

Israeli gov't beatings stir worldwide outrage

BY HARRY RING

In the face of worldwide revulsion and mounting domestic opposition, the Israeli government stood by its reactionary policy of breaking the bones of Palestinian protesters.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin defiantly declared the beatings would continue. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir added that the Israeli task was to "put the fear of death into the Arabs."

Rabin of the Labor Party and Shamir of the Likud share the leadership of a coalition government.

By official count, at least 38 Palestinians have been killed since the protests began December 9. The shootings failed to stem the uprising. This led to the present policy of using newly issued clubs the size of baseball bats, as well as rifle butts, jackboots, and fists.

(An Israeli daily reported Palestinian workers are refusing jobs at a Tel Aviv shop turning out tens of thousands of clubs for the army.)

A gauge of the stench created internationally by the storm trooper tactics was the fact that in the United States, some of the staunchest defenders of Israeli policy felt it necessary to voice discomfort.

These included the heads of major Jewish organizations and politicians such as New York's Mayor Edward Koch, and presidential hopeful Gary Hart, as well as writers and literary critics such as Irving Howe.

Within Israel the first manifestations of significant opposition by Jews has appeared. In Tel Aviv, a January 23 demonstration called by Peace Now drew more than 50,000 protesters, according to the *Washington Post*. A banner declared: Stop Israeli apartheid now!

Biggest since '82

It was the biggest protest since 1982, when more than 300,000 Israelis massed to denounce the massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon. That bloodletting was done by right-wing Lebanese Phalangists with the complicity of Israeli forces.

The same day as the Peace Now action, some 10,000 Palestinians living in Israel held a demonstration in Nazareth in solidarity with the people of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank.

One of the speakers at the rally was Abdul Wahab Darawshe, the lone Palestinian Labor Party member of the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

He declared he was resigning from the Labor Party in protest against the "iron fist" policy that Mr. Rabin, with the support of the Labor Party, has carried out.

Contra aid protests across U.S.

BY SAM MANUEL

Marches and rallies are being organized in several cities January 30 through February 4 in opposition to the Reagan administration's proposal to give more aid to the Nicaraguan contras. The actions have been called by local and national groups opposed to U.S. military intervention in Central America and are supported by several labor organizations.

Reagan is asking Congress for \$36 million for the contras, to cover a period from the date of approval until around July 1.

The size and scope of this request has been substantially reduced in comparison to the \$270 million the administration had indicated last fall that it would request.

The contra aid request has been altered



Seattle picket line January 17 against Israeli regime's occupation of Palestine. Killings and beatings of Palestinians by Israeli troops are being met with indignation throughout world.

Darawshe declared: "I say yes, yes, yes to negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization; yes to a Palestinian state; and yes to a return to the 1967 borders."

In the Golan Heights, an area annexed from Syria in the 1967 war, a general strike was called in solidarity with the Nazareth demonstration.

This continuing resistance is pressing the Israeli rulers toward even greater use of violence.

Responding to the international criticism, an aide to Shamir said, "We misread the situation. We did not apply enough force."

He added: "If we let this develop, it can effect the fundamental security of our state. Israeli Arabs can spread it here, so it doesn't only affect Judea, Samaria [the West Bank], and Gaza; it will also come to Haifa and Tel Aviv."

That's not a voice of panic. A qualitatively new aspect of the crisis of Israeli rule

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70,000 rally in Nicaragua to back revolution, condemn U.S. war

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) held a massive rally here January 22. Seventy thousand demonstrators packed Managua's Plaza of the Revolution.

The rally was held four days after the Nicaraguan government lifted the country's state of emergency, restoring constitutional rights that had been suspended as a wartime measure. The FSLN had

in the face of new steps taken by Nicaragua's Sandinista government to bring an end to the U.S.-sponsored contra war. The initiative taken by Managua includes its agreement to hold direct negotiations with the armed contra forces aimed at achieving a cease-fire.

Most of the money will be earmarked for so called nonlethal aid — clothing, food, transportation, communications equipment, and medical supplies. Some \$3.6 million will supposedly be used to buy weapons.

The full package includes an additional \$20 million to cover insurance for aircraft used to ferry supplies and equipment to the contras.

To sweeten the deal for hesitant legis-

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called on working people to mobilize to show that the majority of Nicaraguans are behind the revolution and that they support the Sandinistas' efforts to end the U.S. war on Nicaragua.

"The armed people, guarantee of peace with dignity," read a banner hanging from the National Palace, flanking the plaza.

"Today the streets, the land, the factories, and the weapons are in the hands of the people — that is democracy!" read a placard carried by one demonstrator.

"The people are in power — forever!" read another.

While waiting for the rally to start, one worker told the *Militant* that "lifting the state of emergency is a victory for working people."

"And this is proof of it," he added, proudly pointing to the thousands who were still pouring in from Managua's neighborhoods.

Bayardo Arce addressed the crowd on behalf of the National Directorate of the FSLN. He explained that the next few weeks will be crucial for the prospects of peace in Nicaragua.

On February 3, the U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on whether to renew funding for the contras, Arce explained. He stressed that now is the time for all members of the Sandinista Front, and all Nicaraguans, to mobilize in

Howard Beach sentence a victory

The 10-to-30 year sentence handed down to Jon Lester, one of the three thugs convicted in the December 1986 murder of Michael Griffith and beating of Cedric Sandiford in Howard Beach, registered a major victory in the struggle against racist violence.

The sentence, the maximum that could be imposed for the manslaughter and assault charges of which Lester and two

EDITORIAL

others were convicted, means that Lester will have to serve 10 years in prison before becoming eligible for parole.

The indignation that the Howard Beach killing has provoked was reflected in the comments by Judge Thomas Demakos. The victims, he declared, were attacked "just because they were Black."

He cited the cold-blooded brutality in forcing Michael Griffith onto a highway where he was struck and killed by a car. "After witnessing one young Black man get crushed by a car," the judge pointed out, Lester continued "by savagely beating another Black male with a bat."

The long jail term that this killer faces will be a deterrent to other racist vigilantes and hoodlums.

It marks a sharp break with the pattern of official inaction or outright cover-ups in previous cases of racist violence in New York City, in which killers, including cops, were either not apprehended, were exonerated, or were given a slap on the wrist.

The assault on Griffith, Sandiford, and

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defense of the revolution, and to redouble their efforts in production and defense.

Sandinista leaders have appealed for urgent international protests against continued funding for the contras. The crowd cheered Maria Zúñiga, representing an organization of U.S. citizens living in Nicaragua, when she said that, just like in Nicaragua, people in the United States are organizing actions to demand a halt to financing for the contras.

Nicaraguan concessions

At a summit meeting of Central American presidents in Costa Rica January 15-16, Nicaragua made important concessions to Washington. Among these was an offer to immediately release convicted contra prisoners, provided that a government outside Central America would be willing to take them in. The Nicaraguan government also agreed for the first time to negotiate directly with the contras over terms of a cease-fire.

In his speech to the rally, Arce addressed some of the concerns that have been expressed here by supporters of the revolution about the wisdom of these concessions.

"We know," Arce said, "that it has often been hard for you, and all our people, to understand the measures adopted by the government. It's been difficult to under-

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Some tips on organizing sales at plant gates

BY NORTON SANDLER

We want to use this column to stimulate increased discussion in the *Militant* about the experiences our distributors are having in selling the revolutionary press at plant gates.

Sales at mine portals, factory gates, and rail yards are essential

ternational in weekly plant-gate sales.

Through this effort unionists become familiar with the news and analysis found in the publications. Over time this can lead to more industrial workers reading the three periodicals.

A supporter in Morgantown,

Last fall, 18 Morgantown-area distributors were selling at some 12 work sites over a two-week period. That meant that six teams of three people were responsible for selling at three factories or mine portals every two weeks.

But experience showed that if anyone got sick, changed jobs or shifts, or if car trouble arose, the sale could fall through.

Concentrating on fewer sales, and increasing the size of the teams improved the regularity of the plant-gate sales as well as their political impact. One indication of this was when a coal miner who purchased the paper regularly began to encourage other miners to pick up a copy. At one factory, a distributor's coworkers began to suggest mines to target for sales.

Adopting the approach of larger

teams means distributors will not come close to organizing a sale at every important factory in their area. And it may mean, for example, that sales cannot always be organized at factories where distributors work.

But the benefit from strengthening the teams and ensuring that they are able to get out far outweighs other problems. Stronger teams help facilitate discussion among distributors about the sale itself. Who was interested in the paper? What discussions did you have? What is going on in the union there?

Contracts for many coal miners and oil workers expire on January 31. Several areas are reporting a good response to the *Militant* and *PM* as part of a concentrated effort to reach out to these unionists.

Many refineries, packinghouses, rail yards, steel mills, and other plants work round the clock seven days a week. Because of that, distributors in Omaha, New York, and several other cities began last fall to organize a plant-gate team or two on the weekend to augment their effort during the week.

These are a few tips that supporters may find useful.

We would also like to hear from our readers about their ideas for strengthening plant-gate sales. A big challenge remains in organizing all distributors into a weekly sale, and we want to know what progress has been registered in that regard.

We would also like to get reports on the discussions distributors are having with unionists during plant-gate sales.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

for getting to know a broader group of workers than our distributors normally talk to.

Our goal is to involve supporters of the *Militant*, the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazine *New In-*

ternational, recently submitted an article that summarized a few experiences of distributors there. They had found that organizing larger teams concentrating on fewer work sites was an aid to their effort.

Newark 'Militant' supporters win sub renewals

BY BECKY ELLIS

NEWARK, N.J. — Distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* in New Jersey have been carrying out successful subscription renewal work for several months.

We began the renewal work last fall during the circulation drive. On Saturdays, most Newark-area distributors sold these publications in working-class neighborhoods or on campus. But two or three of us stayed behind to make phone calls to readers who had recently subscribed. We always left someone with a car behind so they would be available to drive over and pick up a renewal.

We would ask those we were able to reach on the phone if they were receiving

their paper and how they liked it. We would note their responses and decide whether or not to contact them again as their subscriptions were closer to expiring.

Some responded enthusiastically without our having to say much at all. "I love the *Militant*, and I read about the Pathfinder mural project," one student said.

We asked readers what articles they liked. This gave us an indication of what articles in the current issue they might be interested in. We often called their attention to one of the main political articles in the latest *Militant* or *PM*. And we encouraged them to purchase a copy of *New International*.

Through these discussions we found out a little about our subscribers — what

unions they are in and what kind of political activities they are involved in.

Some people told us right away that they didn't like the paper or hadn't had time to read it and were not interested in renewing.

Most said if they were going to renew, they would do it through the mail. So we'd send them a subscription renewal blank. If they expressed interest, we told them about the Pathfinder Bookstore in Newark. We also sent them information about *Militant* Labor Forums and other activities *Militant* and *PM* supporters sponsor.

As it turned out, we ended up contacting some readers several times. Two readers were contacted four times. They both renewed their subscriptions and also made contributions to the Socialist Publications

Fund. Others have dropped by the Pathfinder Bookstore or attended forums.

Taking the team approach to renewal calling is especially important. Initiating a discussion with someone on the phone takes practice. Working at it collectively, and giving each other ideas about how to do it is very helpful.

Los Angeles meeting celebrates Guevara book

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — More than 200 gathered here to celebrate the publication of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, a collection of writings and speeches by the revolutionary leader published by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia.

The January meeting drew unionists and students from more than a dozen high school and college campuses in the Los Angeles region. Several came from Children of War, a high school antiwar group.

Many veterans of work brigades to Nicaragua attended, as did leading activists against U.S. intervention in both Central America and South Africa.

The meeting was held at the downtown First United Methodist Church. Literature and other items were available at displays staffed by members of Action Central America, Broad Movement in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (MASPS),

National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), and Pathfinder Bookstore.

Featured speaker Elizabeth Stone recently visited Cuba as part of a delegation of women journalists involved in a U.S.-Cuba exchange sponsored by the Venceremos Brigades. Stone told how Cubans are marking the 20th anniversary of Guevara's assassination at the hands of Bolivian soldiers in 1967 by looking to the revolutionary leader's ideas to guide them in changes they are making as part of their "rectification campaign."

Lydia Brazón of the Nicaraguan Cultural Center told the crowd that it is necessary to "read the thoughts of Che. There's no better way than this book."

Sipho Cele, a member of the African National Congress of South Africa, said, "When I first joined the ANC 17 years ago I learned about Che." He added that "South

Africa is ungovernable today because of the spirit of Che Guevara."

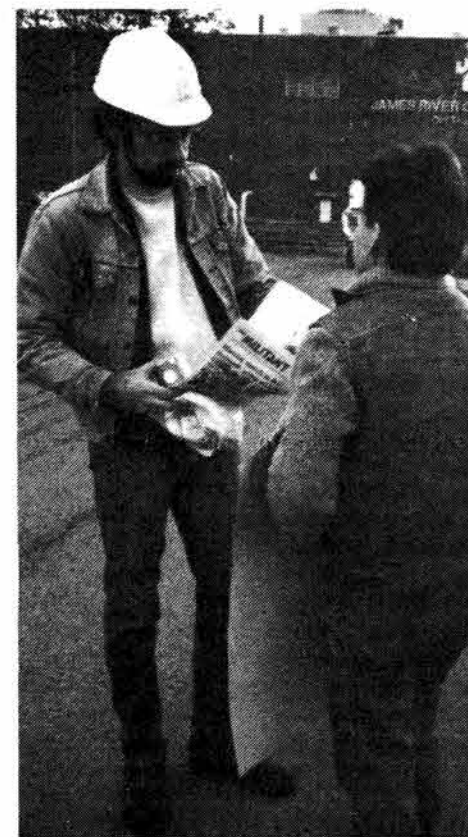
Alfredo Vásquez of MASPS said, "We can see Che's example in Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador."

Accompanying himself on guitar, Wilfredo, a Salvadoran living in Los Angeles, sang two songs about Che Guevara.

A film showed Guevara's role in the fight to overthrow the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in Cuba, addressing the United Nations as a representative of the Cuban government, and participating in a volunteer work brigade.

Chairing the meeting was Sylvia Zapata, a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union and the Socialist Workers Party.

Pathfinder Bookstore sold out of the new Che Guevara book — 16 copies — bringing to 120 the total sold here since its publication.



Militant/Margrethe Siem
Paperworker at James River Mill in Old Town, Maine, looks over the *Militant*. Campaign for subscription renewals helps consolidate gains won in plant-gate and other sales.

The Militant tells the truth — Subscribe today!

"The *Militant* consistently supplies me with much-needed information about what is happening all over the globe. I especially look forward to Sam Manuel's analysis of what is happening in southern Africa."

—Daniel Gohl

Anti-apartheid activist & convicted member of the University of Texas 16

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Gov't opens drive to overturn court ruling against FBI spying

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — The U.S. Department of Justice, headed by Attorney General Edwin Meese, has served notice that it aims to overturn victories for democratic rights won in rulings issued here by federal Judge Thomas Griesa.

Government lawyers filed a statement January 14 with the Second Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, summarizing issues they plan to raise in appealing Judge Griesa's decisions in the suit by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against the attorney general, the FBI, and other federal cop agencies.

Griesa ruled in August 1986 that the FBI had violated the constitutional rights of the two organizations in a decades-long campaign of disruption that included burglaries, wiretapping, planting of informants, forging of letters, and other covert operations. He ordered the government to pay \$264,000 in damages.

A year later Griesa issued an injunction barring the government from using the mountains of files that the FBI had illegally accumulated on the two organizations.

The government lawyers filed notice on January 4 of their intent to appeal. This was the last day they could legally do so. The latest statement lists the points in Griesa's ruling that they intend to challenge.

In the coming weeks, the appeals court will set a schedule for the filing of briefs by both sides.

"The gains registered in Judge Griesa's decision are of broad importance to political and union activists in this country and around the world," said John Studer, executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which publicizes and raises money for the suit. "Judge Griesa's ruling widened the political space for all to engage in organizing and political activity, free from political interference. The appeal is an effort to close down that space, to justify the use of stool pigeons, burglaries, wiretaps, disruption operations, and blacklists against activists today."

The government contests the judge's finding that the hundreds of FBI burglaries committed against the two groups, and the theft and photocopying of thousands of private documents, violated their Fourth Amendment right to be free from unwar-

ranted search and seizure.

Moreover, the government claims the use of informers to penetrate legal political organizations does not violate the First Amendment.

Griesa, in contrast, held that the activity of FBI spies against the Socialist Workers Party "was wholly incompatible with the SWP's First Amendment right to freely assemble and freely speak on political matters."

The government challenges the damage award, asserting that any award was barred under the "discretionary function" exemption to the Federal Torts Claim Act. The exemption holds that no damages can be obtained for federal actions in cases where officials may have acted improperly, but with due care and reasonably believing that their actions were properly authorized.

Judge Griesa had explicitly ruled that "the violations of the Constitution in the present case rendered the acts in question non-discretionary."

