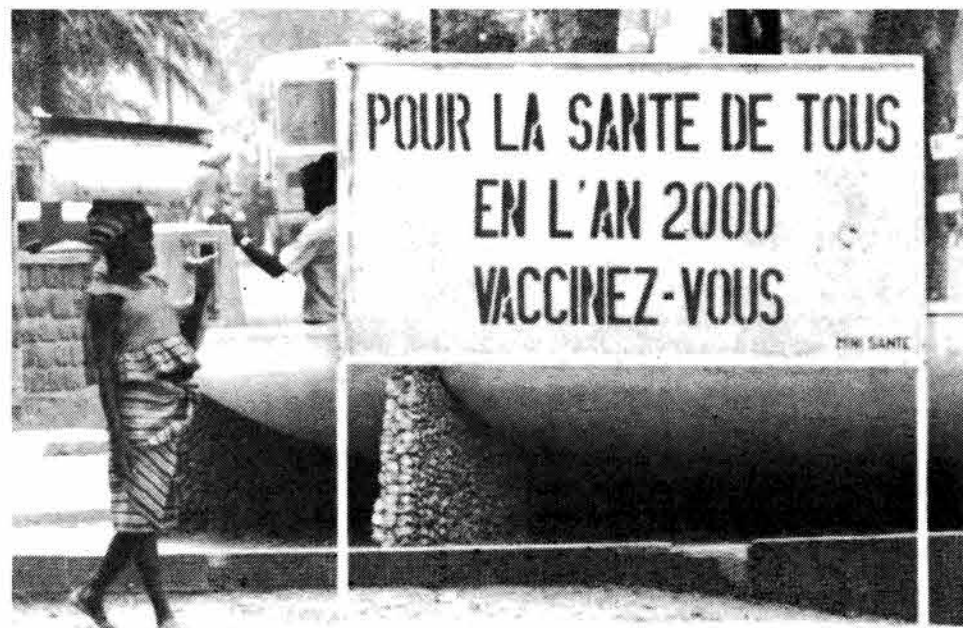
The peasantry is "the social layer that has had to pay the highest price for imperialist domination," Sankara declared in the "Discourse on Political Orientation." Improving living conditions and productivity in the countryside were the regime's top priorities.

The new regime eliminated the head tax on peasants that the French rulers had imposed and their successors had maintained. Compulsory labor for or payments to village chiefs was abolished. The land was nationalized, freeing peasants from the fear of losing their land to speculators or usurers.

Prices the peasants receive for basic food crops were raised to encourage increased production. Unlike previous regimes, which viewed international aid donations as a source of plunder, the revolutionary government made sure that food and other assistance from other countries got to the peasant villages.

Extensive irrigation projects were undertaken, in a country where only about 20,000 acres of farmland had previously been irrigated. A dam and irrigation network in the Sourou Valley — which every previous government since independence had promised to build — was completed by voluntary labor within a few months. Reforestation, aimed at halting and pushing back the advancing desert, made some headway.

A major drive to eradicate illiteracy was begun. While education under the previous regimes had been conducted in French — effectively restricting schooling to an elite minority and virtually excluding the rural population — the literacy drive was carried out in the three main indigenous languages of the Burkinabè peasants.



Militant/Ernest Harsch

"For the health of everyone in year 2000, get vaccinated," reads poster in capital of Ouagadougou.

Reading primers discussed the daily problems of peasant life, health care, and other matters of concern to the peasants — thus providing a strong incentive to learn.

Those peasants who learned to read were able to play a more effective leadership role in organizing the peasants as a whole, as well as making it easier to manage their farms and avoid being cheated by merchants, corrupt officials, and usurers.

Village leaders were organized in the Union of Burkinabè Elders to ensure that the views of the village people were made known.

Women gain ground

"The weight of the centuries-old traditions of our society has relegated women to the rank of beasts of burden," Sankara stated in October 1983. "Women suffer doubly from all the scourges of neocolonial society."

The revolutionary government began enforcing bans on forced marriages, the sale of brides, the payment of dowries by the families of brides, and the practice of forcing widows to marry relatives of their late husbands. Women began to be drawn into the activities of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution and the armed forces, and women were appointed to several cabinet posts.

The government set the goal of eliminating prostitution and providing jobs for former prostitutes. And a discussion was opened up on whether abortion should be legalized.

On March 8 of this year, International Women's Day, the Union of Burkinabè Women, founded in 1986, held a celebration in the capital city of Ouagadougou which attracted thousands of women from rural and urban areas.

Sankara addressed the meeting. Women, he said, "must be the main actors in their own struggle. . . . The only real emancipation of women is that which makes them responsible participants in society."

The changes taking place in society were also reflected in the country's prison system. From being centers of punishment, torture, and intimidation, the first steps were taken to make the prison system serve the goal of "social reintegration" of the prisoners. Literacy classes and adequate

medical care began to be provided. Workshops were introduced to teach skills like welding and sewing. Overcrowding was reduced.

Rents were abolished for one year in 1985, and the construction of decent housing in city and countryside increased.

Internationalist solidarity

The revolutionary regime made big changes in the country's foreign policy. Until the revolution, successive governments had parroted the stands of French imperialism.

The government headed by Sankara threw its support behind popular liberation struggles around the world, from the struggle of the Western Saharan people against U.S.-backed occupation by the Moroccan monarchy, to the Palestinian people's struggle against Israeli occupation, to the liberation struggles in Central America.

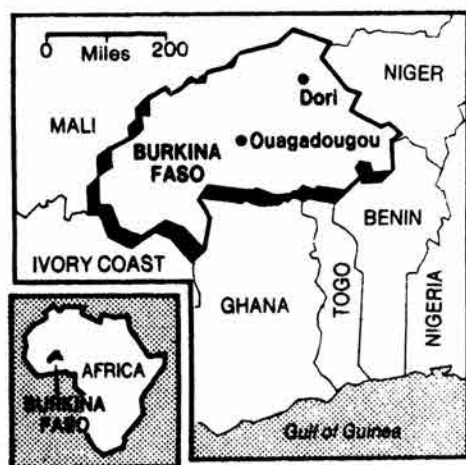
Its solidarity extended to the oppressed and exploited in the United States as well.

"My White House is in Black Harlem," Sankara told an audience of 500 at the Harriet Tubman School in New York City during a visit to the United States in October 1984. Denouncing the invasion of Grenada at that time, he declared, "We must relentlessly fight against imperialism. If we don't want any more assassinations of Maurice Bishop, we must be organized today."

Close ties of solidarity were forged with Cuba and Nicaragua. Sankara visited Cuba several times.

Sankara was the principal international speaker at the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Sandinista National Liberation Front in Nicaragua last November.

In recent months the revolutionary government sharply stepped up its activities in solidarity with the people of South Africa. The Burkinabè Movement of Struggle Against Racism and Apartheid and for Friendship Among the Peoples established chapters and carried out activities in villages and towns across the country. And Burkina took the initiative to campaign for broader solidarity across Africa, sponsoring the Pan-African anti-apartheid forum held October 8-11 in Ouagadougou.



imperialist powers continued to dominate the country's government and economy.

On Aug. 4, 1983, massive protests and a revolt in the army culminated in a popularly supported insurrection that brought the National Council of the Revolution (CNR) to power. It was led by Captain Thomas Sankara, who had headed a revolutionary organization in the army called the Association of Communist Officers. He became president of the country.

One year later the country was named Burkina Faso (land of men of integrity).

Democratic, popular revolution

The revolution took place in a country that had been savagely oppressed and kept underdeveloped by imperialism. The average income is \$150 a year. Prior to a nationwide literacy campaign, 92 percent of the population (and 98 percent of people in the rural areas) were illiterate. Famine stalks the northern sectors, as the Sahara desert has crept steadily southward. The average daily food intake per person is 1,859 calories (compared with 3,411 in France). The average life expectancy is 40 years. The infant mortality rate, 180 for every 1,000 live births, is said to be the world's highest.

Peasants make up 90 percent of the population. While most are engaged in



New International

"The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop"

This response to slanders against Maurice Bishop, murdered prime minister of Grenada, also takes up

his political contributions to revolutionary struggle in Central America and

the Caribbean. For current issue send \$6.50 to 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014, or visit one of offices listed on page 12.

Coup in Burkina Faso is blow to revolution

Continued from front page
gion.

In the days following the coup, Compaoré and his supporters broadcast a series of communiqués, interspersed with military music, over the national radio. All other radio and television outlets were shut down. According to several press accounts, the communiqués were made in the name of the "government of the Popular Front of October 15."

The communiqués slandered Sankara as a "degenerate," "mystical autocrat," "misogynistic paranoic," and "traitor to the revolution."

It called on the population to "participate in a rectification process" in order to continue the revolution and put an end to the "continual collapse of our productive system and the social decadence that is leading us inexorably to total chaos."

Compaoré did not appear in public for three days following the coup. At his first appearance Jean-Baptiste Lingani, chief of staff of the army, and Henri Zongo, minister of economic planning and development, were with him. Compaoré, Lingani, and Zongo were among the young radical officers led by Sankara who overthrew the French-backed neocolonial regime of Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo in 1983.

Compaoré was introduced as "Comrade President," the title previously held by Sankara. The purpose of their appearance was to explain why they had carried out the coup.