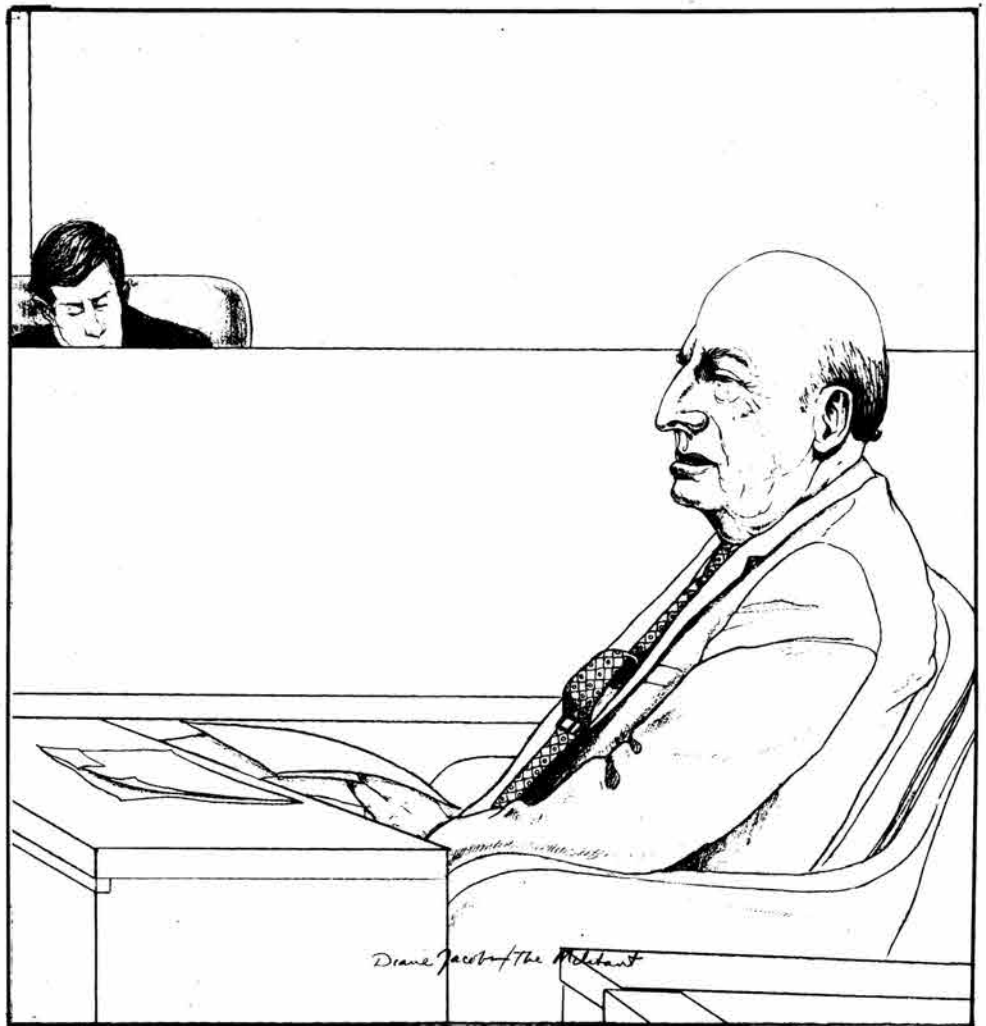
"There can be no doubt," he explained, "that these disruption operations were patently unconstitutional and violated the SWP's First Amendment rights of free speech and assembly."

Finally, the government is challenging the injunction on the use of illegally obtained materials. It claims that Griesa "violated fundamental precepts of equity jurisprudence," or, in other words, that he overstepped his legal authority in restricting government use of information from the files to target people today.

The Justice Department summary claims that the use of FBI snitches and black bag jobs against the SWP in the name of "national security" are above the law. Meese's lawyers argue further that even if some of their operations were unconstitutional, the SWP is not entitled to damages. They claim that the "discretionary function" exemption, in effect, means that even when the government violates the Constitution, it can do so with impunity.

Since World War II, the executive branch of the federal government has claimed ever wider authority to violate the constitutional rights of unions, political organizations, or other foes of government policy in the name of "national security."

The Justice Department's challenge to Griesa's rulings is the latest of its efforts, in response to the socialists' suit, to put to-



Former attorney general Herbert Brownell testifies at 1981 trial of socialists' suit against government police agencies. Justice Department then argued that all its actions against socialists were constitutional. Now it claims that government cannot be penalized even if its acts are unconstitutional.

gether a credible legal argument to uphold extralegal operations against democratic rights.

"Meese's Justice Department filed its appeal silently," commented Studer. "There was no press conference seeking public support for their decision to try to reestablish their right to violate the constitution and snoop on and disrupt political groups."

They know that the people of this country "stand firmly with constitutional protections for free speech, free political association, and the right to privacy in political activity. People don't want government snitches in their union meetings, bugging their political groups, or working to get them fired from their jobs and blacklisted because of what they believe."

PRDF campaign

Studer said that "We've now entered an entirely new stage in the case. Everything we've won in the last 15 years in the case is in jeopardy in the appeals court."

In response, he said, the PRDF is undertaking several steps to begin rallying support for Griesa's decisions. "We are putting out a mailing to the thousands of supporters of the suit and the court rulings," Studer said, "and we are urging supporters to make statements of support to break through the wall of silence that the Justice Department apparently hopes to build around the case."

Around the country, supporters of the suit are organizing rallies to explain the importance of the government attack. Rallies have already been scheduled for January 30 in Charleston, West Virginia, and Detroit; February 13 in Cleveland; February 19 in Hartford, Connecticut; February 20 in Washington, D.C.; March 1 in Milwaukee; March 12 in Los Angeles; March 13 in San Francisco; and March 19 in Boston.

The rallies will play a role in the PRDF's efforts to raise the tens of thousands of dollars in legal costs required for the first stages of the appeal process.

Coal miners hold rally in Utah

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

PRICE, Utah — Some 200 people packed the United Mine Workers (UMWA) District 22 hall here January 23 under the theme of "Whatever it takes in '88."

The rally, sponsored by District 22's recently organized women's auxiliaries, was called to show solidarity with miners in Wyoming and Montana who are on strike against Decker Coal Co. It was also an opportunity for those present to hear from district union officers on the status of current negotiations between the UMWA and the coal bosses. The Price area is the center of western underground mining and contracts with all the underground mines here expire January 31, the same day as the national coal contract.

Bonnie Aksamit and Joanne Schrecengost — both founders and leaders of the women's auxiliary in Sheridan, Wyoming — were featured speakers. Schrecengost explained that the auxiliary was formed in 1984 as part of an effort to organize UMWA Local 1972 at the Decker mine. She said that the auxiliary has played an instrumental role in the strike, including staffing the food bank and participating on the picket line.

Aksamit described the current stage in the fight against attempts by Decker Coal Co. — in collaboration with the local government, cops, and court system — to use scabs to break the strike and to bust the UMWA there. She also told of the solidarity the strikers have received, which in-

cluded messages of support from coal miners in Britain.

Mike Dalpiaz, District 22 president, gave an update report on contract negotiations between the UMWA and coal operators in this area. Two of the mines are covered under the national Bituminous Coal Operators Association-UMWA negotiations: AMAX, otherwise known as the Castlegate mine, in Helper, Utah; and Consolidated Coal in Emery, Utah.

The five remaining mines are each negotiating separate contracts. Only Valley Camp has signed what is known as the me-too agreement. A me-too agreement ties the company to the same wage and benefits scale negotiated in the BCOA-UMWA national settlement. In return, the union won't strike the mine.

Coal operators at the Utah Power & Light mines want to take the miners' pension fund plan out of the union's control. And U.S. Fuel in Hiawatha, Utah, is demanding \$2.2 million in concessions.

It was also reported that no agreement had been reached with UMWA-organized coal truckers and construction workers.

The meeting was widely built in the area, including at the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union-organized Koret factory, and was attended by working and laid-off miners and their families, retirees, and women from the local auxiliaries.

Judy Stranahan is a member of ILGWU Local 294 at Koret.

FBI spied on antiwar groups for 6 years, documents reveal

BY SAM MANUEL

The FBI used wiretaps, physical surveillance, and informers to spy on some 100 groups opposed to Washington's intervention in Central America, according to FBI documents released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Among some of the organizations appearing on the FBI's list are:

The Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Friends Religious Society, American Indian Movement, Maryknoll Sisters, Marazul Tours, Witness for Peace, United Auto Workers union, United Steelworkers of America, Molina Lara Tour, National Education Association, U.S. Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners, Young Socialist Alliance, and Socialist Workers Party.

The files are the result of a six-year surveillance campaign carried out between 1981 and 1987 against the Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

Through a lawsuit filed under the Freedom Of Information Act, CISPES forced the FBI to turn over 1,200 heavily censored pages from the 3,600 compiled by the FBI during its operation. The lawsuit was filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights, a New York-based civil liberties organization.

CCR attorney Margaret Ratner said the files show that the FBI "utilized wiretaps, undercover agents, and informants in addition to intensive physical surveillance." One informant, Frank Varelli, planted inside the Dallas chapter of CISPES, revealed in February 1987 that he was part of a nationally coordinated effort to discredit CISPES.

The FBI also took photographs of people who attended demonstrations organized by CISPES and copied down license plate numbers of cars parked near such actions. The photographs and license plate numbers were distributed to other FBI offices.

This nationwide campaign against antiwar groups eventually involved 52 of the 59 FBI field offices. The FBI has attempted to justify its illegal surveillance by charging that CISPES may be providing military assistance to popular guerrillas fighting El Salvador's U.S.-backed government.

Angela Sanbrano, national coordinator of CISPES, commented, "We strongly protest this violation of our constitutional right to peacefully protest against U.S. government policy in Central America."

Sanbrano demanded an immediate halt to the surveillance. She announced that CISPES will file a legal challenge to force the FBI to turn over the rest of the files. "Finally," she demanded, "we call for an end to the counterinsurgency war being waged in El Salvador and throughout the region."

Israeli regime's beatings stir outrage

Continued from front page

was registered on December 21 with the historic general strike of Palestinians living inside Israel in solidarity with the West Bank and Gaza uprisings.

Then came the Israeli cabinet decision to use the weapon of police rule in the Palestinian quarter of Jerusalem.

From the outset, Israel has imposed military rule on the occupied territories, but it's a step deeper into the bog to apply emergency police rule in Jerusalem, which is incorporated into Israel and where Palestinians, theoretically, have the same legal rights as Israelis.

A curfew was imposed in a district of East Jerusalem, and it remains to be seen if this weapon will be used against Palestinian towns within Israel. Doing so will strip away the fiction that Palestinians within Israel enjoy equality under the law.

Meanwhile, even after the curfew, a general strike by Palestinian merchants in East Jerusalem continued.

In the occupied territories, curfews were reported lifted in most of the refugee camps, permitting Palestinians to resume their daily trek to jobs in Israel.

One worker, Ayoub Loubad, told a *Wall Street Journal* reporter, "All of us feel sick

that we have to work for Israelis."

With a wife and two small children to feed, he said, he has no choice.

A garment presser, Loubad spends 14 hours a day on work and travel and brings home \$20 a day.

Loubad told the reporter he supports the stone-throwing protesters. "I wish they had machine guns," he said.

Troop brutality

From within the occupied territories, shocking stories of troop brutality continued to be reported.

Nancie Katz of *New York Newsday* visited a hospital in the West Bank town of Ramallah and talked with victims of the beatings.

Rajeh Mahmoud Hammad told how he and his friends were taken from their homes in a nearby village, tied and blindfolded, and dragged into a bus. They were interrogated, beaten, and then dropped off in downtown Ramallah.

"Hammad's upper back and right arm above the elbow were completely discolored," Katz reported. "He had trouble standing."

When Katz queried a military spokesperson in Tel Aviv, he said he found the story "very implausible."

Glenn Frankel, correspondent for the *Washington Post*, reported from Ramallah that striking Palestinian merchants in the town were singled out for beatings and were hit "with lead pipes and wooden clubs."

Medical workers in Ramallah told Frankel that in a week they treated 56 residents for broken bones — mostly arms and hands — as well as cuts and deep bruises.

He cited the account of a *Jerusalem Post* reporter who interviewed a furniture shop owner at the hospital who had been "beaten and kicked repeatedly in the face."

The reporter went to the lot where the man had been beaten and saw fresh blood on the ground.

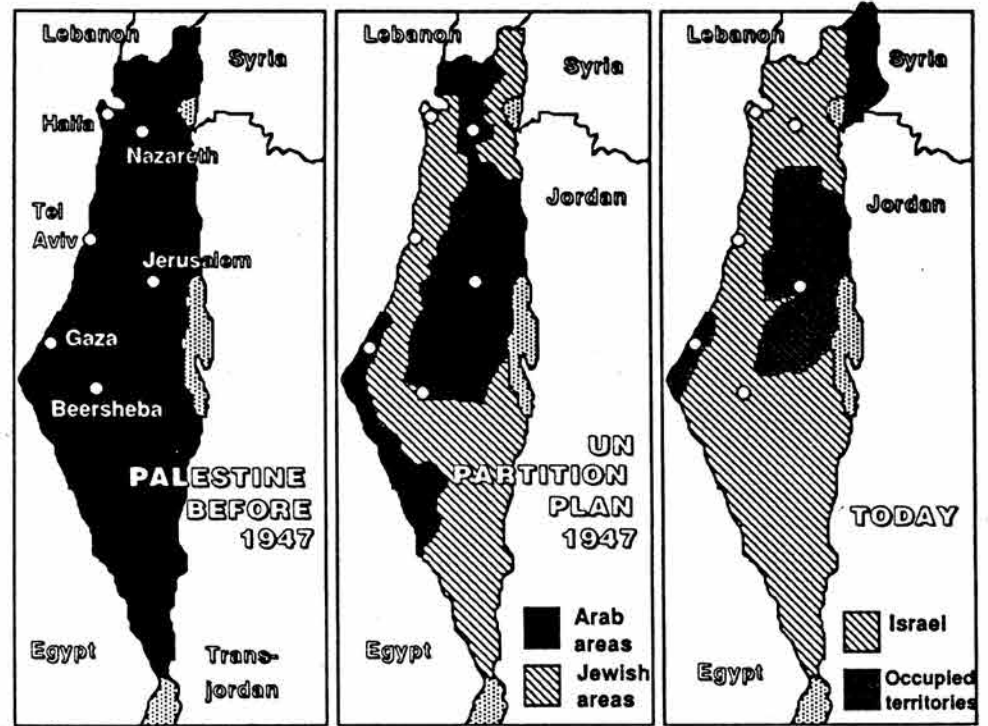
A soldier told him, "You should have come earlier. That's when there was action."

John Kifner of the *New York Times* also reported on the Israeli drive to force the Ramallah merchants to reopen their shops.

Choked by gas

In one case, soldiers threw a teargas canister into a grocery store and locked the owner inside. Neighbors finally rescued him and took him to the hospital in convulsions.

In Gaza, Kifner reported, hospital records showed 197 people treated for fractures in three days, and many more of the



Growth of Israeli occupation since 1947, when United Nations partitioned Palestine and approved setting up of Israeli state. In map labeled "Today," occupied area at top is Golan Heights, officially annexed by Israel. Occupied area below right is West Bank. Gaza is on left.

injured were not going for treatment for fear of arrest.

A United Nations relief official, Angela Williams, said, "We are deeply shocked by the evidence of the brutality with which people are evidently being beaten."

She added, "We are especially shocked by the beating of old men and women."

Williams said two men, one 85, the other 75, had been treated at a Gaza clinic for head injuries.

At a hospital in the West Bank town of Nablus, Kifner talked with Imad Omar Abu Rub, 22, a student at the Palestinian Bier Zeit University.

Both his hands were in plaster casts.

He had been dragged from his home, kicked and beaten, and taken to the site of an unfinished house where a bucket was jammed over his head.

Kifner adds: "Several soldiers held him down, he said, gripping his arms to force

his hands against a rock. Two others, he said, beat his hands with lengths of two-by-fours, breaking the bones."

False belief

Over the decades, countless people in the United States and elsewhere were under the illusion that Israel was a force for progress in the Mideast, that an enlightened, humane society was being built there. The current events, by themselves, are enough to prove how false this was.

And it could not be otherwise. When colonial settlers take over a country and subjugate its people, such rule can only be preserved by brute force. That is the essence of all colonial history.

Today Israel faces an aroused Palestinian people who are resolved to win freedom and self-determination at any cost. That's what drives the Israeli rulers to the break-their-bones strategy.

Israeli discrimination squeezes Palestinians in West Bank, Gaza

Tamara Duggleby worked with the Agency for International Development's economic program for the West Bank. In the January 24 *Washington Post* she wrote about the economic discrimination directed against Palestinian farmers and small businesses there and in the Gaza Strip. The following is an excerpt:

"The economic restrictions range from prohibitions against marketing fresh produce in Israel and Jerusalem without approval from the military government to denial of licenses to start industrial businesses or to produce certain processed products that may compete with Israeli business."

"Restrictions also take the form of reserved rights to property. The military gov-

ernment may confiscate West Bank real property for public use, and some lenders refuse, as a matter of policy, to recognize West Bank property as collateral for a loan.

"Israeli producers, meanwhile, have open and unrestricted access to the West Bank and Gaza markets. Many Israeli products are subsidized, making it difficult for West Bankers to sell in their own markets."

"As for exports, West Bank producers cannot export their agricultural products directly to European markets, except under specific approval and membership/handling by the . . . Israeli marketing association. Israeli farmers have unrestricted access to such markets."

Arab League pledges solidarity

In an emergency meeting in Tunisia, the 21 member countries of the Arab League voted January 24 to give moral and financial support to the Palestinian rebellion. And in Lebanon, a three-year siege of two Palestinian refugee camps was lifted in a demonstration of solidarity.

The Arab League acted after hearing an address by Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. It voted to contribute to an "uprising fund" established by the PLO to provide food and other necessities to the embattled Palestinians.

Meanwhile, fearful of possible contagious results of the Palestinian rebellion in their own countries, several of the Arab regimes are taking repressive measures against solidarity actions.

In Jordan, a reported 33 Palestinians were jailed, some of them members of the

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a PLO affiliate.