According to reports in *Libération* and *Le Monde*, Mamadou Traoré a member of the Popular Front claimed that Sankara had been "put into a minority at the October 8 meeting of the National Council of the Revolution (CNR), one week before the coup." He asserted that Sankara was furious and left the meeting 10 minutes after it started. He also claimed that Sankara had planned to arrest and execute his opponents on the CNR.

Differences of perspective

These slanders aim to cover up difficulties and differences that had developed within the leadership of the government on how to advance the revolutionary process in Burkina Faso. And they attempt to justify the brutal methods that the putschists have used to try to resolve them.

In the months leading up to the coup, Sankara had attempted to lead a political discussion, involving the Burkinabè masses, on how to overcome these difficulties and divisions. The themes that he emphasized were the struggle against corruption among state officials and unity of the



Women in Burkina's armed forces march in August 1986 parade. Revolutionary government headed by Thomas Sankara sought to overcome longstanding oppression of women, opened up opportunities for them, and encouraged them to mobilize to advance their rights.

various revolutionary forces in the country. Sankara called for a broad democratic discussion among all forces loyal to the revolution.

In an Oct. 2, 1987, speech, his last major address before the coup, Sankara took up these issues before a crowd of thousands in the town of Tenkodogo.

Revolutionary unity

Among the questions Sankara addressed was how to achieve unity among the various left organizations that had been in and out of the government since 1983. Among them were the Union of Burkinabè Communists formed shortly after the revolutionary victory. The Patriotic League for Development was formed in the 1970s and had close ties to the French Communist Party. It looked to Moscow for political inspiration. The Union of Communist Struggle was formed in late 1982 by students who had broken with a pro-Albanian group.

Sankara warned against the dangers of sectarianism. "Our democratic popular revolution is a revolution that frees itself of any gathering together of sects, of any sectarian regroupment," he noted. "Every day there must be a growth in the numbers of activists from the Pioneers right up to the Union of Burkinabè Elders."

Sankara placed at the center of the effort to achieve unity the need for a broad discussion of the central document of the revolution, the "Discourse of Political Orientation."

This program, which had guided the revolution for four years, was presented as a speech by Sankara on Oct. 2, 1983.

Sankara explained, "The political orientation speech is that around which we unite, strengthen our cohesion, discuss our differences. . . . Any disagreement that cannot be resolved within the framework of the political orientation speech is a disagreement that involves objectives that are purely and simply different. If the objectives are identical, the political orientation speech can bring about a convergence of methods of actions."

Sankara explained that unity can only be forged through concrete struggles.

"These struggles, for example," he said, "are the building of hundreds and thousands of water retention systems, the laying of railway lines, the opening of roads, the building of medical centers, the sharing of our knowledge with our brothers and comrades who have not had an oppor-

tunity to receive education."

To justify their bloody coup, Compaoré and his supporters charge that Sankara was an "autocrat" and used repressive measures against his opponents. To give the coup a democratic face they announced the release of prisoners.

The implication of this action by Compaoré is that the coup was necessary in order to end the imprisonment of government opponents. But Sankara had already announced in his October 2 speech the decision to begin the process of releasing 88 prisoners charged with violations of civil or criminal law who had demonstrated their willingness to be socially integrated. He said he hoped that this could lay the basis for a broader release of prisoners.

In a speech in August in the city of Bobo Dioulasso, Sankara explained, "We need a people that is convinced, not beaten. A beaten people means an unending succession of prisons."

"For us, the revolutionaries," he explained, "our victory is the disappearance of prisons. For the reactionaries their victory is the construction of a maximum of prisons. That's the difference between them and us," Sankara emphasized.

Involving workers, peasants

At the heart of Sankara's approach for advancing the revolution and overcoming difficulties was the increasing education, organization, and mobilization of the youth, women, workers, and peasants.

In his speech on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the revolution in August he said, "The revolution does not look for shortcuts. It demands that we all march together with the same will in both thought and deed. That is why a revolutionary must be a perpetual teacher. If the masses don't understand it's our fault. It is necessary to take the time to explain, the time to convince the masses in order to act with them and in their interests."

He added, "If the masses understand

Continued on Page 13

Nicaragua's Sandinista Front repudiates Burkina coup

The following two articles on the coup in Burkina appeared in the October 19 issue of *Barricada*, the daily newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) of Nicaragua.

The first was a front-page story headlined "FSLN Repudiates Coup in Burkina Faso — Regrets the Death of Sankara." The second article, which appeared inside, was headlined "FSLN: Unity Is the Most Valued Thing — Unacceptable Methods in Burkina."

The translation is by the Militant.

After the confirmation of the death of Captain Thomas Sankara, President of Burkina Faso, Julio López, head of the Department of International Relations of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, said: "The Sandinista Front regrets the death of the Burkinabè leader and repudiates the coup d'état that took his life and the lives of other respected political leaders of that African country."

López said that Captain Sankara, who played an outstanding role in the revolutionary history of his country, was a close friend of the cause of the Nicaraguan people and their vanguard.

López said that the international community knows the principled position of the Sandinista Front in events similar to what occurred in Burkina Faso. He expressed confidence that, despite all the difficulties, the Burkinabè people will know how to save their revolution, and that they will not give any opportunities to the enemy.

López stressed that in the face of the events in Burkina Faso, the FSLN and the Nicaraguan people will never forget dramatic experiences like those that took place in Grenada and Yemen, which ended in serious losses, and warn the revolutionary movement to learn the lessons of these political phenomena.

For this reason, he said, the FSLN will be implacable with anyone who from outside "our party works for the enemy seek-

ing ways to break the monolithic unity of the Sandinista Front."

Compañero Julio López, head of the Department of International Relations of the FSLN, referring to the death of Captain Thomas Sankara, recalled the sad case of Grenada in 1983, where U.S. imperialism did not hesitate in taking advantage of the differences among the revolutionaries. In a cynical and cowardly way, he said, it used all its forces to destroy the revolution headed by the late leader Maurice Bishop.

López stressed that the international revolutionary movement has witnessed, at other times and in other circumstances, what occurred in Burkina Faso. And he reiterated that the position of the FSLN is and will always be that we revolutionaries "have our political methods and procedures for settling our differences, and even contradictions, which avoid situations like the one that ended in the death of President Sankara."

He said that the FSLN has made the policy of revolutionary unity a principle, and that this experience has been transmitted to other forces in the world. The events in Burkina Faso, he said, confirm that "in Nicaragua we must never let down our guard."

He said that it is no secret that U.S. imperialism, headed by Mr. Ronald Reagan, through its agencies and special bodies, works tirelessly day after day to try to erode the unity of the Sandinista Front.

Captain Thomas Sankara, who died October 15 following a military coup headed by Captain Blaise Compaoré, visited Nicaragua in November 1986, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Sandinista National Liberation Front and the 10th anniversary of the death in combat of the leader of the revolution, Commander Carlos Fonseca.

Three months earlier President Ortega, in response to an official invitation from Sankara, had visited Burkina Faso.

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The November issue of PM includes an article by Harvey McArthur on the fight for land in Nicaragua. This struggle was one of the forces that gave birth to the revolution. Under the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, urban and rural workers started to take the reins of society. Because of that, 100,000 peasant families have received land titles. But 60,000 more still need land.

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Veteran communist Chen Pi-lan: 1902-87

A founder of women's movement in China

BY FRED FELDMAN

Chen Pi-lan, a veteran of 65 years as a revolutionary communist and one of the founders of the Chinese women's movement, died on September 7. She was 85 years old.

Chen was a student at the Hupeh Girls' Normal School in 1921, when Li Han-chün, a leader of the Communist Party of China, gave a speech there on "Women's Position in Society." The CPC had been founded in July of that year by revolutionists involved in the wave of struggles set off by 1919 student protests against imperialist domination.

The presentation of the Marxist view of the struggle for women's liberation inspired Chen. "Li's speech was like throwing a bomb against a feudal bulwark," she later wrote.

Chen began studying Marxist ideas, reading such works as August Bebel's *Women and Socialism*, and organizing her fellow students to fight against their oppression by the school officials.

They combated abuses like the compulsory use of the highly complicated traditional written language, which had the effect of restricting literacy to a privileged few, rather than the modern language used by the masses; the opening of students' mail; and restrictions on freedom of movement.

They protested and sometimes defied conventions requiring women to wear their hair long and barring them from socializing publicly with men.

Young fighter

When school authorities attempted to suppress the ferment by firing a progressive-minded teacher, Chen and other young fighters organized protests that eventually forced the resignation of the reactionary school principal. This was the first successful struggle by women students in China, one of the opening battles for women's emancipation there. In the midst of this struggle, she and other leaders at the school joined the Young Socialist League.

Chen wrote articles for student publications. In a successful effort to block her forced marriage to a man chosen by her parents, she wrote a novel under her own name denouncing this reactionary practice.

In 1922, Chen joined the Communist Party. On May 30, 1925, while she was studying at the University of the Toilers in the East in Moscow, the massacre of protesting students by British occupation troops in the port of Shanghai sparked a nationwide revolutionary upsurge against imperialist and landlord domination.

Chen returned to China. Among other activities, she spoke on the national liberation struggle and women's rights to girls' schools in Hunan Province. She later be-

came a leader of the Shanghai Women's Coalition and editor of *Chinese Women*.

She later described an aspect of her experiences with the peasant movement in the rural areas: "In certain respects the women showed themselves more courageous than the men in the struggle. Besides participating in the physical fight, the women demanded freedom in marriage and divorce."

During this period she came to know Peng Shu-tse, one of the central leaders of the party. "Understanding each other perfectly," she later wrote, "we decided to live together." They remained companions until Peng's death in 1983.

Opposing Chiang Kai-shek

In March 1926 Chiang Kai-shek, a leader of the bourgeois nationalist Kuomintang party, carried out a reactionary coup in the southern port of Canton. The response to this event highlighted changes that were taking place in the Communist International as it came under the domination of the bureaucratic caste that was consolidating its power in the Soviet Union after V.I. Lenin's death in 1924. Lenin had been the central leader of the October 1917 Russian revolution and the Soviet Communist Party.

The Bolsheviks under Lenin's leadership had held that the accomplishment of a democratic, anti-imperialist revolution in a semicolonial country like China required the leadership of an alliance of the working class and the peasantry, independent of the exploiting classes and their parties.

Joseph Stalin, however, ordered the Communist Party to remain inside the pro-capitalist Kuomintang — which most CP members had joined some years before in order to take advantage of opportunities to win anti-imperialist fighters to communism — and to support the political leadership of Chiang Kai-shek.

In order to avoid alienating Chiang, communists were ordered to oppose strikes by workers and land seizures by peasants, and even to turn over party membership lists to the Kuomintang.

In April 1927 Chiang's troops marched into Shanghai and began a bloody massacre of unarmed workers including women and children, and their allies. Over the next months, the revolutionary upsurge was crushed and the party was decimated.

Chen and Peng were among those in the party who opposed supporting Chiang after the Canton coup. They were joined later by Chen Tu-hsiu, the most prominent leader of the party, whom Stalin made a scapegoat for the disastrous outcome of his policy.

In 1929 they became part of the current led by Soviet communist leader Leon Trotsky that was fighting to continue the policies the Communist International held



Militant/Joseph Hansen

Chen Pi-lan and her lifelong companion and collaborator Peng Shu-tse

during the years Lenin was alive.

They were expelled for their views from the Communist Party that year. Along with other expelled members, they formed the Communist League of China to continue the fight.

In 1932 Peng, Chen Tu-hsiu, and eight other communists were arrested. Peng served five years in prison. While Peng was in prison, Chen Pi-lan had to raise their children and make a living through writing and translations, while contributing to holding together a nucleus of communists under adverse conditions.

During this period she wrote the book, *Essays on the Woman Question*.

While continuing to oppose Chiang Kai-shek's reactionary regime, Chen, Peng, and the other communists supported the massive popular resistance to the Japanese invasion of China, which began in 1931 and escalated to full-scale war in 1937.

In 1938 those around the world who were fighting to reforge an international revolutionary communist leadership in the wake of the destruction of the Communist International, established the Fourth International. Chen and Peng were among its founding leaders.

After World War II, Chen became editor of *New Voice*, a magazine published by the Chinese supporters of the international.

Chen, Peng, and other revolutionary communists strongly supported the victory of the peasant armies led by Mao Tse-tung

over Chiang Kai-shek's landlord-capitalist regime in 1949.

The Chinese revolutionists attempted to join the Chinese Communist Party headed by Mao and to participate in the struggles of the workers and farmers to form unions, overturn landlordism, and score other advances.

The Mao regime had demonstrated its intention of suppressing supporters of the Fourth International and other critics who supported the revolution. Chen, Peng, and other well-known leaders went to Hong Kong.

As the British colonial authorities stepped up repression there, Chen and Peng were forced to move to Vietnam and from there to Europe. Eventually, dozens of their colleagues in China were rounded up by Mao's police because of their views, and many remained in prison for decades.

In exile, Chen and Peng played an active part in building the world communist movement.

A number of Chen Pi-lan's writings have been translated into English and appear in *The Chinese Communist Party in Power*, by Peng Shu-tse, published by Pathfinder. Among her other writings were "Rebel in a Chinese Girls School," which appeared in the Sept. 3, 1976, *Militant*; "A Communist Woman in the Second Chinese Revolution," in the Oct. 7, 1977, *Militant*; and "How Stalin Betrayed the Second Chinese Revolution," in the Nov. 4, 1977, *Militant*.

100 Dominicans die trying to reach Puerto Rico

BY RON RICHARDS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A hundred workers from the Dominican Republic are dead or believed dead trying to enter Puerto Rico without papers. A boat carrying the undocumented workers sank October 6 shortly after departing from the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic.

The U.S. colony of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic are separated by the 100-mile-wide Mona Passage. Because of strong ocean currents, these waters can be very dangerous.

The tragedy occurred the same day the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service opened a new border police station on the eastern side of the Mona Passage in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. It was set up to catch immigrants like the ones who died.

It will never be known exactly how many people were aboard the 38-foot wooden boat with two outboard engines when it left the Dominican village of Baoba del Piñal. The captain of the boat died with his passengers.

Of 150 people known to have been on the boat, 20 bodies have been found, 30 to 40 survived, and the rest are missing. Because leaving the Dominican Republic without authorization is a crime, some who got to shore in good shape fled the police. Local residents estimate that 20 did so. Because of the currents and sharks, many of the dead will never be found.

Dominican workers pay smugglers \$500 to cross the water to Puerto Rico. Some stay in Puerto Rico while others try to fly to the United States. They are driven to leave their country by poverty. The standard of living in the Dominican Republic has gone down in the last several years as the International Monetary Fund has forced the country to impose austerity measures against working people in order to pay off its debts to U.S. banks.

The official unemployment rate in Puerto Rico is near 16 percent. But even with massive unemployment, life is better here than in the Dominican Republic. Many Dominicans work in construction, garment, or as street vendors and domestic servants.

Nobody knows how many of Puerto Rico's 3.5 million people are Dominican immigrants. Dominican Consul Andrés Moreta puts the figure at 15,000. Francis Maiolo, the head of the Puerto Rican chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, believes that the figure may be more than 150,000.

The most recent tragedy occurred in Dominican waters but other boats have tipped over just a few yards from their goal. In December last year, 32 people died on the beach in Rincón near Aguadilla when the boat capsized in heavy surf. Most of the bodies were never identified.

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CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

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.

Young Socialist Alliance Picnic. Sat., Oct. 31, 2-6 p.m. Elysian Park. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Nicaragua: How the 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 Diego

South Africa Belongs to Us. Film on life under apartheid. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 2803 B Street. Donation \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

FLORIDA

Miami

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, 6:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speaker: Ernest Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami. Translation to Spanish and Creole. Sat., Oct. 31, reception, 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers 1987 Mayoral Campaign. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Socialist Educational Conference: "Grenada's Revolution — Its Achievements and the Lessons of Its Destruction." Speakers: Sam Manuel, *Militant* newspaper staff writer. Class 1. Sat., Oct. 31, 1 p.m. Class 2, Sun., Nov. 1, 10 a.m. "Coup in Burkina Faso: A Severe Blow to Revolutionary Process." Speaker: Sam Manuel, just attended Pan-African anti-apartheid conference in Burkina Faso. Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. All 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.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Meet the Socialist Candidates. Reception for Reba Williams Dixon, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, and Dana Burroughs, SWP candidate for city council president. Sun., Nov. 1, 4 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Sponsor: SWP Campaign. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

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 Com-

mittee to Protest U.S. Presence in the Persian Gulf.

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.

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

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.

Resisting Company Takebacks: The Meat-Packing Workers' Story. Speaker: Raúl González, Armour Foods worker, Socialist Workers Party. Video on John Morrell strike. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 31, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Halloween Dance Party. Sponsored by the Brooklyn-San Juan del Río Coco Sister Cities Project. Fri. Oct. 30, 8:30 p.m. PS 321, 7th Ave and 2nd St. Donation: \$6. For more information call (718) 857-8853.

Manhattan

An Evening With Arnaldo Guillén. Hear and meet one of Nicaragua's leading artists. Sat., Oct. 24. Reception, 8 p.m. Party to follow. Musicians Local 802, 330 W 42nd St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$8. Sponsor: Ventana.

Repression and Colonialism in Puerto Rico. Speaker: Elías Castro, one of 15 Puerto Rican independence fighters framed up in Hartford. Fri., Oct. 30, 7 p.m. Community Center, 593 Columbus Ave. Sponsor: Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression. For more information call (212) 927-9065.

Socialist Educational Weekend. Two classes on "The 50-Year Struggle to Build a Communist Party in the United States: Lessons of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance Lawsuit Against the FBI." Class I: "Class Struggle Policy in World War II and the Birth of the Mass Struggle for Black Civil Rights." Sat., Oct. 31, 3 p.m. Class II: "From World War II to Contragate to the Bork Nomination: What is the Threat to Democratic Rights in the United States?" Sun., Nov. 1, 11 a.m. Translation to Spanish. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$1 per class. Sponsors: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (212) 226-8445 or (201) 643-3341 in New Jersey.