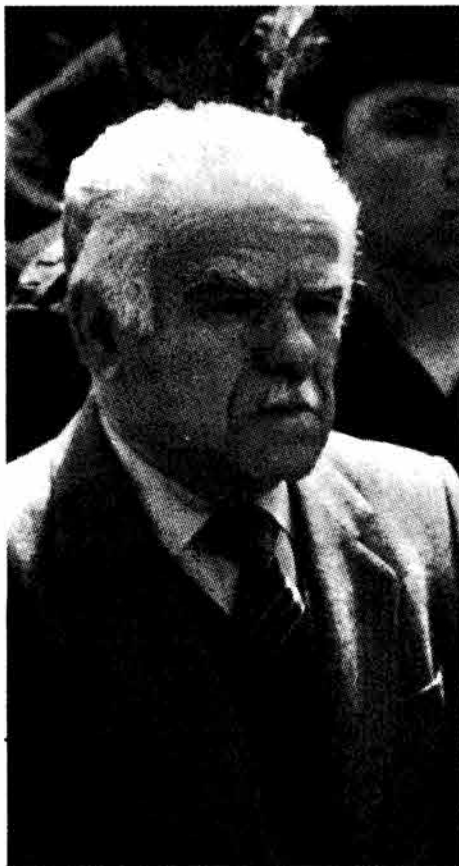
In Egypt, police broke up several campus demonstrations, and the same thing happened in Morocco.

In Iraq, arrests were made after a leaflet was distributed calling for a Palestine solidarity action.

In Beirut, the Amal militia lifted its devastating siege of the Beirut refugee camps January 20.

Amal had laid siege to the Shatila and Burj al Brajneh camps, home to some 20,000 Palestinians, in a factional move to bar the PLO from reestablishing a guerrilla base there. Amal's shelling of the camps took several thousand lives.

Syrian troops took over the positions abandoned by Amal, and there were reports of searches and detentions.



Israeli Prime Minister Shamir said goal is to "put fear of death into Arabs."

New International
A Magazine of Marxist Politics and Theory

The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop
BY STEVE CLARK

Land, Labor, and the Canadian Revolution
BY MICHEL DUGRÉ

The 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation
BY LARRY SEIGLE

Cuba: A Historic Moment
TWO SPEECHES BY FIDEL CASTRO

New International

"Revolution is the Birth of Light"

Interview with **Tomás Borge**

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

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Acquitted in federal court, union miner is rearrested on murder charges by Kentucky

BY ANDREW PULLEY

LONDON, Ky. — United Mine Workers member Paul Smith was found not guilty of all federal charges January 25, in a courtroom here. Smith was jailed in October as one of five Kentucky miners framed up by federal and state governments.

They were accused of conspiracy to interrupt interstate commerce by damaging trucks used to haul coal in strikes against A.T. Massey Co. during a 1984-85 strike. One scab driver was killed in an incident that occurred May 29, 1985.

Paul Smith was accused of having fired the fatal shot. Donnie Thornsby, David Thornsby, Arnold Heightland, and James Darryl Smith were jailed in August 1987 and convicted in Ashland, Kentucky, last December in a separate federal trial resulting from the same company-government frame-up.

In Paul Smith's trial, the jury of two men and 10 women deliberated for less than four hours before deciding that Smith was innocent of all charges.

But, before family, friends, and union members numbering about 20 could rejoice, the U.S. marshal announced that Paul was wanted for murder on state charges. Smith was then rearrested by Kentucky State cops on these charges, which stem from the same frame-up.

Naomi Rush, Smith's fiancée, said, "This is a dirty deal. I thought Paul was just tried and acquitted of murder. It was a fair trial here, but not in Ashland." She was referring to the conviction of the other four

miners last December.

Gary Smith, Paul's brother and a miner, told the *Militant* by phone, "How can they stick the other four boys with this crime, then? They are all innocent." Regarding Paul's upcoming trial on the state charges, he said, "The government really shows they are out to break the union."

No evidence of criminal conspiracy by the miners ever was proven in either trial, least of all in Smith's trial. However, criminal conspiracy by government attorneys, the FBI, and Kentucky cops on behalf of coal companies was proven beyond a shadow of a doubt during the testimony of government key witness Ervin Smith.

Ervin Smith was vice-president of United Mine Workers Local 2496, during the Massey strike. He was arrested in August 1987 with four of the frame-up victims. At that time Ervin Smith stated his innocence along with the rest. He later changed his story and turned state's evidence after being told by U.S. Attorney Thomas Self that he faced charges that carried the death penalty. This fact had not been revealed in the earlier trial.

Paul Smith's trial revolved around Ervin Smith's lie that Paul had told him he fired a shotgun at the truck driven by the scab coal hauler who was killed. Ervin Smith also claimed that he drove Paul and the other miners up to the mountain where the shooting occurred.

Defense attorney Choya Oliver said in the summation that the government "had not a shred of evidence supporting Ervin Smith's testimony." He asked the jury,

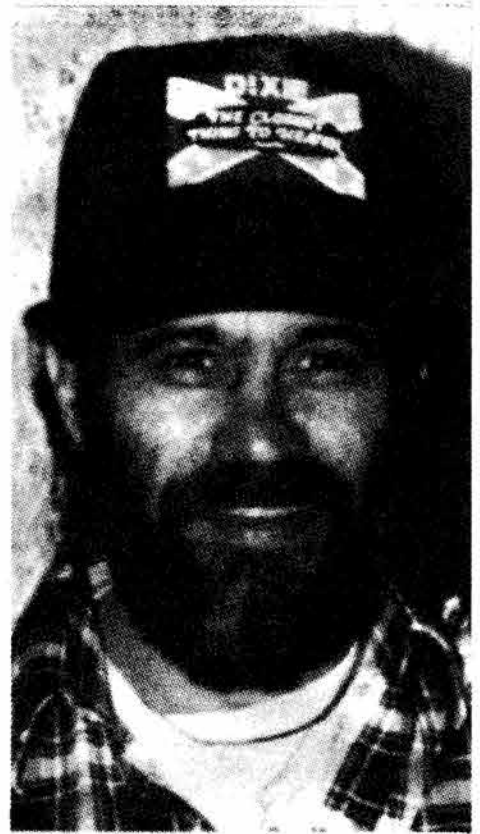
"How can you give credibility to this admitted perjurer, this admitted liar?"

Oliver further pointed out that Ervin Smith followed a script written by the government, and that "Ervin Smith kept looking only at U.S. Attorney Self to see if he was doing OK. His script ain't worth 15 cents unless he sticks to it."

"Ervin Smith never looked at the jurors, gave incoherent and vague answers, side-stepped details, but always returned back to the script," said the lawyer. He further pointed out that after concluding his testimony, Smith left the room with his head hung down and his eyes firmly focused on the floor.

Paul Smith was arraigned on the state charges January 27. Supporters are trying to raise money for his release on bail which has been set at \$50,000.

Funds can be sent to Citizens for Justice, P.O. Box 8, Canada, Ky. 41519.



Jury took less than four hours to find Paul Smith innocent of federal charges. But frame-up continues with his rearrest on murder charge.

British miners reelect Scargill

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — Arthur Scargill, militant leader of the British coal miners, was re-elected president of the National Union of Mineworkers on January 22. Scargill, who got 54 percent of the vote, won a majority in the main coal-mining districts, including Scotland and South Wales. In Yorkshire, where the largest and most important coal-fields are located, he got two-thirds of the votes. His only opponent was John Walsh, a North Yorkshire union official.

The capitalist media waged an hysterical campaign against Scargill, whose candidacy was opposed by Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and by Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock.

Scargill, who has been president of the mine union since 1982, has followed a course of mobilizing the coal union's ranks to fight the attacks by government-owned British Coal, including leading the militant 1984-85 national coal strike against mine closures.

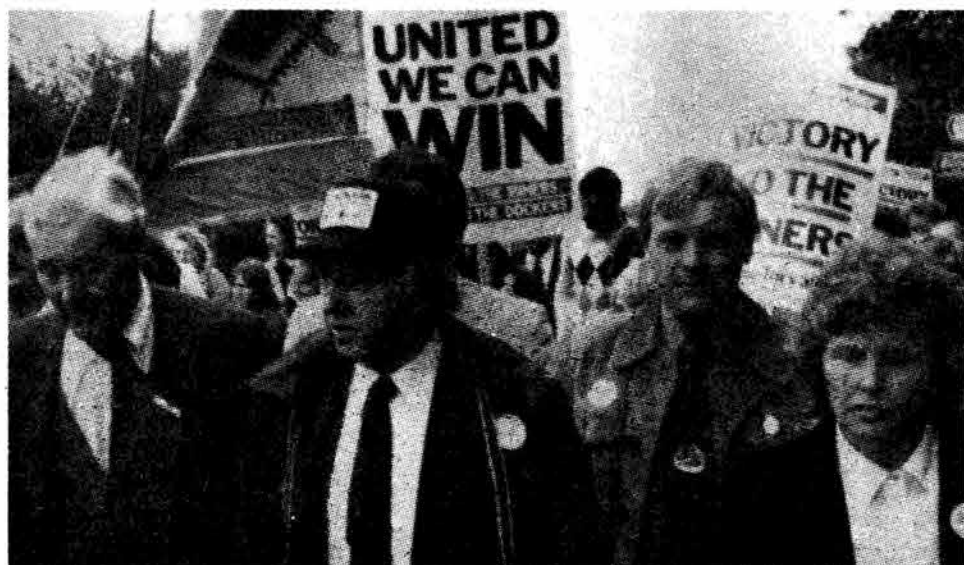
During the reelection fight, Scargill continued to champion the perspective of militant resistance to British Coal's ongoing offensive against miners' jobs and working conditions. In the aftermath of the miners' strike, British Coal has pushed through the closure of 70 mines, resulting in the loss of 60,000 miners' jobs. It has unilaterally im-

posed a "code of discipline" and insisted on a new six-day flexible work schedule in exchange for new investment or opening new pits, among other attacks.

Walsh, along with National Union of Mineworkers officials from Scotland and South Wales, called for negotiations with the coal bosses to get higher wages and benefits, in exchange for accepting "inevitable" job losses and changes in working conditions. This class collaborationist approach, dubbed "new realism," was supported by members of the British Communist Party grouped around the magazine *Marxism Today*.

Scargill's victory reflects the determination of a majority of miners to continue to fight. Since last fall, miners have been refusing overtime to protest the code of discipline. The coal bosses responded by refusing to pay the annual wage increase to miners and by staging provocations around "violations" of the code. Union officials in some areas had been undermining the union's overtime ban. One aim of Scargill's campaign was to appeal directly to the ranks of the union to continue unified opposition to the coal bosses' blackmail.

A special delegate conference of the miners' union will take place February 2 where proposals for further action against the coal bosses will be discussed.



British coal union president Scargill (in hat).

Militant/Clive Turnbull

New York antiracist march faces cop mobilization

BY KEN COLLINS

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — In the face of a mobilization of thousands of cops, hundreds marched through the streets here January 21 demanding an end to racist killings and harassment of Black people.

The demands of the "Day of Outrage" protest included calls on Gov. Mario Cuomo and New York City Mayor Edward Koch to bring to justice the white gang that raped and brutalized Black teenager Tawana Brawley in upstate New York; arrest Transit Authority cops who have been carrying out illegal arrests and frame-ups of Blacks and Latinos; immediate arrests of the cops who killed Alfred Sanders, Yvonne Smallwood, and Ken Roy Burke; and action to end threats and harassment of Black prisoners by the Ku Klux Klan in the Orange County jail.

Beginning with a gathering of 250 demonstrators, chanting "No justice, no peace!" in downtown Brooklyn's Cadman Plaza Park, the march drew up to 1,000 people at its peak. The opening rally was surrounded by more than 2,000 cops in riot gear as police helicopters buzzed overhead.

As a contingent of youth leading the march surged out of the park, they had to

pass along a wall of police. At the Brooklyn Bridge, the demonstrators were met by hundreds more cops, many on motorcycles and horses. The marchers then headed from the Brooklyn Bridge into some of Brooklyn's Black neighborhoods.

Many Black and Latino workers, looking out of windows of buildings along the march route, shouted support.

Hundreds of passersby on their way home from work were barred from subway stations by cops who claimed they were trying to prevent acts of civil disobedience by protesters in the stations. Police shut down 17 stations in the area of the march route.

Some of those who were barred walked along with the march on their way home. They joined enthusiastically in chants calling for justice.

A rally against illegal drugs was staged at one point along the route. The seven-mile march ended at Brooklyn Boys and Girls High School where a rally concluded the protest.

The action was called by the December 12th Committee, which organized a civil disobedience action in New York's subways on Dec. 21, 1987, in which 73 protesters were arrested.

Colorado union wins long coal strike

BY DAVID HURST

PRICE, Utah — After a year and a half on the picket lines, union miners have ratified a new contract at Wyoming Fuel Co.'s Golden Eagle and New Elk mines near Trinidad, Colorado. The union stood off strikebreakers, media lies, and harassment from local cops and private security outfits, explained Mike Romero, president of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 9856, in a recent telephone interview with the *Militant*. The strikers forced the company to back off its demands for concessions, he said.

The strike began in April 1986 when Wyoming Fuel, having recently bought the mine operation from Colorado Fuel & Iron, tried to bypass the elected union leadership and negotiate a new contract directly with individual miners. Company demands included: reinstituting a piecework system of paying miners on the basis of tonnage produced per man-hour, rather than the number of hours actually worked; substituting a separate, company-administered pension plan for the UMWA pension plan; cutting paid sick days; and reducing floating vacation days.

Romero explained that the union filed an unfair labor practice complaint with the National Labor Relations Board over the company's attempt to bypass the local union leadership, and called the strike to

answer the company's takeback demands. The long strike resulted in a complete victory for the union, which is now pressing for the UMWA's Economic and Employment Security Pact to be included in negotiations of its next contract. This would bring the local in line with underground coal mine contracts currently under negotiation with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association.

The key to victory, Romero said, was that "the local hung tough, and not one of our members crossed the picket line." In addition to the local's unity, he added, "we got a lot of support from other unions — the United Transportation Union, United Food and Commercial Workers, and the UMWA across the country."

Support from rail workers was especially important, as they refused to move coal-laden trains while on mine property or through picket lines. The local also had an active women's auxiliary and received a lot of support from the community, including local businesses.

Romero concluded with a word of encouragement to other workers facing strike situations. "You have to hang tough," he said. "The local itself will show you all the support it has. Unity is our dynamite. If you let the company divide your local, they will beat you every time."

Contra aid opposed

Continued from front page

lators the administration has proposed that the \$3.6 million be put in an escrow account until March 31. It would be released by Reagan if the Sandinista government and the contras have not signed a cease-fire agreement by that date.

A broadly sponsored march and rally is being organized by antiwar groups in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, February 2. Congress is scheduled to vote on the contra aid request February 3 and 4.

"It is ridiculous that Reagan is proposing any more aid," said Lisa Fithian of the Washington Peace Center, which is coordinating the action. "Nothing has changed," she told the *Militant*. "We remain opposed to any aid — humanitarian, lethal, or otherwise."

Other backers of the march include the Washington Area Nicaragua Information Committee, Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), Washington Area Labor Committee on Central America and the Caribbean, Nicaragua Network, Pledge of Resistance, Democratic Socialists of America, All-African People's Revolutionary Party, Socialist Workers Party, and the Young Socialist Alliance.

Fithian reported that the first run of 30,000 leaflets announcing the march have been handed out. More leaflets are being printed. A special poster with the slogan "Stop contra aid" in large letters is also being distributed.

The march will begin at 5:00 p.m., at 8th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue S.E., and proceed to the west steps of the Capitol for a rally.

In New York City, a rally will be held at the Federal Building February 2 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The action is being organized

by Witness for Peace and supported by the U.S. Peace Council, Riverside Church Disarmament Program, and Dave Dyson of the National Labor Committee on Central America.

There will also be a march and rally in Harlem, Sunday, January 31, sponsored by Latinos en Amistad con Nicaragua (Latino Friends of Nicaragua). The action will begin with a service at the Church of the Intercession at 4:00 p.m., followed by a march to the Harlem Federal Building at 5:00 p.m., for a rally.

In Los Angeles there will be a candle light march, Saturday, January 30. It is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. and will take place in the Westwood section of the city. It has been called by Days of Decision, CISPES, Nicaragua Task Force, and others. A sit-in in the office of Sen. Pete Wilson is also scheduled for Monday, February 1, supported by the Pledge of Resistance.

A march and rally will take place in San Francisco February 1. The march will begin at the Salvadoran consulate and proceed to Justin Herman Plaza for a rally. The rally will be chaired by Holly Rauen, wife of Brian Willson, an antiwar veteran who was run over by a train while protesting arms shipments to Central America.

Rallies will also take place at the Federal Building in Portland, Oregon, on February 1 and 4.

In Newark, New Jersey, a picket and informational leafleting will take place at Penn Central Station, February 4, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Contributors to this article include Ike Nahem, Ed Josephson, Seth Galinsky, and Steven Fuchs.



Militant/Howard Petrick
San Francisco antiwar march in April 1987. Thousands turned out to oppose U.S. intervention in Central America.

Jan. 25 actions hit contra war

BY SAM MANUEL

On the day President Reagan delivered his state of the union speech, opponents of U.S. military aid to the Nicaraguan contras held press conferences, pickets, and rallies. The January 25 actions protested the Reagan administration's proposal to give more aid to the armed contra bands.

Some 200 people gathered at Park Street Station in the center of downtown Boston. The noontime rally attracted major media coverage as passersby received leaflets and talked with demonstrators.

Speakers included Boston University professor Howard Zinn; Nicaraguan Human Rights Commission member Mirna Santiago; Rainbow Coalition leader Mel King; a Vietnam veteran; and Jon Hillson, who recently returned from Nicaragua, where he and other members of the Linder Peace Brigade helped to harvest coffee. Benjamin Linder, a U.S. engineer, was killed by contras last April while he was surveying areas for a hydroelectric power station.

In Seattle, 100 people converged on the

Federal Building and City Hall. The action was built by a range of antiwar groups calling itself the Emergency Coalition Against Contra Aid.

Speakers at the rally included Diann Quast of the Lutheran Campus Center, Donathan Cook of the University Baptist Church, and Bob Santos, an antiwar political activist.

Marchers also came from the Seattle Displacement Group, an organization of the homeless. They carried placards that read, "Money for homes, not war."

Antiwar activists have organized daily vigils at the Federal Building in San Francisco. Some 150 people attended the action January 25. Various antiwar groups have been given target days to turn out their forces for the vigil.

A noontime rally was held in Portland, Oregon. A news conference took place in Washington, D.C., where plans were announced for a march and rally against contra aid at the Capitol on February 2. Antiwar veteran Brian Willson spoke at the press conference.

Miskito leader in talks with Sandinistas

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaragua scored another victory January 23 when Brooklyn Rivera returned to Managua from Costa Rica to open discussions with the government. Rivera is one of two central leaders of those Miskito Indians who had taken up arms against the Sandinista government.

Most Nicaraguan Indians and Blacks live in the Atlantic Coast region. The U.S. warmakers tried to take advantage of early conflicts between the revolutionary government in Managua and the Coast peoples to foment armed uprisings and open the way to greater U.S. military intervention.

Since 1984, however, the Sandinista government has pursued a policy of championing the struggle of these peoples for autonomy. The Sandinistas' course of action has convinced most Miskitos and other Coast people who have been fighting the government to return home and participate in a process of reconciliation.

The development of plans for autonomous local government on the Atlantic Coast was key to this progress. The autonomy project took a big step forward last September when the National Assembly here approved a law guaranteeing the economic, cultural, religious, and political rights of the Coast peoples.

The Nicaraguan government has attempted repeatedly to win Rivera away from the U.S.-backed mercenary groups, but until now without much success. Rivera returned to the country briefly in late 1984. He subsequently met with Nicaraguan government representatives in Colombia. However, in May 1985 he broke off the meetings and re-joined the contras.

Rivera's return to the country now is a sign of the gains the Sandinistas are making with the autonomy process and their recent political initiatives.

Barricada Internacional

Barricada Internacional, the biweekly official voice of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, is available in Spanish and English. The price is \$24 per year.

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Nicaraguans mobilize

Continued from front page

stand the reason for what are called concessions."

These were difficult decisions, he said, "because the war is not only not over, but U.S. imperialism's aggressiveness has actually increased." Moreover, he added, "We cannot ignore the fact that imperialism's pressures and blackmail have achieved their objectives with some governments."

But "we want peace," he said. "The task we faced [in Costa Rica] was hard. We had to block the road to war. We had to prevent Reagan from winning support for his war policies."

Furthermore, the revolution can afford to be flexible and grant concessions, he added, "because the revolution is strong, because hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans support it arms in hand."

Discussions about the initiatives taken by Nicaragua at the conference in Costa Rica have been an important part of the FSLN's recent efforts to mobilize working people.

The January 23 daily *Barricada* reported on a meeting in the city of León attended by 3,000 FSLN members and members of mass organizations. According to the report, the majority of speakers from the floor centered their attention on the state of emergency, the amnesty, and the dialogue with the mercenary contra chiefs, concerns that were cleared up by the regional leaders attending the meeting.

One speaker, *Barricada* noted, "expressed her concern that now that the state of emergency has been lifted, government institutions might fall victim to acts of sabotage." FSLN leader Marta Cranshaw "responded by reiterating that 'the people must strengthen their own self-defense.'"

An armed people

After Arce's speech, participants at the Managua rally marched to the site where, 21 years before, the National Guard massacred 200 people who were demonstrating against the Somoza dictatorship.

There, in a brief ceremony, the year's first contingent of volunteers for the military service received their rifles from the hands of officers of the army and Ministry of the Interior.

"With this symbolic act," Arce said, "we show that the Nicaraguan people have a right to arm themselves to defend their sovereignty, their independence, and their revolutionary conquests, and that defense of country and revolution rests on the or-

ganized participation and mobilization of all the people."

CIA plane shot down

In a related development, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega reported January 24 that a DC-6 cargo plane carrying supplies for the contras was shot down the previous night by Sandinista soldiers in southern Nicaragua.

One crew member was captured. Four others are reported dead and five are missing. According to the captured crew member, the plane was based in Cisne (Swan) Island, Honduras. There, he said, about 30 Americans coordinate air supply missions for the contras.

Ben Linder fund reaches \$250,000 to aid Nicaragua

BY CAROL SHOLIN

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Ben Linder Memorial Fund has now collected \$250,000 to help finance the Cuá-Bocay Integrated Development Project in northern Nicaragua. Nancy Webster, coordinator for the fund, pointed out that this was well over the \$200,000 goal set in May 1987, shortly after Linder was murdered, along with two Nicaraguan coworkers, by the contras in Nicaragua.

At the time of his murder, Linder, a 27-year-old U.S. engineer, was helping build hydroelectric plants in the San José de Bocay area. His work was part of the Cuá-Bocay Integrated Development Project.

The project stresses training and participation of local residents in building and maintenance of equipment used in electrification, establishment of water purification systems, and other rural development projects.

Much of the funds were raised through the Ben Linder Peace Tour, a tour of Linder's family and coworkers. Contributions were also received from religious and solidarity organizations and from dinners and house meetings organized by small groups of people. "Funds were raised from all over the country, not just the big cities. We reached people who are normally not involved in the solidarity movement," Webster explained.

The fund is still accepting donations. Please send checks to Ben Linder Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 6443, Portland, Ore. 97228.

Peasant brigade picks coffee in Nicaragua

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

JINOTEGA, Nicaragua — A long convoy of coffee-laden trucks grinds up and down rough mountain roads. A handful of militiamen or reservists perch on top of each truck to guard against contra attacks.

This is a common sight today in the mountainous region of north-central Nicaragua. Most of the nation's important coffee crop is produced here. It is also the main arena of the U.S.-backed contra war.

Each year, the mercenaries have stepped up attacks in an attempt to disrupt the harvest. And each year, tens of thousands of workers and peasants have mobilized, ready to fight, to guarantee that the coffee beans are picked and reach the processing centers safely.

Major export crop

Last year, coffee exports brought Nicaragua \$115 million, 39 percent of its total export earnings. The government controls all coffee exports. Most of these dollars are used by the government to purchase machinery, medicine, and other vital imports. The remainder is paid to the coffee growers — whether private or state-owned farms — who receive up to one-third of the price of their coffee in dollars and the rest in córdobas.

Nicaragua's best coffee harvest came in 1982-83, when 75,000 tons were produced. Since then, contra attacks have destroyed many farms and forced others to be abandoned. Production fell to 45,000 tons in the 1985-86 harvest.

Recently, Nicaragua has pushed back the contras, and some of the abandoned land is back in production. The coffee harvest increased to 48,000 tons in 1986-87. The current harvest is projected at 50,000 tons.

More than 80,000 workers are needed to harvest and process the coffee. Some 5,000 to 10,000 of these will come from special brigades of city workers, students, farm workers, and peasants.

Peasant brigade

The *Militant* recently accompanied leaders of the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) when they visited one such brigade, organized by UNAG.

Nearly 2,000 peasant volunteers left home for four months to participate in the brigade. Most are members of collective farms or cooperatives, the rest individual farmers. Some are experienced coffee growers, but others planted grains or raised cattle at home.

Like other coffee pickers, they are paid according to production. They receive double pay for each 10-pound can filled after the first 60 pounds of beans picked each day.

All the brigade members are armed and have had two weeks of military training. They work in areas where contra bands operate. They post lookouts 24 hours a day and must be prepared to fight at any time.

Contras murder peasant leaders

Near the village of La Colonia, the UNAG delegation stopped to inspect the remains of a recent contra attack.

A burned-out Toyota jeep lay in the bushes at the side of the road. The dashboard and hood were twisted and torn, with a gaping hole where a rocket-propelled grenade had exploded.

This jeep belonged to Pedro Martínez and Agustín Guillén, two leaders of the UNAG brigade who were ambushed and murdered here December 16.

A gang of contras had occupied an isolated farmhouse at the edge of the road to lay their trap. A truckload of army troops passed by 10 minutes before the attack occurred, but the mercenaries let them go on unmolested. When the red UNAG jeep appeared, however, the contras blasted it at point-blank range, killing the peasant leaders.

Contra attacks

Near San Lorenzo, a contingent of 200 peasants was picking coffee on several small privately owned farms. The growers had no living quarters to spare, so the peasants used plastic sheeting and saplings to make crude shelters among the bushes on a small hill.

After the contra ambush, seven mem-



Militant photos by Harvey McArthur

National Union of Farmers and Ranchers coffee brigade. Two brigade leaders were killed when contras ambushed jeep shown at right.

bers of this group quit and went home. Others were considering leaving, too. However, after discussions with the UNAG leaders, who urged the peasants to fulfill the commitment they had made, everyone in the contingent agreed to stay.

Pedro Ferrufino, FSLN coordinator for the area, explained that in 1984 the contras had burned all the farms here and threatened to kill anyone who grew coffee. For two years, no one dared tend the plants or pick coffee.

Thus, the political impact of the brigade's presence here was even more important than their actual coffee production, Ferrufino said. They showed that with organization and determination the contras could be kept at bay and the coffee harvested, he said.

Another contingent was picking coffee at a collective farm in Castillo del Norte. As soon as the UNAG leaders arrived, these peasants spoke up and said they were determined to stay to the end of the harvest. They pointed out proudly that some of them had fought off a contra ambush just a few days before.

This land had also been abandoned during 1984 and '85. In March 1986, 32 peasant families were resettled here and given the land to work collectively.

Pedro Quiñones, a member of the collective, said that contra bands occasionally passed nearby, but had not attacked. How-

ever, one member had been killed by the mercenaries: a tractor driver who ran over an antitank mine near the farm.

Quiñones said he was glad to have the UNAG brigade help get in the harvest and that he felt safe while they were around. However, the farm itself had no self-defense organized. He hoped that if the contras came, they would just leave the farm alone if nobody tried to fight them.

Profitable collective farm

The delegation then visited the Ernesto Acuña collective farm, which was founded in 1982 when the government gave the land to 22 peasant families. They had produced coffee each year and used their profits to buy a truck and a tractor, and build new houses, a school, a child-care center, and a drinking water system. The president proudly showed off their latest acquisition: a big diesel-electric generator.

The 100 members of the UNAG contingent working at the farm reported high coffee production and well-organized patrols to watch for contra bands.

The peasants listened carefully as Juan Galán addressed them. He is UNAG president for the Pacific Coast region south of Managua, where these brigade members came from. That area has not been hit by contra attacks, and Galán praised the brigade's willingness to leave home and go to a war zone to help fellow peasants.

He suggested they write their families to

tell them how they were doing. One peasant had quit the brigade, he said, and was spreading the rumor that the contras had wiped out the contingent and he was the only survivor. The brigade members laughed at this tale. Several said that the quitter should be expelled from UNAG and his cooperative.

Galán also urged them to learn from the experience of the Ernesto Acuña farm, which he described as "very advanced." He pointed out that many of its members had been individual farmers who had decided to pool their tools, livestock, and other property and work collectively.

Gustavo Toruño, UNAG national production secretary, told the brigade it was "an outstanding example of peasant solidarity" and had a "fundamental role in the development of the peasant movement."

"Many of you belong to cooperatives and know the importance we give them," he said. (Both collective farms and farm cooperatives are referred to as cooperatives in Nicaragua.) Solidarity and unity were essential to successful cooperatives, he continued. Thus, the experience of the brigade would make them better leaders at home and strengthen the cooperative movement among the peasantry.

"Your support for peasants here in a war zone, your willingness to fight the contras, and your efforts to increase production are an example for everyone," Toruño concluded.

Sandinistas abolish special courts

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government has abolished the People's Anti-Somozaist Tribunals (TPAs), the special court system set up to try accused contras and contra collaborators. The measure was announced January 19. It coincided with the lifting of the state of emergency, which had been in effect since 1982.

The TPAs were set up in 1983 in response to the escalation of the U.S.-backed contra war. They were organized to try contras captured by the army, and those accused of organizing draft evasion, espionage, sabotage, and terror plots.

The three-member tribunals included one lawyer and two other citizens, the latter chosen from nominees submitted by the neighborhood-based Sandinista Defense Committees.

Those convicted by the TPAs had no right to appeal through the regular judicial channels. Some other rights were also denied them.

However, TPA defendants had the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty. They were entitled to a public trial, to a lawyer of their choosing, to know the charges, and to see all the evidence against them. The maximum sentence allowed was 30 years imprisonment.

The government announced that the

cases pending before the TPAs, would now be transferred to the regular court system.

This includes the case of James Denby, the U.S. citizen shot down and captured December 6 while flying over Nicaraguan military installations near Costa Rica. Denby was indicted January 12 on charges of criminal conspiracy, conspiring against the security of the state, and inciting others to take up arms against Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan officials said Denby's ranch, located in northern Costa Rica, had been used as a contra training and base camp. Denby is associated with John Hull, another U.S. citizen who also owns land in Costa Rica. Hull has been linked to the CIA and the contras.

Meanwhile, on January 16, seven leaders of the Democratic Coordinating Committee of Nicaragua (CDN) were detained for questioning after returning to Managua from a meeting with contra leaders in Guatemala. They were released two days later.

The CDN is a coalition of associations and political parties representing businessmen and landlords. It is sharply critical of the policies of the workers' and farmers' government.

On January 14 the Nicaraguan Ministry of the Interior (MINT) announced it was opening an investigation of the Guatemala

meeting. The MINT said the contra-CDN discussions were part of a plan developed by the CIA to unite the mercenaries with legal opposition groups within Nicaragua.

"According to our information," the MINT statement said, "this meeting discussed the formation of a united front . . . as well as a plan to promote conspiratorial and terrorist actions, taking advantage of the political space that the Nicaraguan government has opened to the civic opposition in fulfilling the Guatemala accords."

The MINT presented a videotape on television showing the detainees answering interrogators' questions. They admitted meeting with top contra leaders and two unidentified U.S. citizens.

In a January 18 statement, the MINT said the investigators found that the contras and U.S. participants had proposed "the creation of a united front with the aim of overthrowing the Nicaraguan government." The two from the United States who participated in the Guatemala meeting had "pressured the CDN to join in openly counterrevolutionary activity."

"The members of the CDN asserted that they had rejected the CIA's proposal," the MINT statement continued. "They guaranteed that in the future they would not hold meetings that violated the laws of the republic and would keep their activities within the limits of civic opposition."

Drug-users ravaged by AIDS epidemic

Gov't inaction hurts Blacks, Latinos most

BY CINDY JAQUITH

"To society, we are the expendables," says a 36-year-old AIDS victim in Harlem.

In October 1987, for the first time, impoverished drug users and their companions were the majority of those who died of AIDS in New York City.

Their children are also dying. One out of every 61 babies born in the city in December carried antibodies to AIDS, passed on from infected mothers. Forty percent of the infants will probably develop AIDS itself.

AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is caused by a virus that attacks people's immune systems, leaving them progressively less able to fight off disease and infection. There is no cure yet for AIDS. All who develop it die.

From 1981 to mid-1987, about 75 percent of those who were reported as dying from AIDS nationally were homosexual or bisexual men. Now, in New York City at least, the rate of new infections among gay men is beginning to stabilize. But the infection rate among impoverished drug users is on the increase: 50 to 60 percent of New York's 250,000 addicts are thought to be infected. The big majority of these victims are Black or Latino.

Neither the federal nor local governments are lifting a finger to assist these AIDS victims or help other drug users overcome their addiction and regain their health.

One former drug user now stricken with AIDS bitterly summed up the reality, as he told a reporter what it was like to lie in his hospital bed and listen to others in the room describe him as "just a junkie."

Leading cause of death

AIDS has been the leading cause of death among intravenous drug users in New York ever since 1985.

A similar pattern exists in Essex County, New Jersey, which includes the city of Newark. Of the 3,257 AIDS cases diagnosed there, half — 1,603 — are drug users; 958 are homosexual or bisexual males; and 168 are both.

Not all those who take i.v. drugs are at high risk for AIDS. It is those driven to drug use in the working class, and particularly in the Black and Latino working-class communities, who are bearing the brunt of the AIDS scourge.

These drug users often share needles, resulting in infection from AIDS-contaminated blood from another user. And they are in generally poorer health, meaning it is more likely that if infected, they will come down with AIDS, and die relatively rapidly. For example, whites live an average of 22 months after AIDS is detected. Blacks and Latinos survive, on the average, five months.

Sharing dirty needles and poor health are the main reasons for the dramatically higher rates of AIDS infection among Blacks and Latinos, compared to whites:

- Black and Latino men in New York

are three times as likely to get AIDS as white men.

- Among children who have AIDS in New York, 59 percent are Black and 32 percent are Latino.

- Nationally, Black women are 14 times more likely to get AIDS than white women. And while Latinos are less than 10 percent of the U.S. population, 21 percent of female AIDS victims are Latinas.

Until fairly recently, many articles in the media, as well as government statements, insisted that all sections of the population were equally at risk of contracting AIDS, which, it was argued, could be passed through any form of sexual contact.

But the predictions of massive infection spreading indiscriminately throughout the U.S. population have not come to pass. Rather, the statistics increasingly prove that the two most vulnerable risk groups are homosexual men who engage in repeated anal intercourse and drug users who share needles.

This helps further establish the medical fact that the AIDS virus can only be passed on by infected blood or semen entering the bloodstream of another, as can happen in anal intercourse if membranes are broken, or by inserting a needle already contaminated with an AIDS carrier's blood.

The apparent stabilization of the rate of infection in gay men is not the result of any serious efforts by the federal or local governments to provide help. Rather, it has been achieved by the education efforts of gay organizations who got out the facts to male homosexuals about how to avoid contracting AIDS. Even with this, AIDS remains a terrible scourge among gay men, and there is a great deal more that government aid could do.

Venereal disease on rise

Among impoverished drug users, the growing AIDS epidemic is interwoven with the deepening health crisis in the Black and Latino communities as a whole.

The spread of AIDS from male drug users to female companions is clearly related to the higher prevalence of untreated venereal disease in these communities. This can cause open sores in genital areas, and also weaken the body's capacity to resist disease in general.

Chancroid, a sexually-transmitted disease that causes genital ulcers, has grown by more than 50 percent a year since 1981, with most cases concentrated in Black and Latino communities. Chancroid is believed to be closely related to the spread of AIDS among heterosexuals in central Africa.