U.S. Out of the Persian Gulf! Speakers: Georges Sayad, Socialist Workers Party; representative of General Union of Palestinian Students. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva

Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Racially Motivated Violence. Speakers: C. Vernon Mason; William Kunstler; Conrad Lynn; Ida Chen, Philadelphia commissioner of human rights. Sat., Nov. 7, 8:30 a.m.-7:15 p.m. NYU Law School, 40 Washington Square South. Sponsor: *NYU Review of Law and Social Change*. For more information call (212) 998-6370.

Queens

Hear Bernadette Devlin McAliskey. Fri., Nov. 6, 9 p.m. The Breffni Inn, 40th St. and Queens Blvd., Woodside. Donation: \$10 (\$5 for students, seniors, unemployed). 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

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.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Current Situation in Cuba: 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) 225-8054.

Pittsburgh

The Meaning of the Central America Peace Accords. Speaker: James Winfield, national leader of Young Socialist Alliance, who was in Nicaragua last summer. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave., Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Price

Central American Peace Plan: A Setback to the U.S. War in Nicaragua. Speaker: Charlene Adamson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council. Fri., Oct. 23. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., Suite 19. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Adamson for City Council Campaign. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

March for Peace and Justice, No Aid to the Contras, Stop Nuclear Weapons Testing. Sat., Oct. 24, 10:30 a.m. Peace Witness at Memory Grove; 11:30 a.m. March to Federal Building. Speakers: Una Stevenson, Moderator; Rachel Knapik, Central America Solidarity Coalition; Pat Johnson, Utah Peace Test; Ed Firmage. Sponsors: Central America Solidarity Coalition, Utah Peace Test.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

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.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Stock Market Crash of 1987: Can Capitalism Work? Speakers to be announced.

Behind coup in Burkina Faso

NEW YORK Manhattan

Speaker: Sam Manuel, *Militant* reporter recently returned from Burkina Faso. Translation to Spanish and French. 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.

Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

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

Morgantown

The 1983 Overthrow of the Grenada Revolution: The Lessons for Today. Speaker: Steve Clark, managing editor of *New International*. 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.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Sugar Cane Alley. A film about French colonialism in the Caribbean. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Haiti Today. Speaker: Patrick Dellegarde-Smith, professor of Afro-American studies, UWM, recently returned from visit to Haiti. Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum.



Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution 1979-83

\$9.95 paper. Available from bookstores listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Add 75 cents for postage and handling.

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NEBRASKA: Omaha: SWP, YSA, 140 S. 40th St. Zip: 68131. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341. **New Brunswick:** YSA, c/o Keith Jordan, 149 Somerset St. Zip: 08903. Tel: (201) 828-1874.

NEW YORK: Albany: YSA, c/o Lisa Sandberg, 120 Lark St. Zip: 12210. Tel: (518) 463-8001. **Mid-Hudson:** YSA, Box 1042, Annandale. Zip: 12504. Tel: (914) 758-0408. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668. Pathfinder Books, 226-8445. **Rome:** YSA, c/o Cosmos Andoloro, 7172 Rickmeyer Rd. Zip: 13440. **Stony Brook:** YSA, P.O. Box 1384, Patchogue, N.Y. Zip: 11772.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: SWP, YSA, 2219 E Market. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, c/o

Mark Mateja, Edinboro University of Pa. Zip: 16412. Tel: (814) 398-2754. **Philadelphia:** SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 4905 Penn Ave. Zip: 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

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

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** SWP, YSA, 147 E. 900 South. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA: Portsmouth: YSA, P.O. Box 6538, Churchland Station. Zip: 23707.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3165 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699, 797-7021.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

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

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

Could use some aid — The school district in Norman, Oklahoma, will now use the word as-



Harry Ring

sistant in place of aide. The district superintendent said this was because of the anxiety about AIDS. "It's hard not to panic," he said, "but the main thing is we want to use some common sense."

Contra fan — When the sultan

of Brunei tossed in \$10 million for the contras it was for love of democracy, right? For instance, once in Brunei, in 1962 his dad permitted an election. An opposition group won so British troops were promptly called in. Emergency regulations were imposed, which still remain in force.

But not to worry — LONDON (AP) — British airline pilots on long-haul flights say their entire crews have fallen asleep at the controls because of strenuous work schedules, researchers report.

Wonder if they swam in it — When 2,000 gallons of PCB-laced oil spilled into the Los Angeles

River, local officials shut down a beach area at the mouth of the river. But other officials ordered it reopened, saying those who shut it down had "overreacted." PCB causes gastric disorders, skin lesions, and cancerous tumors.

Somewhat honest — With straight faces, a group of Pittsburgh-area corporate managers assured researchers that honesty was the personal attribute they most admired. With a bit more candor, they conceded that the attribute they least admired was helpfulness.

Popepourri — The pope's visit evoked a burst of creative enterprise. In addition to the popecorn

and popesicles, there was a popescope (a periscope to see him with) and, neatest of all, "Let us spray" lawn sprinklers made of wood and carved in his image. \$55.

For the love of JeSu\$ — Multimillionaire Victor Posner — his holdings include controlling interest in Royal Crown Cola and Arby's — pleaded no contest to evading \$1.2 million in taxes by inflating the value of land donated to a Miami Bible college.

Housing tip — The Neiman-Marcus X-mas catalog offers a children's log cabin. Only \$12,000 and, in the picture, it definitely

looks bigger than our apartment.

Speak freely, this is the USA — Three Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspectors told a Senate committee the agency didn't do much regulating. The NRC responded by trying, unsuccessfully, to have two of them prosecuted for perjury. The third was ordered to meet with a psychologist.

Oh — After protest, the NRC dropped the idea of having the dissident inspector see a psychiatrist. A spokesperson assured that "absolutely nothing sinister" was intended, they only wanted to improve his "interpersonal and communications skills."

Meeting commemorates Bishop, Machel, Sankara legacy

BY JANICE LYNN

NEW YORK — Nearly 500 people crowded into the East Lounge at Hunter College October 19 to commemorate the legacy of Maurice Bishop of Grenada and Samora Machel of Mozambique. Both were killed on that date, Bishop in 1983 and Machel in 1986.

Speakers at the meeting also strongly denounced the murder of Thomas Sankara, president of Burkina Faso, who had been assassinated just a few days earlier.

Bishop, prime minister of Grenada, was murdered in cold blood along with five other central leaders of Grenada's revolu-

tionary government on Oct. 19, 1983, at the hands of a clique organized by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

Machel, president of Mozambique, was killed in a plane crash over South African territory under mysterious circumstances on Oct. 19, 1986.

Samori Marksman, of the African and Caribbean Resource Center opened the meeting by likening the overturn of the Sankara government in Burkina Faso to the counterrevolution in Grenada. "I am totally opposed to what happened in Burkina Faso and denounce the carnage that took place,"

he said, "just as I denounce what happened in Grenada."

Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition had recently returned from Burkina Faso. Calling Sankara, "the hope of African people throughout the world," Brath also denounced his death. "The man was butchered. He didn't deserve to be killed like that."

Rosemary Mealy, a WBAI radio reporter who had been in Burkina Faso in February, described the progress made in that country and Sankara's role in pushing this forward. She pointed as well to Sankara's internationalism.

"While the land of dignity has suffered a setback," she said, "knowing the people of that country, especially the sisters, they will keep the vision and image of Sankara alive."

She also denounced Bernard Coard for turning back the Grenada revolution and opening the door to imperialism.

Also speaking was Philip Agee, a former CIA operative, who described the dirty hand of the CIA in the affairs of other countries. Agee's passport was revoked in 1979, but he recently returned to the U.S. using a passport granted to him by Nicaragua. Agee expressed support to the revolutionary process that had begun in Grenada and solidarized with the peoples of Nicaragua and Cuba.

Other speakers included Roberta Washington of the Mozambique Support Network; Wickford Dalgetty, student government president of Hunter College; Jerry Edwin, a young Grenadian; and a representative of the New Africa People's Organization.

Coup in Burkina blow to revolution

Continued from Page 10

poorly, then it is still our fault. And it is necessary to rectify, to refine, to adapt to the masses, and not to try to adapt the masses to one's own wishes, to one's own dreams."

Rather than relying on the Burkinabe people to advance the revolution, Compaore has acted against the people.

Whatever his personal motives or his political explanation, his murderous actions are a counterrevolutionary blow, not a turning point "within the revolutionary process."

No political explanation for Compaore's barbaric actions has been given. Serious charges of "treason," "corruption," and "autocratic rule" have been leveled against Sankara. But not a shred of evidence proving these accusations has been presented.

The only explanation attempted is that Sankara was in a minority following the October 8 meeting of the CNR. Even if this unverified story turns out to be true, it certainly was no reason to murder Sankara, his closest aides, and a yet undetermined number of others. The charge that Sankara was planning to arrest and execute his opponents in the CNR is contradicted by his efforts to resolve differences through discussion.

The charges and methods used by Compaore are strikingly parallel to the events in Grenada that led to the destruction of the revolution and the subsequent invasion of the island by U.S. troops. Serious differences surfaced among leaders of the government of Grenada in October 1983. Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard organized a secret faction that obtained a majority in the government, the ruling party, and the army.

Coard and his supporters slandered the revolutionary leader and prime minister, Maurice Bishop, charging him with being a "counterrevolutionary" and seeking to establish "one man rule." They also contended that Bishop was planning to murder his opponents in the government. Coard and his supporters resolved the differences by murdering Bishop and his closest collaborators.

It is clear that serious differences had developed in Burkina Faso on how to advance the revolutionary process there. Sankara was grappling with this challenge.

Sankara sought to resolve the differences by going beyond the narrow framework of the radical army officers and left groups that predominated in the revolutionary government, and to increasingly in-

volve the masses in discussion and action.

The use of violence and murder to resolve differences among revolutionaries must be repudiated. All democratic and revolutionary minded forces throughout the world should join in denouncing this heinous crime. As Cuban President Fidel Castro said in response to the October 1983 overthrow of the revolutionary government in Grenada and the murder of Maurice Bishop, "No crime can be committed in the name of revolution."

U.S. deepens role in Iraq war against Iran

Continued from front page

western interests."

The report found that "the United States seriously risks being drawn into the war in the Persian Gulf."

Iraq, the report said, "is under heavy military pressure, and its ability to withstand Iran's assault indefinitely is an open question."

Reviewing the course of the war since Iraq invaded Iran, the report notes that Iran has regained the territory Iraqi forces had seized and, additionally, now holds several small but key areas of Iraq.

The report cited the Iraqi regime's escalating repression of the Kurdish people in Iraq and their mounting resistance as one reason for the weakening Iraqi position.

One of the Senate staffers visited the northern part of Iraq, a major Kurdish center. The insurgency there, he found, poses a "major military threat" to Iraqi control of the region.

Resistance has been fueled by the Iraqi drive to force the Kurds from their mountain homes and into relocation centers.

To ensure that the Kurds don't go back, the report states, Iraqi forces have been dynamiting evacuated villages.

"The Iraqi army," the report observes, "conducts itself in Kurdistan as if it were a foreign occupying power."

Domination of the oil-rich, militarily strategic Persian Gulf is a key priority for powerful U.S. oil and financial interests. The Iraqi regime's defeat by Iran, a country whose government doesn't follow the dictates of Washington, would be a threat to those interests. It would help inspire revolts that would destabilize other proimperialist regimes in the region.

That's why Washington sees the possibility of Iraq's defeat as "catastrophic."

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢
Oct. 27, 1977

STEARNS, Ky., Oct. 19 — Eighty riot-equipped state troopers brutally attacked striking coal miners and their supporters here October 17.

When the dust cleared, some dozen strikers required medical attention. A total of 117 were arrested — 78 miners and 39 women, most of them members of the Stearns Women's Club.

It was the most vicious strikebreaking assault to date in Blue Diamond Co.'s drive to keep the United Mine Workers out of its Stearns mine.

Some 150 miners and supporters had gathered near the mine entrance Monday morning, determined to halt Blue Diamond's running of a handful of scabs through the court-limited picket lines. It would have been the fourth day scabs had entered the mine.

Strikers overturned a truck and refused to leave, UMWA spokesperson Chuck Shuford told the *Militant*, "until Blue Diamond would sit down and bargain in good faith."

In the two days since the attack, Blue Diamond has not tried to send scabs through the picket line. But there is no telling when they may try again.

THE MILITANT
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Oct. 28, 1962 Price 10¢

(President John Kennedy perpetrated the Cuban missile crisis with his speech of October 22 proclaiming a blockade of Soviet shipping en route to Cuba. He announced the presence of medium-range missiles in that country and said the U.S. would interdict weapons and parts bound for Cuba.)

OCT. 24 — Premier Fidel Castro went on television last night to explain to the Cuban people the causes of the present crisis and the measures his government is taking to meet it. The speech, notable for

its calmness and self-confidence, was also a direct answer to Kennedy's speech of the previous night.

"We have taken the necessary measures not only to resist but to repel — hear it well — to repel any aggression from the United States," Cuba's revolutionary leader declared.

"We are not sovereign through any concession made by the United States," Castro said. "And to take away our sovereignty they will have to wipe us from the face of the earth. . . ."

"If the United States gave Cuba ample guarantees against aggression, Cuba would not have to arm. They ask us to disarm, but they will not renounce aggression. . . ."

"What have we done except to defend ourselves?"

"Why don't they want to discuss with us? [Cuban] President Dorticos proposed at the United Nations a discussion of differences. But they ignored us. . . ."

"We will acquire the arms we deem necessary for our defense. And we don't have to give an accounting to anyone. None of our arms are offensive because we have never been aggressive. We will never be aggressors, but we will never be victims either."

Fiercely jealous of Cuba's hard-won sovereignty, Castro rejected U.S. demands for inspection teams to go into Cuba to examine its defenses for "aggressive" weapons.

"Cuba is not the Congo. Under the UN flag they went to the Congo and killed its leader and the spirit of independence of that people."

"Anyone who comes to inspect anything in Cuba had better come prepared for battle. We don't ask to investigate in others' territory."

Castro depicted the unilaterally imposed naval blockade as but a culminating step in the long series of U.S. attempts to destroy the Cuban revolution and the example it sets for all Latin America.

"Because they will not resign themselves, their failure to crush the Cuban revolution brings us to this pass — the most dangerous one for the peace of the world. . . ."

"They menace us with nuclear attack but they don't scare us. We will see if the U.S. congressmen, bankers, etc., possess the same calmness as we."

The stock market plunge

When the New York Stock Exchange was rocked October 19 by a 22.6 percent drop in the Dow Jones industrial average of stock prices — the biggest one-day fall in 70 years — millions of workers and farmers, in this country and around the world, wondered what this would mean for them.

The rise and fall of the stock market, however, has little direct impact on jobs and farms, the production and sale of goods, or on capitalist profit rates. Gyration of stock market prices do not cause upturns, booms, recessions, or crises in the world or national capitalist economy.

But although the big ups and downs in stock prices do not cause shifts in the business cycle, they do reflect more fundamental, underlying problems the capitalist rulers are having.

The stock market operates like a gigantic gambling casino where profiteers and speculators bet some of the wealth created by exploiting the labor of workers and farmers. The market that went wild October 19 is not primarily the arena where capitalist businesses sell new stocks to finance expansion. Most of this is done through other channels.

On the stock exchanges, for the most part, the shares that companies issued years ago change hands again and again as speculators wager on price changes. It's a parasitic operation, where capitalist gamblers try to rip each other off with money that they have withdrawn or withheld from productive investment.

The big drop had little impact on the real wealth of the billionaire capitalist families who rule this country. "It's paper anyway," one billionaire told the *New York Times*, after his stock declined in price by a half billion. "It was paper when we started, and it's paper afterward."

The upswing in the stock market that began in 1982 and peaked at record heights last August reflected the confidence inspired in speculators by the unusually prolonged economic upturn.

September marked the 59th straight month of economic growth — the third longest expansion recorded in U.S. history. The utilization of the capacity of factories, mines, and utilities in the United States stood at 81.2 percent, the highest in three years.

However, the stock exchange gamblers, like the U.S. capitalist class as a whole, know that this upturn is sure to be followed by another downturn. That means threats to

profit rates, and resulting layoffs and cutbacks in production. How soon this will occur no one knows for sure.

On a world scale, chronic overproduction (the creation of more goods than can be sold at a rate of profit acceptable to the capitalists) in steel, auto, oil, and other industries has continued, despite the substantial economic upturn in the United States. This glut spurs intensified competition for shares of the market and profits among the capitalists of different countries.

Several recent events signaled to the market that the U.S. upturn might be about to begin going into reverse. The resulting panic was similar to what might take place in a racetrack betting room when a rumor gets around that the odds-on favorite has just gone lame.

Stocks have been drifting downward since August. On October 14 statistics were released showing that the U.S. monthly trade deficit had dropped only to \$15.7 billion in August — an indication that U.S. big business was gaining much less ground than expected in world competition. As the demand for loans by government, industry, and others rose, banks began increasing lending rates.

The West German government — hoping to keep exports high and attract capital that might otherwise go to the United States — refused to lower interest rates, defying pressure from U.S. officials. (In the wake of the stock market panic, which spread around the world, the West Germans relented somewhat and several banks rescinded rate increases.)

The worldwide panic reflected the increasing integration and interdependence of capitalist economies around the globe and common fears about the future among capitalists of different countries.

Workers and farmers can be certain of one thing. Fluctuations of the stock market and other initial signals of a future economic downturn will spur the employers to intensify efforts to make us work harder and longer for less money.

That is at the heart of current proposals to increase taxes and cut social services to reduce or eliminate the government's huge budget deficit.

If there is a price to be paid for the problems they are having, the employing class has no intention of paying it. They will use the power at their disposal, including their control of the White House and Congress, to try to take it out of the hides of workers and farmers.

A 'right' to risk war with Iran?

The *New York Times* sees some issues as urgent enough to warrant fairly frank talk. The U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf is one of these.

An October 15 *Times* editorial lauded the Reagan administration for what it's doing in the gulf.

It does chide the White House for a failure last summer to provide plausible justification for reflagging Kuwaiti ships. "The stated aim was to protect freedom of navigation, though few ships were being threatened," the *Times* editors noted.

But, the paper asserts, since then Reagan has gotten his act together. "The administration has been earning the right to take risks."

Why take risks?

Because, "There was never any question that an American military presence in the gulf was justified by U.S. interests."

An October 20 editorial returns to the problem:

"Why should the United States get embroiled in a savage war between two lawless regimes? Because containing Iran is in the interest of the U.S., the gulf states, Europe and Japan.