Syphilis cases in the United States rose by 32 percent in the first nine months of 1987, and penicillin-resistant gonorrhea went up 62 percent.

These are diseases that are treatable. They should be on the decline, not on the rise. Yet since 1981, there has been no increase in federal funds for research and prevention of venereal disease, even though the infection rate has shot up.



Drug-users are treated as pariahs, not given help.

While the rise in venereal disease is likely spurring more AIDS infections, the AIDS infections are simultaneously spurring an increase in tuberculosis, doctors believe. Last year, for the first time in 30 years, the rate of TB went up — by 2.6 percent. Reduced resistance caused by AIDS is thought to be the reason.

Not surprisingly, drug users who have AIDS also intersect with another pariah group, those working people who have no place to live. In the Bronx, where an estimated 50 percent of drug users have AIDS, 10 percent of these are also homeless. They face the added problem that if they go to a hospital and their AIDS is discovered, they lose access to shelters provided by the city.

Are clean needles the answer?

The number of intravenous drug users in this country is conservatively estimated to be anywhere from 500,000 to 1.2 million. Publicly financed rehabilitation programs are available to only 100,000 of these. In New York, for example, there are only 30,000 places in methadone programs in a city of 250,000 drug users. Federal funds for drug treatment have been cut every year since 1981.

The only proposal receiving serious discussion and debate is the idea of distributing free, clean needles to addicts on the streets. But proposing this measure as the solution accepts the idea that drug addiction

is a permanent condition of masses of people in this country, that nothing can be done about it. (Something can be and is done about it, of course, when the addict comes from a rich family.)

It's part of the false idea that nothing can be done about the millions of Black and Latino youth who have no jobs — disparagingly called the "underclass" as if they are alien to, not part of, the working class. Or the idea that nothing can be done about the devastating spread of AIDS in central Africa because the region is so underdeveloped.

But just as the U.S. government could — if it wanted to — create millions of new jobs in this country, just as it could slow down AIDS in central Africa and save thousands of lives there by donating some simple medical supplies and equipment, so there are immediate steps that can be taken to confront the AIDS epidemic among impoverished drug users in this country.

First of all, like all AIDS victims, they should receive free, government-funded medical care, in their own communities.

Second, the government should immediately launch and finance a massive drug rehabilitation program open to all drug users who wish to enter.

Third, possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia should be decriminalized so that users can come forward for medical help without fear.

Freedom Socialist Party leader faces jail in Seattle rights case

SEATTLE— Clara Fraser, founder of the Freedom Socialist Party, and two attorneys for the organization have been ordered to prison for contempt of court. They remain free pending appeal of the judge's decision.

Under the court's January 13 ruling, the three can be imprisoned until they agree to testify even though they repeatedly told the judge that jail would not change their minds.

Fraser and attorneys Val Carlson and Fred Hyde had refused on constitutional grounds to answer questions regarding their finances.

The action against them stems from a suit filed against the Freedom Socialists in 1984 by Richard Snedigar, a former member who demanded refund of a donation he had made five years earlier.

Fraser and the two attorneys were the first of nine defendants in the suit to be brought into court since a \$42,139 judgment was issued in Snedigar's suit.

That award was made without a trial because the defendants refused to disclose the minutes of their organization. To do so, they declared, would be a violation of their First Amendment rights.

Numerous organizations and individuals have opposed the dangerous threat to democratic rights represented by the court action against the Freedom Socialist Party.

The judge's stay of the jail sentence pending appeal to the Washington State Court of Appeals will not bar Snedigar from trying to collect on the award through wage garnishments, seizure of equipment at the party's headquarters, or other avenues.

Messages demanding that the contempt charges be dropped should be addressed to Judge James Noe, King County Superior Court, Third and James, Seattle, Wash. 98104. Copies may be sent to Freeway Hall Case Defense Committee, 5018 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle, Wash. 98118.

'Death row is the AIDS unit'

AIDS has become the leading cause of death in the New York State prison system, reports the AIDS Discrimination Unit of the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

At least 146 prisoners with AIDS died in 1986, more than half of all New York inmate deaths that year. According to the commission, about 60 percent of New York prisoners say they have used intravenous drugs in the past. Among inmates who suffer AIDS, 46 percent are Latino, 39 percent are Black, and 14 percent are white. Three percent are female.

An op-ed article in the January 21 *New York Times* described life for those battling AIDS behind bars.

Author Richard von Oesen-Boggs, a defense attorney, told the story of one of his clients, who was arrested on a burglary charge and released on \$2,000 bail, awaiting trial. Then a higher court judge raised the bail to \$10,000. The defendant couldn't come up with the money, so the judge sent him to Riker's Island prison in New York City.

Two weeks later, wrote von Oesen-Boggs, the defendant "was diagnosed

with AIDS and was sent to the prison ward at Bellevue Hospital, where he was confined in shackles 24 hours a day, even while showering. . . .

"In the more than six months since the defendant was accused, he has never been convicted of the crime charged, but has been transported back and forth between Bellevue and Riker's Island hospital. He is now housed in a dormitory on Riker's Island with AIDS inmates, several of whom have tuberculosis."

The defendant wrote a letter to the judge who had raised his bail. The letter said in part: "I'm being housed on death row. Because the inmates are faced with the fact that they are one step away from death. . . .

"It's like a living nightmare wondering if you will spend your last days in a jail cell. . . . In the name of God, help me spend my last days with my loved ones. Can you find a soft spot in your heart to hear my cry for help?"

The judge wrote back: "Your condition will obviously not be affected in the slightest by release. . . . It might be appropriate for you to plead guilty to the crime you were charged with." — C.J.

'We Caribbean revolutionaries can overcome insularity'

Interview with Don Rojas

BY LARRY SEIGLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — During a year-end visit to Nicaragua, Don Rojas spoke with us about the perspectives facing the anti-imperialist movements in the Caribbean.

Rojas is the representative of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada on the Coordinating Committee of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. He recently participated in a meeting of member organizations from English-speaking countries of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations. That meeting was held in November on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent. (See Dec. 11, 1987, issue of the *Militant* for a report on that meeting.)

From Havana, where he now lives, Rojas has been traveling in the Caribbean region, seeking to advance the unity of anti-imperialist forces in the area.

"We Caribbean revolutionaries, progressives, and democrats can by our words and, more importantly, by our concrete deeds, demonstrate to the world that we can overcome insularity, petty chauvinism, and political sectarianism," he told the *Militant*.

"We can demonstrate that we can realize the long-cherished dream of people's unity. The proimperialist forces, the rightist forces in the Caribbean region, cannot realize this dream of our people. Only we can do it. But we can only do it through our determined, united action."

"Let us therefore kick off the new year, 1988, resolved to march ever forward toward that goal."

Visit to Atlantic Coast

Rojas' visit to Nicaragua was connected to this perspective. He visited Bluefields, on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. Most of Nicaragua's Black and English-speaking population lives in that region. During his stop there, Rojas explained, he learned more about the impact that the revolution in Grenada had on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua.

Maurice Bishop, the prime minister of Grenada who was assassinated when the revolution was overthrown in October 1983, is a figure whose ideas and example have had a deep and lasting influence among revolutionary-minded activists of the Atlantic Coast.

After stopping in Bluefields, Rojas came



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.

Also can be ordered from Pathfinder, 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England, or from PO Box 37 Leichhardt, Sydney NSW 2040, Australia.

to Managua "to fulfill an obligation, a very pleasant revolutionary obligation," he said. "I was invited by the political cadre school of the Sandinista National Liberation Front to deliver a couple of lectures. We have been discussing the situation in Grenada at the moment, and the political dynamics of the Caribbean in the period since the Grenada events of 1983."

"We have also been focusing on the political lessons to be drawn from the collapse of the Grenada revolution. I am amazed at how topical the discussion about Grenada is today in Nicaragua, both the accomplishments of the Grenada revolution and the reasons for its collapse."

For the information of our readers, we publish below excerpts from our conversation with Rojas in Managua:

Militant. As we look ahead to the new year, how would you sum up the situation facing the people of the Caribbean?

Rojas. The Caribbean is in the throes of a grave social and economic crisis that affects all aspects of the material and spiritual lives of our people. This crisis is a disease eating away at the fabric of Caribbean society. Only revolutionary solutions can cure this disease.

Neocolonialism's recipe

Neocolonialism, which arose in the 1960s after independence of the former British colonies, cannot provide the solution to this crisis. Why? Because neocolonialism's recipe is to stress greater dependence on imperialism, which is the very source of the crisis. This dependency makes a mockery of any claim to genuine independence of the countries in our region.

In this context the anti-imperialist struggle in all of its forms takes on an irrefutable logic.

We have a situation of economic stagnation in every island of the region. There has been little or no economic growth. Even more important is the fact that little or no development of the kind that benefits the people is taking place.

Throughout the region unemployment is a serious, very serious problem. It ranges anywhere from 25 to 50 percent, depending on the island.

There is the high foreign debt. In fact, the Caribbean has the highest foreign debt per capita of any region in the world. There is also capital flight out of the countries.

These problems are exacerbated by a continuing problem of unequal terms of trade with the United States, Canada, and Britain — the main imperialist countries we trade with.

Deepening social alienation

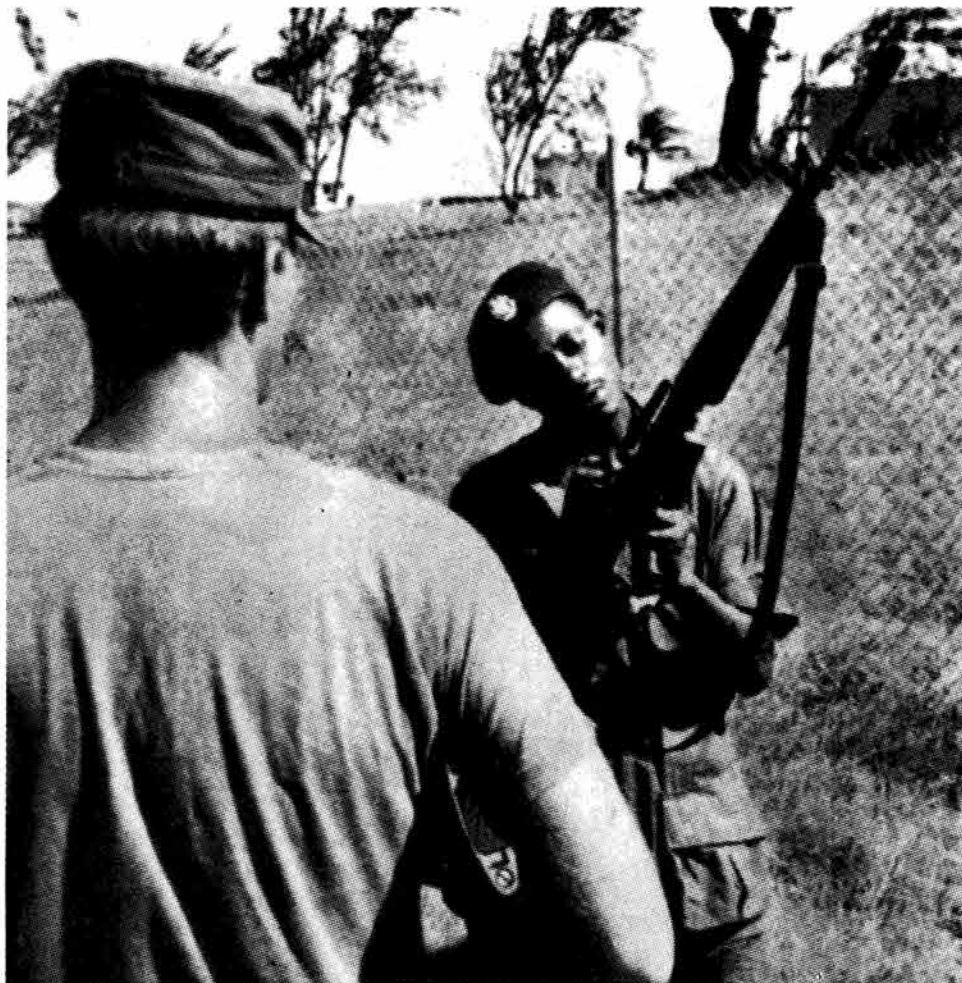
These are some of the serious economic problems. Then there are what I call the spiritual manifestations of this crisis. Some are measurable, some are not so measurable. Some are intangible.

We have deepening social alienation, especially among the youth. This is expressed in hopelessness, despair, and cynicism.

Everywhere we turn, particularly in places like Haiti, we see mounting human rights violations. Democratic and constitutional rights, which have been won by the people over many years of struggle, are being systematically eroded or disregarded.

Throughout the region we have political instability and volatility. There is a lack of moral political authority on the part of ruling governments. We see a general climate of instability in our social institutions, a lack of credibility and legitimacy in bourgeois parliamentary democracy, which was the political system bequeathed to us by British colonialism.

We see a growing influence of individualistic, consumerist, selfish capitalist values among the population, stimulated



U.S. soldier on Barbados trains soldier from country of St. Kitts-Nevis. Current moves to unite several Caribbean countries are aimed at strengthening U.S. domination of region. Anti-imperialist coalition's "people's agenda" is basis for unity in struggle of Caribbean peoples.

by imperialist mass media. We find a whole syndrome of dependency.

Militant. You started to say something about the "irrefutable logic" of the struggle under these conditions. What do you mean by that?

Rojas. What I mean is that the anti-imperialist struggle is now being recognized by larger and larger numbers of people to be in fact the only vaccine for this insidious disease. The only route to social and economic justice, the only guarantee of real independence, sovereignty, and of the people's inalienable right to self-determination.

It is in fact the only possibility for the establishment of democracy for the poor, the exploited and oppressed masses of the Caribbean.

This anti-imperialist movement is gaining acceptance by the masses in the region as a people's political agenda for the 1990s begins to take shape.

'People's agenda'

Militant. Let's talk a bit about this "people's agenda." What does it consist of? Where does it come from?

Rojas. The people's agenda recognizes the urgent need for alternative socio-economic models of development to those being foisted on the people by the neocolonial political and economic elites that currently hold power.

The first outlines of this agenda emerged out of the recent meeting in St. Vincent of parties and movements of the English-speaking Caribbean. Participants also came from the Socialist Bloc of the Dominican Republic and the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, which are members of the coordinating body of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America.

The declaration of the St. Vincent meeting talks about this people's agenda, which, it says, "must contain demands for the implementation of economic policies that emphasize full employment, self-reliance, and developmental strategies based on the satisfaction of fundamental needs."

The delegates adopted a common declaration opposing the efforts by proimperialist governments and parties to create a unified Eastern Caribbean state under Washington's domination, while declaring our "commitment to Caribbean unification and confidence in the ability of the Caribbean peoples to determine the future of the region."

Militant. In light of the nature of the crisis that you have described, how do you see the challenges facing organizations in the region that are trying to advance the struggle against imperialist domination?

Rojas. Since the crisis is regional, af-

fecting all the countries of the Caribbean, the solution must also be regional.

Many of the proimperialist parties in the smaller English Caribbean countries are pressing forward with the "unity" discussion they initiated last year. Referenda are already scheduled for Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent toward the middle of this year. These parties have formed the right-wing Caribbean Democratic Union (CDU) and are already publicly discussing the possibility of a fused political party if a unified state is formed in the region.

If that were to happen, the need would be posed for a unified Caribbean people's party, as well. It would have to be a revolutionary, anti-imperialist party with a working people's program consistent with our historical experiences, our realities, and our people's aspirations.

Whatever the outcome of the discussions on a unified Caribbean state, it is imperative right now for the anti-imperialist parties in the region to begin to increase our regular joint activity. We have to work together to help the people of the Caribbean clarify the political stakes and to mobilize them in action to assert our interests against those of the wealthy ruling elites.

The St. Vincent meeting of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America was a step in that direction. Now, we have to find ways to take the positions adopted there and put them in action around some joint campaigns. The Anti-Imperialist Organizations provides a framework for that collaboration.

Place of Grenada revolution

Militant. How would you sum up the political positions that constitute the starting point for their collaboration?

Rojas. We see the discussion premised on the following points:

First, that the very nature of the regional crisis dictates the need for joint action and a people's agenda, as I have explained.

Second, that the historical example of the Grenada revolution, which inspired all Caribbean patriots, remains relevant in its essential features as an alternative model for development in the region.

Third, that the political lessons emanating from the collapse of the Grenada revolution are now being fully ventilated and understood by the left throughout the region, and that some of the initial incorrect positions on Grenada are being rectified.

Fourth, that the climate of cooperation, understanding, and mutual respect among Caribbean revolutionaries, progressives, and democrats has qualitatively improved over the past two years.

And fifth, that previously unforeseen prospects for the left are now opening up. A progressive momentum is building throughout the region, and the impulse toward real people's unity is gaining strength.

After Duvalier, Haiti toilers fight for democratic rights

BY SUSAN LaMONT

(Second of two articles)

Building on the broad, national movement that finally gave the U.S.-backed Duvalier dynasty the boot in February 1986, Haiti's toilers emerged from decades of tyrannical rule determined to continue the fight to win basic democratic rights and to begin tackling the social and economic devastation they face.

Haiti is one of the world's poorest countries — in 1985, 90 percent of the population earned less than \$150 a year. Some 90 percent of the children suffer from malnutrition, and life expectancy in the country is just 53 years. Only 20 percent of the population can read and write; the few schools that exist are mainly church-run. Unemployment is more than 50 percent, and

formed or emerged from underground and blossomed: trade unions, peasant associations, political parties, women's groups, civic and community groups, student organizations, church groups, human rights associations, street vendors' associations, veterans organizations, and others.

There is even an organization called the Association of Minor, Innocent Macoutes, which supported the boycott of the January 17 sham elections, saying, "We don't want a return of the Macoute regime."

This group is made up of former low-level members of the Tontons Macoutes, Duvalier's private police force, which was larger than the regular army. It terrorized and robbed the population, eliminated opposition, and benefited — especially among its upper levels — from Duvalier's siphoning off of millions from the Haitian economy.

Fight for democratic rights

At the center of the struggle the past two years has been the fight for a popularly elected, civilian government to replace the military-dominated National Council of Government (KNG) that followed Duvalier. This is connected to the fight for other democratic gains, such as the right to organize unions, form political associations, and hold demonstrations, free from harassment and repression.

This is bound up with the struggle to thoroughly purge the Tontons Macoutes from Haitian society and to bring the most notorious and hated figures from the old regime to justice for their crimes, which the KNG has refused to do.

Gains of the popular movement

In addition to formally banning the Macoutes in the first days after Duvalier fled, the KNG — under pressure from continuous protests, strikes, and demonstrations — has been forced to make other concessions to the mass movement. These include replacing the Duvalierist flag with the traditional Haitian blue-and-red banner; legitimizing the use of Creole, the language of the majority, as against French, the "official" language of the ruling elite; turning the Tontons Macoutes headquarters into a school; seizing the Duvalier family's holdings in Haiti; and releasing dozens of political prisoners.

Resisting every step of the way, the KNG also agreed to steps headed in the direction of electing a civilian government. A new constitution, with some democratic provisions incorporated as a result of mass pressure, was drafted and ratified by a big majority of voters in March 1987. An independent electoral council was chosen and

plans made for the November election.

A big wave of strikes and demonstrations greeted the KNG's moves last summer to take control of the elections. Although the government was forced to back down at that time, the struggle was dealt a setback in November when Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy canceled the elections in the wake of a massacre by Macoutes and army soldiers. He disbanded the council and seized control of the election process.

The junta's fake January 17 balloting was met with a massive, successful boycott and protest strike.

Trade unions organize

Haiti's young trade union movement has been centrally involved in the struggle against the military-dominated government, as well as fighting to organize more workers, and win higher wages and better working conditions.

Many workers have been fired for their union activity by companies, many U.S. owned, that fear union organization may cut into the profits they reap by paying workers the \$3 a day minimum wage — or less.

The Independent Federation of Haitian Workers (CATH) has emerged as the leading trade union organization, with some 176,000 members in 172 unions, many of them peasant associations, according to a CATH spokesperson. CATH organizes workers in textile, electronics, sporting goods, and metal working plants, as well as in transportation.

Haiti's peasants, who face the most disastrous economic conditions, have borne the brunt of government and landlord repression — both before and after Duvalier's flight. They have formed associations to fight for their rights, including taking over land to farm, a hope held out by the new constitution.

Peasants have been among the most vigorous in rooting out Macoutes, dispensing some of the justice that the KNG has been hesitant to administer.

Peasants are also demanding an end to rice imports, which they can't compete with; lower prices for tools; higher prices for their produce; for their taxes to benefit the local communities; and for the reintroduction of "Creole" pigs. A million of these pigs were destroyed in the early 1980s, supposedly to prevent an outbreak of African swine fever. This U.S.-prompted program had devastating effects for Haiti's peasants.



Militant/Harvey McArthur

Haitian peasants have formed unions to fight for land and other demands. They have been hit hard by government repression.

Haiti's peasants also suffer the most from what has become a national ecological disaster — massive soil erosion due to deforestation.

Neighborhood groups

Some of the organizations and campaigns that have sprung up since Duvalier's ouster are working to fulfill tasks all but abandoned by the government, such as education and sanitation. A literacy campaign was begun through church channels, and a big fund-raising effort that included Haitians living outside the country organized to help build schools. Committees to clean up neighborhoods also formed, beginning to tackle the problem of lack of sanitation.

Before the November elections, "vigilance committees" were formed, often by young people, to combat Macoute violence aimed at blocking the vote.

Women's organizations have also fought against the KNG, protested repression, and demanded a greater role in society. Women workers have demonstrated for equal pay and against sexual harassment.

Army's favorite wins election

The Haitian government announced January 24 that Leslie Manigat had won the January 17 fake election, which was boycotted by the vast majority of Haiti's people.

Manigat was rumored to be the favored candidate of the army. "There can be no solution to the Haitian problem without the army or against the army," he said while campaigning.

Manigat worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs early on in Papa Doc Duvalier's reign, but was accused by the "president for life" of fomenting a student strike, and forced into exile. He lived in Venezuela for many years, where he was a professor of political science and a critic of the Duvalier regime.

less than 20 percent of those who do work receive the \$3 a day minimum wage.

Medical care, decent housing, and basic sanitation are out of reach for most of Haiti's toilers, and conditions in the countryside, where three-fourths of the people live, are even worse.

The fight to overcome the legacy of Duvalierism — known in Haiti as "Operation Uproot" — in fact also means fighting to change these oppressive conditions, whose roots go back much farther than 1957, the year François "Papa Doc" Duvalier came to power.

To that end, in the last two years, popular organizations of every kind have been

Reagan adds 'terrorist' label to anti-North Korean drive

The Reagan administration announced January 20 that it is placing North Korea on its blacklist of allegedly terrorist nations.

The move is the latest step in a drive by Washington and the military-dominated regime in South Korea to isolate North Korea. The campaign has centered on a successful U.S.-sponsored campaign to hold the 1988 Olympic games in Seoul and to block North Korea from cohosting the games.

The pretext for the move was the midair explosion in November of a South Korean airliner, which took 115 lives. Two Koreans were seized in the bombing. One reportedly committed suicide in custody.

After more than a month of what the *New York Times* termed "lengthy interrogations" carried out by South Korean authorities, the surviving suspect made a televised confession January 15.

Claiming to be the daughter of a North Korean diplomat, she asserted that Kim Jong Il, son of North Korean President Kim Il Sung, had personally ordered her to plant a bomb on the plane.

Without citing any other evidence, State Department spokesperson Charles Redman described the case against North Korea as "compelling."

North Korea joins Iran, Libya, Syria, Cuba, and Southern Yemen on the U.S. government blacklist. Under the terms of the blacklist, the administration will now end discussions that have been taking place with North Korean officials on neutral territory.

The issuance of visas to North Koreans will be basically restricted to a few diplomats associated with North Korea's mission to the United Nations. The United States will now be required to vote against loans to North Korea by international lending organizations.

Redman called on other governments to take "retaliatory" measures against North Korea.

The bombing incident is now also being used to justify barring North Korea outright from the Olympic games. North Korean officials have stated that their country will not participate unless the games are cohosted by both the North and South Korean governments.

The head of the South Korean Olympic Committee has now indicated, however, that the North Korean team will be excluded from the games in any case unless the regime confesses guilt and punishes those allegedly responsible for the bombing.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? Palestinians fight Israeli repression

As a reader of the *Militant* you are familiar with our weekly coverage of the struggles of working people around the world.

If you can read or are studying Spanish, there is a complementary monthly magazine for you: *Perspectiva Mundial*. PM is a Spanish-language socialist magazine that carries many of the same articles you read in the *Militant*.

The February issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* features articles about the Palestinian upsurge taking place and the Israeli government's efforts to repress it.

The article describes the state of emergency the Israeli military has imposed in East Jerusalem (the first time since 1967), and the starvation drive it is carrying out in the occupied territories.

The issue gives a brief history of how Israel stole Palestine with U.S. backing.

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Cuba hosts meeting on Latin America crisis

Economists from region urge action for new int'l economic relations

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Latin America's economic situation was worse in 1987 than the year before, and prospects for 1988 are even bleaker. This was the conclusion of a recently released report by the Economic Commission on Latin America. The World Bank confirmed this assessment on January 18 when it issued its updated world debt information for 1987.

The economic commission report says, "For the sixth consecutive year, the weak increase in economic activity on the continent was clearly inadequate to contain the deterioration of the economy and the lowering standard of living."

Per capita gross national product for the region was actually less in 1987 than in 1980, the report states.

At the heart of this crisis is the crushing burden of debt owed to U.S. and other imperialist banks — some \$410 billion for the region as a whole — which grew by 4.5 percent last year.

Mexico alone owes \$105 billion, although it paid out \$55 billion on its debt between 1982 and 1987. Argentina spent 51.8 percent of its hard currency earnings in 1987 to service its \$54 billion debt, and is currently searching for new loans to avoid defaulting on its 1988 payments.

A recent report by the International Labor Organization states that in 1987 unemployment in Latin America increased for the seventh straight year, and now

joined in a question-and-answer session with the participants. Much of the dialogue revolved around the international campaign to cancel the foreign debt, which Cuba is leading.

Describing how the campaign got off the ground in 1985, Castro said, "It all started with an interview with *Excelsior*, a Mexican newspaper. That interview [with Castro] received enormous coverage and it created great expectations."

"We called this a battle to create an awareness regarding the foreign debt and encourage unity," he said. "We worked to create this awareness among the Latin American governments and peoples."

"We hosted several meetings that year," Castro recalled, "a Latin American women's meeting; Latin American peasant, union, and workers' meetings; student and youth meetings; journalists' meetings. . . . This hall was filled with delegates."

"In conclusion, we hosted a meeting of Latin American political personalities. That meeting was attended by more than 1,000 delegates despite all sorts of pressures. . . . We were working with the masses. We were trying to get the message across not only to the government but also to the masses," he said.

Cuba raised the proposal for canceling the debt with countries in Africa and Asia, which also owe billions to the imperialist

strategic defeat of the Nicaraguan counter-revolution, and defeat of the United States in its dirty war, the failure of the United States' counterinsurgency war in El Salvador, and the isolation of President José Napoleón Duarte of El Salvador.

A roundtable discussion on Ernesto Che Guevara's economic ideas was organized at the conference, as well as reports on Cuba's economy.

Castro's letter

The meeting of the presidents of Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay began in Acapulco, Mexico, as the Havana conference was ending.

Serious attention was paid to this meeting throughout Latin America. The Havana conference described the summit as "an event of great political importance that has aroused interest and hope all over the region." It was the first time such a meeting had taken place without Washington's participation.

One of the most significant actions by the Group of Eight, as the Acapulco con-

ference participants are known, was their near-unanimous call for the reintegration of Cuba into the Organization of American States and other hemispheric organizations.

The summit issued a final report titled the "Acapulco Commitment for Peace, Development, and Democracy." It summarized the meeting's general conclusions on the scope and severity of the debt problem, but did not outline any concrete measures to be taken. The report also backed the efforts to implement the Guatemala peace accords, but did not condemn the U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua, nor adopt any measures of assistance — such as supplying much-needed oil for that country.

In early December, following the release of the Acapulco report, Castro wrote a letter to the eight presidents, commenting on the results of their meeting.

"We appreciate the significance of the Acapulco Commitment," his letter said, "not so much because of the explicit con-

Continued on Page 13



São Paulo, Brazil. Latin America's economic crisis is forcing increasing numbers of toilers to live in slums like this.

stands at nearly 70 million out of a population of 421 million. In urban areas throughout the region, per capita income has declined between 30 and 40 percent since 1980, the report states.

Cuba hosts economists' conference

This disastrous situation was the subject of a four-day conference of Latin American and Caribbean economists hosted by Cuba last November. The third meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Economists Association (AEALC) was held at Havana's International Conference Center.

The gathering, which involved hundreds of economists from throughout the region, adopted a final report, which they decided to send to the conference of eight Latin American presidents, held at the end of November in Acapulco, Mexico.

Detailing the impact of the gigantic debt burden and general economic crisis, the final report notes that half of Latin America's savings and a third of its exports go to pay its foreign debt.

Calling for a new international ordering of economic and trade relations, the report explains, "The current international economic order makes our countries tributaries of the economies of developed capitalist nations. The appropriation of surpluses by transnationals, the unequal terms of trade, and the payment of growing debt-service charges are the chief means for the steady decapitalization to which our peoples are subjected."

Cuban President Fidel Castro attended the closing session of the conference, and

banks. But, he explained, "We felt [Latin America] was one of the regions of the world in the best situation to lead the struggle: first, because it has a greater level of development; second, because it had the biggest debt." Cuba also took this issue to the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, to which many of the debtor countries belong.

Castro explained that the Cuban leadership thought it was possible in 1985 that one of the countries with the biggest debt might stop payment. The international campaign was aimed at creating "the conditions to prevent this country from being alone and isolated, should it decide to take this step."

Central America

Another topic discussed at the Havana conference was the efforts toward a negotiated settlement to the armed conflicts in Central America beginning with those of the Contadora countries and their Support Group, and most recently, with the Central American peace accords signed in Guatemala in August 1987.

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcón pointed out that the term "Central American conflict" is confusing. There is no Central American conflict as such. What we are witnessing, he explained, is a conflict between U.S. policy on the one hand, and our peoples of Central America on the other.

The Guatemala accords, signed by five Central American governments, were reached, he said, basically because of the

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Spain moves to reduce U.S. military presence

A new military agreement between the governments of Spain and the United States will reduce U.S. warplanes and personnel in Spain. The treaty is a blow to the U.S.-backed North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military alliance of the United States, Canada, and the major capitalist countries of Europe against the Soviet Union and eastern Europe. Vernon Walters, chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations, warned the Spanish government that Washington would not forget such "an unfriendly gesture."

Under the new agreement the U.S. military will: abandon the Torrejón Air Base near the capital city, Madrid, within three years; remove 72 F-16 jet fighter planes; and reduce the 12,500 U.S. servicemen in the country by 40 percent. Washington will also move five tanker aircraft from a base in Zaragoza to other locations in the country. Several small U.S. intelligence and communications posts will remain.

The regime in Spain has taken this step under the pressure of widespread opposition in the country to the U.S. military bases. In 1986 the Spanish government held a referendum on whether it should remain a member of NATO. Spain's prime minister, Felipe González, pledged that he would reduce the U.S. military presence if the Spanish people voted to remain within the NATO alliance. A slight majority, 52 percent, voted to remain in NATO.

The U.S. bases were established under the terms of an agreement signed 35 years ago between Washington and the Spanish dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco. Spain received additional military and financial aid in exchange for the bases.

Argentina: challenge by army officers put down

A rebellion by an estimated 100 Argentine soldiers was put down by heavily armed troops loyal to the government of President Raúl Alfonsín January 18. The rebellion was led by Lt. Col. Aldo Rico. Rico had led a military rebellion against the government last April.

Rico and his supporters are demanding an end to prosecutions of soldiers and police responsible for human rights abuses during the 1970s. Human rights organizations have estimated that as many as 30,000 people suspected of being "leftist guerrillas" were tortured, disappeared, or murdered by the military.

Following the rebellion last April, several other army units also mutinied. In response Alfonsín signed a law granting amnesty to officers accused of kidnapping, torture, and murder who had acted under the orders of superiors.

In a further concession, Rico was released from detention at Campo de Mayo, the military base where he had been held.

Rico was then placed under house arrest, but this took the form of residing in a country club, entertaining numerous visitors and surrounded by armed supporters.

According to news reports, the current revolt was touched off when an attempt was made to return Rico to detention at Campo de Mayo.

The January 18 *Washington Post* reported that during the recent revolt, Rico also sent a cable to all army units saying that "the revolt was necessary because the aims of last Easter's uprising had not been fulfilled." About 80 officers still face charges of human rights abuses.

Opposition leader arrested in Zaire

Tshisekedi Wa Mulumba, a lawyer and former government official who is now a leader of the main group opposing President Mobutu Sese Seko, was arrested at a political rally January 17. The rally was organized by the Union for Democracy and Social Progress. The UDSP was formed in 1982 and includes former members of the Mobutu government. Some of its leaders were imprisoned. Others were forced into exile.

The rally had been called to announce an agreement reached between Mobutu and the UDSP. The UDSP leaders agreed not to promote their party in exchange for freedom of expression and movement. The rally was held at Point Kasavubu, a square in the capital, Kinshasa, where some opponents of the regime had been hanged.

The date of the rally coincided with the day Patrice Lumumba was taken to Katanga province and executed 27 years ago. Lumumba was the most prominent revolutionary leader in the Congo's fight against Belgian colonial rule and was the country's first prime minister.

According to the January 24 *New York Times*, the human rights group Amnesty International said Tshisekedi "is reported to have been subjected to severe illtreatment" and to have "urgent need of medical treatment."

The Zairian official news agency said that Tshisekedi would undergo psychiatric examination because he was "behaving in a restless and violent manner, spending all his time abusing rudely President Mobutu."