"All look to America for leadership," the *Times* argues. "If Iraq suddenly crumbles, as is possible, it will be

even harder to defend the oil-rich region from a victorious Iran."

A reader from another planet might get the impression that the United States is located in the Persian Gulf and is threatened with an outside invasion from Iran.

The editorial speaks of "lawless" regimes. But what law authorizes Washington to be the policeman of the Persian Gulf?

The *Times* points to the need to defend "U.S. interests." That's a frequently used, totally crooked formulation.

True enough, a minuscule number of oil barons and bankers do have a stake in profits they reap from controlling the gulf. But the only interest that U.S. working people have is that as the "embroiling" gets deeper they are being called on to do the fighting and dying.

The *Times* summarized its position with the headline on its first editorial: "The Right to Take Risks in the Gulf."

Working people should answer loud and clear: "Not with our lives!"

There's one way to defend our interests. That's to demand: "Get the U.S. forces out of the Persian Gulf. Bring the troops home!"

A victory against travel ban

Constitutional rights got a boost on October 19 when the Supreme Court said the U.S. government may not ban visitors from other countries simply because they are affiliated with communist organizations. This is a welcome change from the pattern in recent years of barring individuals who lacked the State Department's seal of approval. Among the many political figures, journalists, and writers victimized by the government's selective visa policies are Nobel Laureate Gabriel García Márquez and Margaret Randall, author of several books on women in Cuba and Nicaragua.

The current case involved four people who were denied visas in 1983: Tomás Borge, Nicaragua's minister of the interior; former Italian general Nino Pasti, who belongs to a peace group deemed suspect by the State Department; and Olga Finlay and Leonor Rodríguez Lezcano, two experts on women and family law from Cuba. The Supreme Court let stand an earlier federal appeals court decision in favor of these individuals.

More is involved here than simply the rights of the individuals concerned to travel to this country, important though that is. At stake is an unwritten but vital part of the constitutional rights of free speech and association: the right to hear. Workers trying to defend themselves against corporate attacks, antiwar activists, farmers fighting foreclosures, everyone — including just plain students of literature — have the right to hear different points of view, discuss with individuals without having them pre-selected by the government, and decide for ourselves what we think.

A little side note to the decision: it seems that Robert Bork was one of the judges involved when the case was heard in appellate court. In his view, the court majority's opinion not to uphold the travel ban manifested a troubling "process of judicial incursion into the United States' conduct of its foreign affairs." Democratic rights were clearly far from his mind.

What stand should U.S. workers take on peace accords?

BY DOUG JENNESS

In a letter on the facing page, Lawrence Daley raises several points about the orientation the workers' movement in the United States should have toward the Central American peace accords.

His insistence that Washington has no right to impose any agreements on Nicaragua is well taken. If the demo-

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

cratic right of self-determination means anything, it means that nations have the right to form their own governments and regulate their own affairs without interference from other countries.

To honor the right of Nicaragua and other Central American countries to determine their own policies, Washington should immediately and unconditionally pull all of its military installations out of those countries. It should remove its gunboats, troops, "advisers," and CIA operatives, and terminate all aid to the counterrevolutionary mercenaries. It should lift all trade restrictions imposed against Nicaragua.

This doesn't require any negotiations — Washington has no "rights" in this region that are negotiable. It should just pack up and get out.

Since the contra war began some six years ago, the *Militant* has been campaigning around this perspective. In a lead editorial two weeks ago we reaffirmed, "It remains an urgent task for opponents of Washington's war to demand in the clearest, sharpest way:

"Hands off Nicaragua! Let Nicaragua live in peace!"

It is around these demands that the greatest possibilities exist for mobilizing the broadest opposition to Washington's intervention.

Daley recalls accurately that this became the perspective of the movement against the Vietnam War in the 1960s and early 1970s. It is also what our response should be to the U.S. government's stepped-up aggression in the Persian Gulf today: Hands off Iran! U.S. out of the gulf!

But, in addition to the elementary obligation of doing the utmost to get the government in our own country off the backs of the people of Central America, the workers' movement here must also evaluate the agreement made in Guatemala and the Nicaraguan government's response to it.

Does the agreement correspond to what Nicaragua could get under the circumstances? Does it allow the revolution to advance? The answer to both questions is yes.

The Central America accords are the result of the military victory the Nicaraguan people have scored against the contras and the political success they have achieved on the Atlantic Coast with the adoption and first steps toward implementing the autonomy plan.

Even though the U.S.-backed mercenaries are still in the field, they have been stopped from achieving their main objective — overthrow of the Nicaraguan government. They have failed to take a single town, much less start a civil war. It is this that finally forced the other Central American regimes to sign a peace agreement and has helped create divisions in U.S. ruling circles.

In signing the agreement the Sandinista government has had to make some concessions. But it hasn't relinquished any of its powers nor dissolved any of the mass organizations.

It could, of course, have said, "We won't sign. We'll drive the contras out of our country and win total victory with no concessions." But the cost of the war for Nicaragua has been heavy — in the loss of human lives, economic difficulties, and restrictions on the political debate that is necessary to ideologically confront and defeat the revolution's opponents.

The leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) has concluded that in the present circumstances signing and implementing the accords is the best way to advance the revolutionary process — that is to strengthen the mobilization, organization, and education of the workers and peasants of Nicaragua to fight for their class interests.

Washington is none too happy with the Guatemala accords. Far from dealing with an agreement imposed by imperialism, as Daley asserts, the FSLN is fighting to implement the agreement — to make it real in the face of Washington's attempt to sabotage it.

Daley says that we shouldn't "exult" or "rejoice" over this. But he doesn't explain why. The defeat of the contras and victories on the Atlantic Coast have led to the beginning of a new stage of the Nicaraguan revolution, one that marks significant progress for the Sandinista government there.

The task of the workers' movement in this country is to help explain and tell the truth about this process.

Moreover, seeing how the Nicaraguan revolutionary leadership has seized on the accords to move the revolutionary process forward, should inspire us to help get more workers, farmers, and youth from the United States and around the world to go to Nicaragua on work brigades or other trips.

Strikers demand testing for toxic chemicals

BY BRENT HARDWICK

The workers at Neville Chemical Co.'s plant in Santa Fe Springs, California, went on strike May 20 when Neville refused our demand to be tested for toxic contamination. Our bargaining unit of 17 workers is part of Local 1-128 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union.

Neville's Santa Fe Springs site is polluted with dioxins, furans, and orthodichlorobenzene (DCB), by-products of its chlorinated paraffin process. Investigations by the

UNION TALK

Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Health Services, and Cal-OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) have confirmed this fact.

In 1985 the extensive contamination earned this plant the distinction of being placed on the state's "Super Fund" list for toxic clean up after soil and other samples were examined.

This same facility made news last fall when a federal court convicted Neville of "criminal disposal of hazardous waste" for burying more than 20, 55-gallon drums of a toxic solvent on plant property. Neville was fined and placed on three years' probation.

Dioxins, furans, and DCB are bio-accumulative. Repeated exposure will cause these chemicals to be stored and concentrated in the body, creating the possibility of serious illness many years after exposure.

Because of the Super Fund status of the Santa Fe Springs plant site and Neville's criminal conviction, the employees felt it was imperative that testing be conducted to find out if we had been contaminated.

Dioxin is the toxic contaminant in Agent Orange, which resulted in a lawsuit by Vietnam veterans. Furans are chemically almost exact twins of dioxins and many experts think they are equally poisonous.

One study on rats found that if food was contaminated with as little as five parts per trillion of a dioxin, the rats exhibited severe levels of liver cancer. As little as three parts per billion of 2-3-7-8 T.C.D. dioxin would be a lethal dose for 50 percent of any guinea pig population.

Since these chemicals will accumulate in humans, and since many of the workers have been at Neville's Santa Fe Springs plant over 10 years, the need for testing is obvious.

What lends grim and pressing importance to all of this is the death, in late June, of one of our union stewards from Neville's Anaheim, California, plant. Kenny McCallum, a nondrinker and nonsmoker in his early 40s, died suddenly of liver cancer. Kenny, with more than 15 years in the Anaheim plant, had a particular fondness for the graveyard shift — precisely the time when residents near the plant complain of being awakened by fumes from the plant.

A document in the possession of the union indicates that on at least one occasion, petroleum distillates used in the manufacturing process at Anaheim were found to be contaminated with benzene.

Is Kenny's death a result of occupational exposure? No one knows for sure. But petroleum distillates (especially benzene) are suspected of causing cancer in humans, and the union requested a health hazard evaluation by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. NIOSH has agreed to investigate the Anaheim facility, but it hasn't happened yet.

Also underlining the need for us to be tested is Neville's conduct at its corporate headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where their "Lagoon," an open, unlined pit, leaked chemicals into nearby ground water, contaminating at least four water wells and possibly the Ohio River.

But Neville management has refused to discuss testing since July. They had earlier agreed to our demands on other contract issues. A Neville vice-president from corporate headquarters in Pittsburgh was expected to participate in a negotiating session September 24, but he canceled the talks and informed a union official that the company was considering a permanent shut down of the Santa Fe Springs plant.