ALABAMA

Birmingham

The Fight Against Toxic Waste in Alabama. Speakers: Wendell Paris, Minority Peoples Council; Peggy Loftis, Alabamians for a Clean Environment; Deborah Campbell, Leeds Environmental Action Group; Joan Levitt, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Cuban Revolution and the Fight for Equality for Blacks and Women. Sat., Jan. 30, 3 p.m. Speaker: Elizabeth Stone, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, visited Cuba at the time of the 20th anniversary of Che's death. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

Opening Celebration of Pathfinder Bookstore. Speakers: John George, Alameda County supervisor; Carlos Hernández, leader of the 1986-87 Watsonville cannery workers' strike; Elizabeth Stone, Socialist Workers Party, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*. Sat., Feb. 6. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Sun., Feb. 7. Special presentations at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

IOWA

Des Moines

Uprising in Palestine: A New Stage in the Struggle Against Israeli Occupation. Speaker: Linda Marcus, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers Local 1672. Sat., Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

Socialist Educational Weekend 1. "Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution." Speakers: Elizabeth Stone, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, recently returned from Cuba; Raúl González, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. 2. "How the Cuban Revolution is Returning to the Ideas of Che." Speaker: Elizabeth Stone. Sun., Feb. 14, noon. 3. "Blacks and Women and the Cuban Revolution." Speaker: Elizabeth Stone. Sun., Feb. 14, 2:30 p.m. Classes held at 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2 per class. Sponsor: SWP and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

War, Revolution, and the Struggle for Peace in Nicaragua. Speakers: Aaron Ruby, taught in Nicaragua from 1981 to 1986, translator for the Linder Brigade and member of the Young Socialist Alliance National Committee; Jon Hillson, longtime Nicaragua solidarity activist and co-coordinator of Linder Brigade, member of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Dearborn

Rally for Democratic Rights, Stop Government Spying and Harassment. Speakers: Congressmen George Crockett and John Conyers; Encarnita Figueroa, Puerto Rican independence activist; Raúl González, Salvadoran refugee in exile; Dorothy James, president, American Federation of Government Employees Local 1658; Seamus Metress, Irish activist; Noel Saleh, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Commit-

tee; Howard Simon, executive director, Detroit American Civil Liberties Union; Dick Soble, National Lawyers Guild, Detroit; John Studer, national executive director, Political Rights Defense Fund; Robert F. Williams, civil rights activist. Sat., Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., United Auto Workers Local 600, 10550 Dix (at Wyoming), Dearborn. Sponsors: Detroit ACLU, National Lawyers Guild, and PRDF. For more information call (313) 366-2334.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution. Ten classes on the writings and speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara. Mondays through March 14. Choice of 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. class. 508 N Snelling Ave. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Mandela. A dramatic film on apartheid. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 30, 4 p.m. 4725 Troost. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0224.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

The Farm Crisis: It's Not Really Over. Speakers: Christine Eliason, farmer from Yutan, Nebraska; Diane Shur, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

Solidarity with the Palestinian People: No to Israeli Aggression. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Report from International Anti-Apartheid Conference. Speaker: Sam Manuel, reporter for *Militant* at conference in Tanzania. Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Haiti Demonstration in Brooklyn: Denounce the Macoute regime that the National Council of Government in Haiti wants to put in place; say no to meddling in Haitian internal affairs by the United States, France, and Canada. Sat., Feb. 6. Rally at 1 p.m., corner of Nostrand Ave. and Eastern Parkway; march to Grand Army Plaza. Sponsor: Committee Against Repression in Haiti. For more information call (718) 434-3940.

Manhattan

After 50 Years of the Popular Fronts. Round table discussion on popular fronts of 1938 in Chile and Spain. Speakers: Patrick Peppe, professor of history; Louis Fishman, veteran of Abraham Lincoln Brigade; a Chilean exile. *The Good Fight*, a movie on the participation of the Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish civil war will be shown. Sat., Jan. 30, 7 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 104 W 14th St. For more information call (212) 420-7150 or (201) 433-3424.

End Contra Aid! Picket line and vigil. Tues., Feb. 2, 4:30-6:30 p.m. 26 Federal Plaza. Sponsor: Witness for Peace. For more information call (212) 964-6730.

Support the Striking Paperworkers, Hear Them Tell Their Story. Speakers: Cindy Bennett, one of the first women in the Jay, Maine, mill, member of United Paperworkers Interna-

tional Union Local 14; Rick Rush, UPIU Local 14; others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

The Case of the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 and the Struggle for Civil Rights and Justice in the United States. Fri., Feb. 5, 7 p.m. Saint Ann's Church, 295 Ann's Ave. (corner of 141 St.) Sponsor: Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression. For more information call (718) 972-7361 or (212) 927-9065.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

The Struggle for Democracy in Haiti. Sat., Jan. 30. Dinner, 5:30 p.m.; forum, 7 p.m. 2219 Market St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Support the GE Workers' Fight Against Plant Closings. Speakers: Mary Pope, chief shop steward, International Union of Electronics Workers Local 707; David Marshall, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

OREGON

Portland

Abortion: A Woman's Right to Choose: 15 Years in the Struggle for Women's Liberation. Speakers: Connie Allen, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 127; Marky Wilson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

Cuba Today: the Revolution Advances. A class series. 1. "Role of Women and Blacks in Cuba," Sat., Jan. 30, 4 p.m. 2. "Current Stage of the Revolution," Sat., Feb. 6, 4 p.m. 3. "Che Guevara: How His Ideas Live on Today," Sat., Feb. 13, 4 p.m. All classes held at 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Palestinian Revolt Against Israeli Apartheid. Speakers: Steve Halpern, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Pittsburgh

Burkina Faso: The Gains of the Revolution and Lessons of Its Defeat. Speaker: Margaret Manwaring, member of the United Steelworkers of America, reporter for the *Socialist Voice*, who visited that country just prior to the October 1987 coup. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

Solidarity with the Palestinian Uprising: No to the Israeli Occupation. Speakers: Sam Roy, regional coordinator for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; representative, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave., Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Price

Class-Struggle Policy in the Trade-Unions.

Speakout on artistic freedom

Speakout in Defense of Artistic Freedom and Democratic Rights.

Protest harassment of international project to paint a six-story mural on the Pathfinder Building in Manhattan. Join the following artists and activists: Mike Alewitz, director of Pathfinder Mural Project; Rudolf Baranik; Willie Birch; Rafael Colon-Morales; Phillip Danzig; Thiago de Mello; Dan Georgakas; Peter Gourfain; Marina Gutiérrez; Cliff Joseph; Juan Sánchez; May Stevens; and Zoilo Torres, president, National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights. Fri., Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m. Westbeth Gallery, 55 Bethune St., Manhattan. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

First in a series of classes on the class-struggle policy in the trade unions based on Larry Seigle's article "The 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation" in No. 6 of the *New Internationalist*. Speaker: Tony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 30, 1 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., Suite 19. Donation: \$1 per class. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum and Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Palestinian Uprising: Stop Israeli Repression! A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

An Injury to One Is an Injury to All. Join together for an evening in defense of democratic and political rights. Speakers: Florette Angel, National Council of Jewish Women and Block Bork Committee; Roger Banks, Mountain State AIDS Network; Roger Forman, West Virginia Civil Liberties Union; Phil Carter, professor of sociology Marshall University; Héctor Marroquín, Political Rights Defense Fund; Toba Singer, labor spokesperson for the PRDF. Sat., Jan. 30, 7 p.m. Reception to follow. YWCA Community Room, 1114 Quarrier St. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: PRDF. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Malcolm X: His Legacy for Today. Speaker: Omari Musa, chairman of Illinois Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Lessons of the Civil Rights Movement for Today. Speaker: Ken Milner, Socialist Workers Party, participant in 1987 Forsyth County demonstrations. Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Cuba's Example in the Fight Against Racism. Speakers: Tony Prince, Socialist Workers Party, visited Cuba twice; others. Sat., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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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.

They do care — When Washington vetoed a plan to convert an Irvine, California, dog kennel into a shelter for the homeless, critics were quick to call it callous. But Thomas Demery, a federal housing official, explains the project



Harry Ring

was scratched because military jets from a nearby base might have disturbed the dwellers.

He'd probably do that too —

Oilman Nelson Bunker Hunt auctioned 500 of his thoroughbred horses for a record \$46.9 million. Hunt and his brothers are trying to stiff 23 banks they owe \$1.5 billion. Of the horse sale, Hunt said sadly, "It's like selling your children."

Just youthful enthusiasm — Medical researchers found that 20 percent of heart pacemaker implants were unnecessary and another 36 percent questionable. They blamed lack of medical knowledge, not greed, for this. Some 120,000 pacemakers are implanted annually at about \$10,000 apiece.

Used only by a Sunday driver — Morticians are asking families

for the OK to retrieve pacemakers on behalf of Implant Technologies. The company has asked federal approval to peddle the used devices in Third World countries. Manufacturers, who are opposed, point out they may be faulty or improperly sterilized.

Foiled again — We thought we'd found a good housing deal. In a nice Boston suburb, a modest one-room unit with heat and hot water supplied, plus laundry room and community lounge with TV and VCR. \$65,000 and \$500 a month. The hitch? It's a horse condo.

Image-enhancement dep't — Police squad cars in several Tampa-area communities are now supplied with stuffed pandas.

These are to comfort children who are lost, etc. An official explained, "We don't want them to think all police are bad."

Imposter or moonlighter? — (AP) — A jewel thief impersonating a police officer robbed a diamond importer's office in mid-Manhattan of more than \$500,000 in jewels before fleeing, police said.

Just deprogram him — A Denmark medical journal described the case of a fellow suffering "computer syndrome" after 12 to 16 hours a day at his keyboard. Doctors said he was nervous, unable to sleep and could not distin-

guish between computer programs and real life.

They'll learn ya — A researcher found that 97 percent of school superintendents are white, 96 are male, and 92 percent over 40. "The phrase 'old boys' club' has true meaning when it comes to the administrators of our public schools," observed the researcher.

Evangelic chutzpah — Jim and Tammy Bakker are demanding \$1.3 million from PTL for dislodging them from their Tega Cay, South Carolina, "parsonage" (featuring a 300-foot water slide.) Meanwhile the feds found Bakker and aide David Taggart had drawn \$25,000 for a medical trip to the coast. Bakker had a face lift and Taggart a nose and chin job.

'Red Scorpion': S. Africa backs anti-Angola film

BY SAM MANUEL

The South African army has provided tanks, trucks, jeeps, mortars, troops and at least two active-duty army officers for the production of the film *Red Scorpion*. The movie is expected to be released in the United States later this year.

The *Republikein*, a conservative Afrikaans-language daily in Windhoek, capital of Namibia, reported, "A South African Defense Force spokesman in Pretoria has confirmed that vehicles, weaponry, and other military equipment has been made available to the filmmakers."

The report added, "This is equipment that could not be provided by the private sector. The filmmakers are paying for this assistance."

Producing *Red Scorpion* in South African-occupied Namibia with the assistance of the apartheid regime violates the internationally backed cultural boycott of South Africa. The boycott was initiated by the African National Congress of South Africa, the organization leading the struggle against the apartheid regime and for a non-racial and democratic South Africa. The boycott is one of many sanctions supported by the United Nations against the white minority government.

There are some 100,000 armed South African forces in Namibia. They are fighting against guerrillas of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, the armed wing of the South West Africa People's Organisa-

tion (SWAPO). The apartheid regime has repeatedly ignored UN resolutions calling for the withdrawal of South African troops and the immediate granting of independence to Namibia.

Theo-Ben Gurirab, secretary for foreign relations of SWAPO, told the Namibian Press Agency, "We call upon all friends of SWAPO to expose and condemn this scheme by identifying those involved and by boycotting this film."

A press release from the anti-apartheid Namibia Information Service, based in Washington, D.C., describes *Red Scorpion* as a fictitious film about Jonas Savimbi. Savimbi is the leader of the Angolan armed counterrevolutionary band known as the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA). UNITA maintains bases in southeastern Angola with the backing of the governments of South Africa and the United States.

For 12 years UNITA has been conducting a war to overthrow the Angolan government of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). Last November the South African regime sent thousands of heavily armed troops into southern Angola in order to prevent a major defeat of UNITA by the Angolan army. South African troops remain in Angola today. UNITA also receives about \$15 million a year in military aid from Washington.

The apartheid regime and its supporters in the United States have made the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola and Namibia conditional upon the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Cuban internationalist troops came to Angola at the request of the Angolan government in 1975, and were decisive in helping to defeat an invasion by the South African army.

The U.S. producer of *Red Scorpion*, Jack Abramoff, says the film will cost around \$8 million to complete. Namibians hired as extras for the film are paid \$18 per day for adults and \$5 per day for children under the age of 14.

The movie's plot?

Dolph Lundgren plays the role of a Soviet agent sent to assassinate an African "resistance" leader named Sundata. According to Abramoff, in the course of his mission the agent concludes that "outside forces" in Africa are doing more harm than good so the agent defects to Sundata.

The producer claims that *Red Scorpion* is not intended as a political statement. Referring to the film as similar to movies such as *Rambo*, Abramoff described *Red Scorpion* as just "Hollywood entertainment."

But Abramoff is also executive director of the International Freedom Foundation that has branches in Israel and South Africa. According to the Namibian Information Service, the foundation purchased ad space in the right-wing *Washington Times* last year protesting the visit to Washington of Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress.

Red Scorpion is directed by Joe Zito, who also directed *Friday the 13* and *Invasion USA*. Its actors include Emmet Walsh, Al White, and Brian James who appeared in the movies *Missing in Action*, *Airplane*, and *Bladerunner* respectively. The screenplay is written by Arnie Olson.



South African troops in southern Angola, where they are backed by Jonas Savimbi's right-wing terrorists. Savimbi-type figure is a hero in U.S. film being made in South African-occupied country of Namibia.

Cuba hosts meeting

Continued from Page 11

tent of its decisions but because of the thrust that propels them and the political roots that give rise to them. We could wish for more forceful decisions on some of the problems examined, more dynamic stands on others, but more important than that is the agreement reflected in the document....

Referring to the call for Cuba's reintegration into regional bodies, Castro said such calls "point to the changes that have occurred on the continent since the unfortunate days when Cuba was removed from the Organization of American States."

"The document," the letter said, "makes a succinct analysis — with which we, however, agree — of the main contemporary problems, particularly those that make Latin America and the Caribbean a continent which instead of going forward is going backward.... Hence, this is not a time to look into differences but to confirm common stands. This is what I would like to convey to you in this letter, in the name of the Cuban people and their revolution."

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.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25c
Feb. 3, 1978

North Carolina Gov. James Hunt's refusal to free the Wilmington 10 should be answered with redoubled demands for the immediate release of the civil rights activists.

In his television address, Hunt had the nerve to state there had been "a fair trial," although all of the government's main witnesses have recanted under oath, describing how authorities bribed and blackmailed them into giving false testimony.

This case has become a symbol of the American system of frame-ups and has sparked protests around the world.

The Wilmington 10 are not criminals. Amnesty International calls them "prisoners of conscience." Their real "crime" is that they participated in struggles to end school segregation and white vigilante attacks.

In their six-year fight for freedom the 10 have gone before every possible court, but they have found no justice. President James Carter claims great concern about human rights, but he has refused even to comment on the case, much less free these activists.



BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — The local chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and Young Socialist Alliance face a grand jury probe here. The threatened

move stems from events when the Cuban crisis was at its height and an Ad Hoc Committee to Oppose U.S. Aggression was formed by University of Indiana students.

Its widely publicized demonstration on October 24 infuriated rightist elements of the town and university. Twenty-two "ad hocers," as they are now called, were forced in the course of their demonstration to abandon their march to downtown Bloomington after all their signs had been destroyed by a howling mob of several thousand students, sprinkled with Birchites from town.

Some of the antiwar demonstrators — both men and women — were kicked, slugged, struck by rocks, and knocked to the ground by the hysterical mob.

Slogans on the placards destroyed by the mob condemned the U.S. blockade, called for an end to the trade embargo against Cuba and the removal of U.S. bases from foreign soil, urged negotiations instead of intimidation, condemned Kennedy's actions and threats against Cuba's sovereignty, and stressed the necessity for peace.

During the demonstration, two members of the mob were arrested — one for striking a policeman and the other for striking a demonstrator. Their cases were due to come up in Bloomington City Court February 1. But on January 15 a local paper announced that criminal proceedings against the two offenders had been dropped by Prosecutor-elect Thomas Hoadley "to clear the way for a full investigation."

The target of Hoadley's "full investigation" will be the FPCC and YSA. He said the grand jury's interest in the demonstration will be "centered around" determining whether these campus organizations "were deliberately inciting riot and if it was done as a provocation."

New threats to abortion rights

Women's right to choose abortion was dealt a blow January 22 when the British House of Commons passed a bill lowering the maximum time limit for the procedure in Britain from 28 to 18 weeks. The bill was introduced by Liberal Party Member of Parliament David Alton.

Very few abortions are actually performed as late as even 18 weeks, although some must necessarily occur even later for medical reasons. The main danger posed by the new restriction is that government red tape will keep some women who seek abortion tied up past the reduced legal time limit, especially those who are young, poor, from Ireland, or who have medical complications. Equally important, the House of Commons vote opens the door to even further restrictions being enacted.

The January 22 vote in Britain's Parliament marked the 14th attempt to change or get rid of this law, which has been defended not only by women's and abortion rights organizations, but by the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party since it was enacted in 1967. A Fight the Alton Bill Campaign has been launched to work to defeat this bill when it comes to a final vote in Parliament.

A similar effort is required in the United States to protest President Ronald Reagan's confirmation January 20 that he will issue regulations prohibiting abortions and abortion counseling by family planning programs and clinics that receive federal funds.

Like other restrictions on the 1973 Supreme Court de-

cision legalizing abortion that have been enacted over the past 15 years — from limiting access by minors to cutting off Medicaid funds for abortion — these regulations will hit working-class women, especially Blacks and Latinas, and young women the hardest.

Last year \$142.5 million in federal funds went for family planning programs and related services. Some 4.3 million people were reached through 3,900 clinics — many of which receive most of their funding from the government. Planned Parenthood and an association representing the clinics that will be affected plan a legal challenge to the new regulations. This effort needs visible, public backing from women's groups, trade unions, civil rights organizations, students, and all those with a stake in defending women's rights.

Reagan and the so-called "right to life" who gather in Washington, D.C., each January 22 on the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision are soul mates of the British Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, the group that's been beating the drums for the Alton bill. Both try to hide their opposition to women's right to control their own lives under the contrived fiction of "fetal rights." Proposing time limits for abortion is aimed at giving this bogus idea legitimacy. The simple truth is that abortion is a woman's right to choose. Any restrictions undermine the gains women, and all working people, have won with the conquest of this basic human freedom.

Racism and the right to travel

Elvis Gardin and Anthony Bengivenga are two young New Jersey residents who wanted to spend their New Year's holidays in Britain. Gardin, a musician, hoped to play tapes of his music for people involved in rock music.

They didn't make it. They were detained by British immigration cops at Gatwick Airport, near London, and held for about nine hours. Gardin, who is Black, was strip-searched.

When the travelers offered to leave for the Netherlands, the officials refused, claiming that the two men might try to slip back into Britain. Finally, Gardin and Bengivenga were deported to the United States, after being told they were suspected of seeking employment in Britain. Their passports were stamped with a notation that they had been refused entry.