On October 7, after no word was received from Neville, and upon the proposal of our OCAW International representative, we offered to return to work unconditionally and were told there was "no work available." So our strike has become Neville's lockout. It seems likely that Neville would prefer to keep the plant shut and scatter the work force rather than resume operations and

face the possibility of employee testing and the possible liability worker contamination would entail.

Prior to the breakdown of negotiations this summer, Neville management claimed they had investigated the possibility of obtaining employee testing and that testing was not available.

However, we know of at least two laboratories that have contacted Neville and offered to perform testing and biological monitoring of the employees. Pacific Toxicological Laboratories of west Los Angeles offered to test all current Neville employees for DCB contamination. The test was offered free of charge, but Neville turned it down. It seems logical to assume that Neville is afraid of what it might find if it tests its employees.

Having lost their initial bargaining position, the company now insists that even if testing is available, test results would only be "a bunch of numbers" that would be "meaningless."

If Neville was testing us for traces of alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs, I'm certain they would find the "numbers" could very well lead to a worker being terminated.

Our issue is a simple one, yet profound in its meaning for workers and companies all over America. We wish to know if, as a result of selling our labor to earn a living and support our families, we have become contaminated by toxic chemicals that can destroy our health, years after exposure.

It's time regulatory agencies like OSHA, EPA, and NIOSH began to aggressively address the issue of toxically contaminated people. To date, not one state or federal agency has had the courage to order Neville to test its employees for toxins.

The labor movement has been given a great opportunity to stop a situation that has gone on for too long — the toxic exposure and poisoning of American workers. The motto of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union is "Stand for Something." I can think of no finer challenge to offer those of you in organized labor than to stand with us in this struggle.

Brent Hardwick is chairman of the Neville Chemical Santa Fe Springs, California, bargaining unit of Local 1-128 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union.

LETTERS

Sports for profit

The National Football League players' strike raises fundamental questions about the role of private profit in organized sports.

Tex Schramm, owner of the Dallas Cowboys, told reporters recently that "the players and the union want to run this game, but it's our game."

In a way, Schramm is right. It's the parasitic owners and their corporate underlings in the league apparatus, along with TV network executives, who run professional football. Not for the honest integrity of mental and physical competition, but for sheer greed.

It is the players who possess specialized and unique skills and abilities. It is the club owners and network conglomerates that profit from those skills and abilities.

Some big-name players do have lucrative contracts; most do not. And the biggest player contracts are nothing compared with the obscene profits that Schramm and his ilk make by sucking the value out of the labor of others.

To maintain those profits, the owners have to maintain control over the players' wages and working conditions. Owners can, and do, move "their" teams from city to city with little or no advance notice. Coaches can freely sell their services to the highest bidder. The network sports commentators (who are approved by the NFL) can jump to another TV show. Even the current scabs embarrassing themselves on Sundays are free agents in the literal sense — they are free to try to sign on with a different team when their current per-game contracts expire.

But union players are being denied free agency. The owners decide who they will play for and when they will be traded. They can even make money by selling their "rights" to a player.

In Cuba, where private profit in society has been eliminated, athletic competition helps develop abilities. There are no owners, no

leagues for profit, no treating of athletes as money-making chattel. Sport is not just for spectators, but something all people can participate in and develop themselves.

The football strike is quite an illuminating example of the corrupting power of profit.
Bill Kalman
New York, New York

Names quilt

An important part of the October 11 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights was the assembling of the Names Project quilt, a memorial to those who have died of AIDS.

One of the over 1,900 quilts on display bore the name of Wayne Hieber, longtime *Militant* reader and member of the Socialist Workers Party who died of AIDS in June 1985. The quilt displayed Wayne's name, a large fist, and the slogan "Hasta la victoria siempre" (Ever onward to victory), the slogan made famous by Che Guevara in his farewell message.
B.D.M.
New York, New York

Two comments

Please renew my *Militant* subscription for one year and send me a free copy of the current issue of *New Internationalist*, the one with Steve Clark's article on Maurice Bishop.

I have two comments on the *Militant*. First, there needs to be more coverage of the strong ground for suspicion that the AIDS virus is a deliberate creation of the CIA or some similar government agency. The June 11 *Workers World* newspaper is ahead of you in this respect. Nevertheless, Margaret Jayko's articles (June 19, June 26, and July 10 *Militant*) on AIDS were the best all-around articles I've seen.

Second, there should be less exulting over the Guatemala peace

accords and more headlines of the old, traditional type, like: "Hands off Nicaragua!"

During the Vietnam War the *Militant* pointed out that a revolutionary government may be forced to sign a treaty under the gun, but that outside supporters should not rejoice in such a forced agreement or do anything to suggest that the imperialists have a right to impose such an agreement (witness Lenin's position on the Brest-Litovsk treaty, which made huge concessions to German imperialism in exchange for peace).

To consistently praise such a treaty as a marvelous step forward smacks of Stalinism.

Lawrence Daley
Detroit, Michigan

NFL picket line

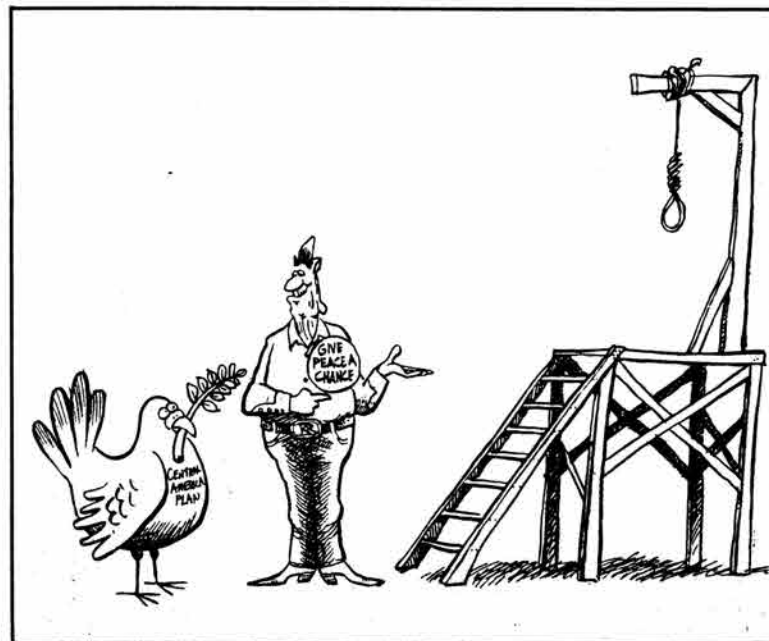
Thousands of militant unionists and football fans picketed outside RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., October 4 to support the striking NFL Players' Association.

The Maryland-D.C. AFL-CIO organized the protest and had notices for the Sunday picket posted in bus barns, airport break rooms, plants, mills, and union halls across Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia.

Some 200 labor organizations responded to the call. The biggest contingents were made up of workers who are directly affected by the strike. Concession workers told me that the stadium's management was recruiting students to work the concessions.

A striking coal miner from Local 1742 of the United Mine Workers of America told me that his local had been on strike for three years. "We know what its like to see scabs take your job. We sent UMWA members to other football stadiums today to show our support for our brothers."

Ticket holders had to run a gauntlet of angry pickets to reach the stadium. The strike supporters waved signs and shouted, "AFL,



Dwayne Powell

CIO. All the scabs have got to go!" and "We've got the 'Skins; you've got the scabs!"

The Redskins' owners had tried to sell tickets to this game by claiming that it would be one of the few times most fans would get a chance to see a Redskins game, since most tickets go to season-ticket holders. Despite their attempts, the stadium remained half empty for the game.

Nancy Brown
Washington, D.C.

Proud of mural

I just finished reading about the proposed six-story Pathfinder mural in the October 9 *Militant*.

I'm smiling: Marx in Manhattan; Ron in D.C. What chutzpah! The home of Wall Street and Madison Avenue will soon have something workers can be proud of. My contribution for the project is enclosed.

One other point of concern: Please don't eat grapes. Farm workers in California are being poisoned by agribusiness capitalists who care more about bugs eating their profits than about human beings. The insecticides used on

the grapes are oil based, and don't wash off. The United Farm Workers union asks consumers to boycott grapes.

G.F.
Billerica, Massachusetts

Enjoys 'Militant'

I am a slaughterhouse worker and have been a butcher at the same place, Harris Meat Co., in Salem, California, going on 21 years.

I enjoy reading the *Militant* and try to share it with my coworkers. My daughter, who is a senior in high school, also reads the paper, especially the articles on South Africa.

We have a contract coming up in December 1988; it will be interesting to see what happens.

K.N.
Lemoore, California

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

Football players dealt a setback

Multimillionaire owners, courts, media gang up on NFL union

BY NORTON SANDLER

The millionaire families who own the 28 National Football League (NFL) franchises and the major television networks were able to defeat the NFL players' strike. They also took advantage of the spotlight focused on the dispute to try to deepen the antilabor offensive against working people.

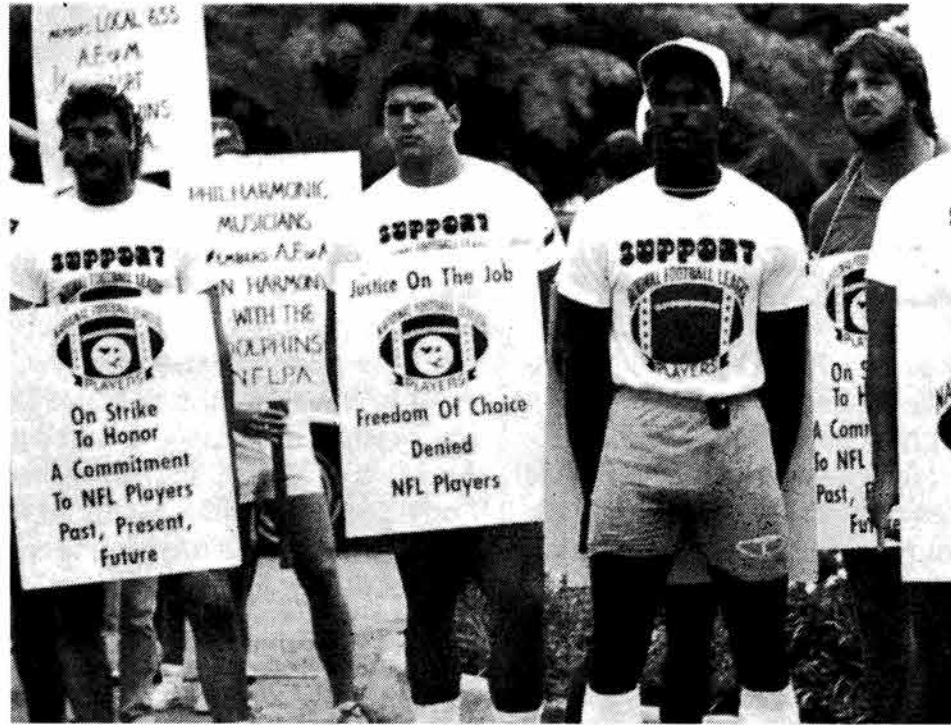
The owners refused to negotiate seriously with the players, staged sham games with scabs, and locked the players out for an additional week after they tried to return to work. Their union-busting campaign also revolved around dividing the regular players' ranks and getting a substantial number of them to cross picket lines.

The National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) headed by former player Gene Upshaw began the 24-day strike on September 22.

The union's most important demand was for players to have the right to free agency. This means that at some point in a player's career he could negotiate with any team interested in him and switch teams if he got offered a better contract. The way the system works now it is virtually impossible for a player to switch teams unless an owner trades his rights to another owner.

Among the owners are several individuals who are included in *Forbes* magazine's list of the wealthiest 400 people in the United States.

While the football business is a sidelight for them, they still rake in an average of \$1.5 million per team a week during the NFL season from television revenue and ticket sales. After meeting players salaries and other expenses, the owners turned an



Miami Dolphins NFL Players Association members

average profit of \$800,000 a week in 1986.

Hoping to tap into this lucrative entertainment market, other wealthy individuals have attempted to establish a professional football league. During brief periods when two leagues existed, the players had a little more flexibility. Many were able to get a team in both leagues to bid for their services. Salaries rose and more pro football jobs were available. But the NFL owners, backed up by the courts, quickly forced the

other leagues out of business.

Spokespeople for the owners repeatedly told the media during the strike that the average NFL football player makes \$230,000 a year. What management didn't say is that the average player lasts 3.6 years in the league and that 37 percent of players earn less than \$70,000 annually.

The television networks provided the owners with a handsome strike war chest by making good on multimillion dollar

payments and by televising the scab games.

From the beginning, the owners insisted the replacement games would count in the standings. The media paid a lot of attention to the regular players throwing eggs and shouting at the scabs as they reported for practice at training sites during the first few days of the strike.

Little attention focused on the solidarity the strike received from working people. On October 4 and 5, in stadium parking lots around the country, garment workers, coal miners, paper workers, and members of many other unions demonstrated with the players as the games were taking place inside.

But the players' support for the strike ebbed. The union offered to return to work under the terms of the 1982 contract. It asked management to agree to mediation followed by binding arbitration if necessary to resolve the outstanding issues. Management refused. After 89 players crossed the line on October 14, the players ended the strike the next day with the union filing a federal antitrust lawsuit against the owners.

When the players tried to return, management turned them away saying they had come back too late to play in the games scheduled for that weekend. Players on several teams then left the training centers refusing to practice until the replacement games were over.

The owners also increased roster sizes so that a number of scabs could be kept around, an indication that some NFL players who stood firm during the strike will eventually be out of a job.

Wash. farm workers stranded by apple growers

BY MATT HERRESHOFF

YAKIMA, Wash. — Thousands of farm workers, lured here by false promises of jobs in the apple harvest, are stranded in the Yakima Valley and other apple-growing regions of this state.

The workers are living out of cars, under bridges, and in camps on the banks of the Yakima River. They are without jobs, without food, without basic sanitary facilities, and without money to return to their homes in California, Texas, and other parts of the country.

The workers were lured here by radio advertisements sponsored by the Washington State Apple Commission. The ads promised "good money" for 45,000 apple pickers who were "needed now." They also promised that the growers would help pickers to qualify for the immigration amnesty program. The ads were run on radio stations as far away as Illinois.

"What the growers have done is really unforgivable," said Tomas Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS). "They are treating us like animals," he told a meeting of farm workers here. Already, there have been physical fights among desperate workers over pieces of bread and \$5 food vouchers.

The crisis is not accidental, Villanueva noted. "It was planned, because the ranchers are afraid of farm workers organizing. In late August and early September, farm workers waged strikes at seven different hops and apple farms, and were able to win improvements in wages and working conditions. But as more and more workers arrived, lured by the growers' false promises, the strikes have stopped.

The growers claim that, because of the weather, the apple crop matured more slowly than expected, and as a result the jobs are taking longer to materialize. But the harvest is already 70 percent over, Vil-

lanueva reports, and there is no hope in sight for the stranded workers. Those who can get gas money or rides are returning home.

The growers have campaigned all summer to create a labor surplus for the harvest. They mounted a massive propaganda campaign to convince working people that there would be a labor shortage. In June, Governor Booth Gardner joined this effort, announcing he would call out the National Guard, if necessary, to bring in the crops. And in August, the Immigration and Naturalization Service gave \$82,000 to the Washington Employment Security Commission to help lure workers for the harvest.

Today, the growers are using the crisis, which they created, to push for a Bracero-type program in Washington State. From 1942 to 1964, growers used the Bracero Program to stop farm workers' efforts to organize. Under that program, farm workers were brought from Mexico to work in the harvest, kept in camps with no civil or constitutional rights, and subject to deportation at the growers' whim.

The UFWWS has led farm workers to picket the Yakima County Court House and to sit in at the Employment Security Commission, demanding that the growers and the government help the stranded workers return to their homes. So far, both have refused to do more than organize

small-scale food handouts.

The farm workers union has opened its office to stranded workers and has helped organize rides home for all it can.

It has also gone on a campaign to publicize the crisis in eastern Washington and to win solidarity from labor unionists and others throughout the state. This effort has succeeded in forcing widespread coverage of the farm worker struggle in newspapers throughout the state. And on October 6, representatives of 15 unions were called together by the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, to form a support committee for the United Farm Workers of Washington State.

Nicaraguan militia, reservists repel contras

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Reserve and militia units backed by army troops drove off coordinated contra attacks against four towns in south-central Nicaragua October 15.

The contras failed in their primary objective, which was to destroy bridges on the major road in the region, cutting the only land connection between the Pacific Coast and the Atlantic Coast port of Bluefields.

In the early morning hours October 15, an estimated 900 U.S.-backed mercenaries attacked Santo Tomás, San Pedro de Lóvago, Muelle de los Bueyes, and La Batea. The contras were repelled after several hours of heavy fighting.

The army reported 91 contras killed in the fighting, one captured, and an undetermined number of attackers wounded. Some 20 Nicaraguan soldiers and two civilians were killed. At least 20 civilians were wounded.

Defense Minister Humberto Ortega

called the attacks "desperate propaganda actions." He reported that the contras had failed to destroy any of the bridges on the La Rama highway between Santo Tomás and Muelle de los Bueyes, although they did knock out a small bridge on another road.

Ortega praised the heroism of reservists and militias who defended the bridge over the Río Mico, where heavy fighting occurred. Twenty died in the fighting, but the bridge was saved. Many of those killed were members of a reserve battalion made up of factory workers from Managua.

Santo Tomás was attacked by more than 100 contras, who reached one of the outlying neighborhoods and shelled the town with mortars. Local Sandinista leader Óscar Abarca reported that the primary defense fell to a company of reservists made up of students, peasants, and workers. The contras also tried to destroy a major grain-storage complex, but were stopped by six guards posted at the silos.

There were only 15 regular army soldiers in San Pedro de Lóvago, which was attacked by 250 contras. In addition to the soldiers, the town was defended by local militias and a small group of workers from Nicaragua's Pacific coast who were in the town as volunteers helping the peasants in the area with development projects.

Muelle de los Bueyes was attacked by an estimated 500 contras. They fired mortars and rocket and grenade launchers at the town. One army battalion, along with local militias, fought the attackers for three hours, though one group of 10 contras managed to enter the town. They killed two civilians and destroyed two homes before the militias drove them out.

Ortega said that the contras had been defeated in all the attacks, and had fled in disarray "dragging their wounded and abandoning their dead." Army units were reportedly in pursuit of the fleeing mercenary troops.