"It was a terrible experience," Gardin told a Newark *Star Ledger* reporter. "The people were very, very rude and arrogant. . . . They threatened to arrest us if we raised our voices."

It's not an unusual story. The capitalist governments in Western Europe and North America are tightening the screws on the democratic right to travel and imposing new immigration restrictions. Immigration officials are being given the green light to step up harassment and even brutalization of would-be visitors and immigrants.

Working people are prime targets, especially Blacks, Latinos, and people from Third World countries. The racist attitudes and practices that pervade the immigration setups in the United States, Canada, and European countries are being strongly reinforced.

The harassment of Gardin and Bengivenga by British immigration cops was reminiscent of what happened last September to Mac Warren, a leader of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party, when he attempted to visit Montreal, Canada.

Warren was detained by customs officials and immigration cops at the airport. He was subjected to questioning and his luggage was searched, although there was no evidence that anything was improper about his visit. All that distinguished Warren from others who were going through customs without incident was that he is Black.

After the initial search turned up items indicating that Warren was a supporter of the SWP, the cops' act of racist discrimination turned into a political witch-hunt as well.

When U.S. and Canadian cops finally allowed Warren to take a plane returning to the United States, they tried to smear him in the presence of other passengers as a drug dealer.

In the face of broad protests by U.S. and Canadian supporters of civil liberties, the Canadian immigration officials permitted Warren to enter Canada five days later. But they have stood by a fabricated version of the incident, refusing to permit Warren's attorneys to examine the files on the incident and even withholding the names of the officers who harassed him.

In a letter to a Canadian member of Parliament who raised questions about the case, Gerry Weiner of the office of the Minister of State for Immigration not only upheld Warren's exclusion from Canada on September 19, but suggested that his subsequent admission on September 24 was a mistake by a customs official who "inadvertently" ignored a "lookout" on Warren issued by the immigration office.

The violations of the basic rights of Warren, Gardin, Bengivenga, and countless others highlight the fact that the fight for the right to travel is a key battlefield in the fight for democratic rights. All attacks on that right should be strongly protested.

Howard Beach sentence a victory

Continued from front page

Timothy Grimes — who got away — attracted national and worldwide attention. The verdict, likewise, will have a broad impact, raising the confidence of Blacks and all working people and throwing the racists still more on the defensive.

The next steps in the struggle against racist violence include demanding that the maximum sentence be imposed on the two Howard Beach killers convicted along with Lester, and winning conviction and maximum jail terms for those participants in the lynching who face trial on lesser charges.

And justice also needs to be fought for in other cases of racist violence.

The four thugs currently on trial for fatally beating and stabbing 20-year-old Samuel Spencer in Coney Island in May 1986 must also be put away for long terms. Douglas Mackey recently pleaded guilty and turned state's evidence against the other murderers in early January in exchange for a sentence of 18 months to four and a half years.

A second killer, Frank Casavilla, has pleaded guilty January 25 to second-degree murder charges that will carry a minimum of 15 years in prison before eligibility for parole.

The heat should be kept on to make sure that all the killers are convicted and jailed.

The demand for justice for Sylvester and Steven La-

Mont, two Black men who were savagely beaten by a gang in Bath Beach, a white enclave in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, should be stepped up. Two of the thugs have been arrested and charged, but officials and cops are stalling on arresting the others and prosecuting all to the limit.

Foes of racist violence should also support the fight for justice for Tawana Brawley, a Black teenager abducted and sexually assaulted November 28 in Wappingers Falls, New York, by six white men. They scrawled "nigger" and "KKK" on her body.

Demands from across the state have forced Gov. Mario Cuomo to appoint a special prosecutor, taking the case out of the hands of local officials who were carrying out a cover-up. State officials, however, are still trying to squirm out of apprehending and prosecuting all involved in the attack.

The response to the Howard Beach and other attacks highlights the fact that working people, in their overwhelming majority, oppose such racist attacks and expect cops and elected officials to put a stop to them.

The actions that have taken place so far show the potential that exists for bigger and broader antiracist mobilizations that can reach out to involve more unions, community organizations, and high school and college students in demanding that the state and city administrations come down hard on racist thugs.

Che Guevara and voluntary work in Cuba

BY DOUG JENNESS

Last week I described the role of volunteer labor in the early years of the Russian revolution and the importance that its most prominent leader, V.I. Lenin, put on it.

This promising beginning was cut off, however, following Lenin's death in 1924, with the rise and consolidation of a privileged bureaucratic caste in the Soviet Union. This social formation usurped political power

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

from the workers and peasants and stifled all measures that would develop the self-confidence and deepen the political understanding of working people.

Voluntary labor was corrupted and incorporated into repressive policies designed to squeeze more work out of workers. This was combined with a heavy emphasis on awarding bonuses for individual achievements, which tended to reinforce wage inequalities in the working class and self-seeking attitudes toward work that survived from the capitalist era.

In 1959, when Cuba's working people overthrew the U.S.-dominated capitalist regime in their country with a revolutionary leadership, a new opportunity arose to begin working through the problems of a transition to a communist society.

In Cuba, as in Soviet Russia under Lenin's leadership, voluntary labor has played an important role. In the 1960s, brigades of volunteers were organized to help harvest sugar cane, build housing, and carry out many other projects. Among those in the forefront leading this effort was Ernesto Che Guevara, one of the foremost leaders of the Cuban revolution until his murder in Bolivia in 1967.

A recently published book, *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* (Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia, Sydney, 1987), includes writings and speeches by Guevara on this and other topics. This book is by far the best selection of Che's writings to appear in English and deserves to be read and studied by all revolutionary-minded workers.

When Guevara was head of the Ministry of Industry in the early 1960s, he helped draft a declaration on voluntary work. He presented it at a meeting celebrating the gains made by volunteer workers in 1964.

The declaration pointed out that "under socialism, the steady increase in producing material goods ensures the maximum satisfaction of society's constantly growing needs, and that undertaking requires the workers' enthusiastic and decisive participation."

This entails political understanding and a commitment to a social cause greater than one's individual needs. Voluntary work "is the example of men who love the proletarian cause and subordinate their periods of rest and recreation to that cause to selflessly fulfill the revolution's tasks," the declaration stated.

It "is a school that creates consciousness. It is an effort made in society and for society as an individual or collective contribution, and it shapes that high level of consciousness that allows us to speed up the transition toward communism."

In an article written in 1965, Guevara pointed out that for us to fully realize ourselves as human beings, "work must acquire a new status. Man-as-a-commodity ceases to exist, and a system is installed that establishes a quota for the fulfillment of his social duty. The means of production belong to society, and the machine is merely the trench where duty is fulfilled."

"Man," he continued, "begins to free his thinking of the annoying fact that he needs to work to satisfy his animal needs. He starts to see himself reflected in his work and to understand his full stature as a human being through the object created, through the work accomplished. Work no longer entails surrendering a part of his being in the form of labor power sold, which no longer belongs to him, but represents an emanation of himself, a contribution to the common life in which he is reflected, the fulfillment of his social duty."

Guevara explained that in Cuba they had taken the first small steps to give work this new status, both by developing technology and by voluntary work.

"Of course, there are still coercive aspects to work," he noted, "even when it is voluntary."

A worker still needs "to undergo a complete spiritual rebirth in his attitude toward his own work, freed from the direct pressure of his social environment, though linked to it by his new habits. That will be communism."

In the 1970s volunteer work brigades were allowed to lapse in Cuba as planning mechanisms were increasingly relied upon to develop the economy.

The Cuban Communist Party leadership says today that this was an error and was detrimental to advancing the revolution. As part of an effort to draw the working class more fully into assuming greater control over the administration and leadership of their country and its economic course, voluntary work has been revived. "The minibrigades . . . are now rising again from their ashes like a phoenix," Cuban President Fidel Castro says. They are demonstrating that "the revolutionary path" is the means for solving problems.

Sharpton exposé: stakes for N.Y. antiracist fight

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK — "The Minister and the Feds" read the front page of the January 20 *New York Newsday*. The article charged that Al Sharpton, a minister and activist in the fight for Black rights in this city, has served as an informant for the FBI for the last five years.

Sharpton has played a highly visible role in civil disobedience protest actions to demand punishment of racist thugs who have violently attacked Blacks. The protests

AS I SEE IT

have centered on the trial of a gang of young white toughs for participating in a mob attack on three Blacks in the virtually all-white Howard Beach neighborhood on Dec. 19, 1986.

In that attack, one of the Blacks, Michael Griffith, was killed. Largely due to antiracist protests, three of the whites were convicted of second-degree manslaughter. One of them, Jon Lester, has been sentenced to a maximum of 30 years. Lester must do a minimum of 10 years before he can be considered for parole.

'Newsday' story

Newsday charged that Sharpton has been secretly supplying the feds with information on boxing promoter Don King, reputed organized crime figures, and Black political activists, including Black elected officials. *Newsday's* story is based partly on an interview with Sharpton. But much of the story centered on unnamed "sources."

Sharpton denied giving the cops information about Black political activists. He claimed in the *Newsday* interview, "They [the FBI] can't ask about my civil rights activities."

Sharpton, however, does admit to providing information to the FBI with the aim of incriminating two Democratic elected officials who are Black. They are U.S. Rep. Major Owens and State Assemblyman Al Vann.

Sharpton told *Newsday*, "I went down to meet with the Eastern [District of the FBI]. I called for a meeting and said I had information on some election fraud — I had information on Al Vann and Major Owens being involved in a vote ring [scheme]. . . ."

Owens and Vann were the targets of an investigation of ballot irregularities in 1986. As a result Vann was knocked off the Democratic Party primary ballot but won the election as an independent.

Cointelpro

Sharpton's claim that the police collaborator charge is a frame-up and an attempt to divide those fighting against racial oppression has struck a responsive chord, especially among Blacks. That response is based on experiences with the methods of police frame-ups of many Blacks, unionists, and antiwar activists.

In the 1960s and '70s the FBI conducted a "counterintelligence" program called Cointelpro. An often-used tactic of Cointelpro was to plant rumors or false documents fingering political activists as police agents in an attempt to divide the movement and pit people against each other.

Newsday reported that about 20 people called its offices to protest the publication of the story. Most said it was an attempt to discredit Black leadership. Talk programs on the Black-oriented radio stations WLIB and WWRL have become a forum for discussions on the story. Most callers have expressed suspicions about *Newsday's* sources.



January 18 antiracist demonstration of 3,000 at City Hall in New York. Action was part of growing protests against racist violence and cop shootings of Blacks.

The New York Black press has reflected this suspicion. The headline of the weekly *Amsterdam News* read: "I'm not spy for the Feds, activist Sharpton denies."

"It's a lie," said the *Daily Challenge*. "Blacks back Al Sharpton," added *Big Red News*.

The story was released just a few days before a scheduled protest against racist violence and police shootings of Blacks. Sharpton has pointed to the timing of the publication of the article as proof of the real intentions of *Newsday* and its "sources."

Newsday's editors and the rulers of this city were quite conscious of the disruptive effect the release of this story would have. That was clearly their aim in publishing it. The capitalist-run media and city administration are not happy with any movement that seeks to mobilize opponents of racist violence in the streets.

'Contradiction in terms'

But it was Sharpton's own decision to act as an informant for the cops that has opened up the movement against racist violence to this attack.

Newsday has used the story to cast an even broader net of rumors. Sharpton's own words are used to once again raise the charge of vote fraud against Owens and Vann. Sharpton has even implied that there is an ongoing investigation of Owens and Vann. Sharpton also claims that City Councilman Wendell Foster attempted to extort money from boxing promoter Don King.

Some Black leaders have attempted to separate Sharpton's activity as an informant for the FBI from his participation in the struggle for Black rights. Hazel Dukes, New York State president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, commented, "One thing has nothing to do with the other." Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins said that the issues Sharpton has raised about the status of Blacks in New York "should be judged on their merits."

But there is no ground for collaboration with the cops by fighters for Black, trade union, and women's rights, or opponents of U.S. government foreign policy — from Central America to South Africa. When opponents of racist attacks and killer cops offer their services to the police they compromise themselves and the movement — most importantly in the eyes of the very people who

are victims of racist and cop brutality.

As State Assemblyman Roger Green, also a leader in the movement against racist and cop violence, explained, "It is a philosophical contradiction in terms for anyone who calls himself a civil rights or human rights leader to be involved in police entrapment."

Sharpton claims that his only aim in cooperating with the feds was to help rid the Black community of drugs, and to "clean up" the boxing and music industries.

Sharpton admits to allowing the feds to place a wiretap on his phone but claims that it was only used in investigations of drug dealers. He also admits to taking concealed microphones into meetings, but again, Sharpton claims, only meetings with those individuals targeted for FBI investigations of drugs.

Cops promote drug traffic

But no political activist, let alone an experienced one, can take seriously the idea that the cops are interested in doing anything about ending the drug traffic or aiding the victims of drugs. Rather, they spend a lot of time harassing or arresting the victims of this social disease.

The cops are not opponents of drug profits. They are often the source of the sale of illegal drugs. An example is the 77th precinct in Brooklyn, which Sharpton himself has often accused of being a distribution center for illegal drugs.

And phony charges of drug use and corruption are often used to victimize political activists, unionists, or anyone else the authorities don't like.

For the FBI, involving Sharpton in its operation never had anything to do with fighting drugs or crime. From the start it was intended as a way for the government to intervene in and hopefully victimize activists in the Black rights movement. Sharpton is, in fact, a victim of this operation.

In 1983 the FBI initiated an investigation aimed at boxing promoter Don King. Sharpton has been closely associated with King. The cops set up a sting operation in order to frame Sharpton on drug charges, hoping to use it to force him to help on the investigation of King.

The cops are the deadly enemies of all those who fight for Black rights. Neither they nor their informants have any role to play in that struggle.

LETTERS

Sean McBride

It was with a sense of deep regret that I learned of the death of Sean McBride, Irish revolutionary and patriot as well as great international humanitarian. I first saw him when he spoke at a public meeting in my native County Mayo in 1933.

After a distinguished career of close to 20 years in the Irish Republican Army, he withdrew honorably in 1937. However, he never forgot his past and ably defended many militant leaders of the IRA who became targets of the quisling government in Leinster House. And when in 1948 he became foreign minister of a coalition administration in Ireland, he secured the release of the remaining political prisoners, some of whom had been on the blanket for more than seven years.

A militant opponent of oppression everywhere, he became a founder of Amnesty International. A staunch believer in a nuclear-free world, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1974 and the Lenin Prize for peace in 1977.

I have proud memories of him as a tall lanky figure in my youth, but I have an equally proud memory of him as he appeared as a witness for Joe Doherty in a U.S. courtroom in 1983. The case of Joe Doherty has become international in focus. He is still held hostage by Ronald Reagan at the request of Margaret Thatcher.

To sum up this brief tribute to one of Ireland's noblest sons, he was a lifelong champion of full freedom and independence for his native land. He was also a champion of complete freedom for all humankind, regardless of geography or race, color or creed.

George Harrison
New York, New York

Labor news

The best part is the coverage of labor news and events. Please don't stop.

J.T.
Stratford, New Jersey

Solidarity

Militant readers who have been following the case of the Kentucky

coal miners who have been framed up and convicted of various federal charges coming out of the 1984-85 United Mine Workers strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co. will remember the January 22 *Militant* editorial which urged solidarity with this important defense case, and noted that the case had received virtually no coverage in any union paper.

The January 19 issue of *Haiti Progrès*, a French- and Creole-language weekly widely read by Haitians throughout North America, carried a sizable article about the case, including a picture of the defendants, under the title "Company-government-police against miners."

After describing the facts about the case, the article says, "The [miners'] defense points out that it has few financial resources, since the defendants all come from poor families, while the government that is attacking them has powerful means at its disposal." It urges that solidarity messages and financial contributions be sent, and gives the defendants' address in prison,

and the address of the defense committee.

Haiti Progrès is also distributed in Haiti.
S.L.
Newark, New Jersey

On the economy

A benefit of the stock market crash is that the *Militant* is writing about the economy again after a long absence of articles on it. Keep it up.

John Olmsted
Portland, Oregon

Hormel

The caption in the article about the closing of the Hormel cut-and-kill in Austin, Minnesota, in the January 15 issue of the *Militant* is incorrect. Hormel has exhibited no intention of laying off any of the 300 workers in the cut-and-kill.

In fact, they postponed the closing of the operation two weeks — until January 14 and 15. This allowed final construction in other areas of the plant that enabled the absorption of all 300 workers from the cut-and-kill.

As the article points out, the company's motives are clear. They are: to increase profits by eliminating the cut-and-kill operation and increase the production of high-profit items without recalling any of the 850 former strikers from Austin or allowing transfer of the displaced Ottumwa, Iowa, workers.

Lynne Fain
Austin, Minnesota

Correction

In the January 22 *Militant*, Bill Meserve, president of United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 14 in Jay, Maine, was misidentified as also being the president of the UPIU's International Paper Co. council. He is the co-chairman.

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.

Boise Cascade union aids paper strike

BY JON HILLSON

RUMFORD, Maine — The deep solidarity that exists between the 1,250 striking paperworkers from nearby Jay and veterans of the bitter, 1986 Boise Cascade paper strike here was highlighted at a spirited rally of nearly 600 on January 25. The rally capped a day of plant-gate and community leafleting.

The activities were part of the Maine-wide Caravan '88, a month-long project of Local 14 of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) and Local 246 of the Firemen and Oilers, the two unions that organize International Paper Co.'s Androscoggin Mill in Jay. The caravan's aim is to spread the truth about their strike against IP, which began in June 1987.

As 130 caravan members drove into the area, they saw trees and traffic signs festooned in blue ribbons, the Jay strike's color. The trail led through Mexico, Maine, and into Rumford, a town of 7,600, dominated by the big Boise Cascade paper mill.

The strikers fanned out through Rumford and Mexico, distributing thousands of leaflets explaining their battle against concessions and the campaign they're on to force IP to the bargaining table.

This effort to gain support, coordinated by the New York City-based Corporate Campaign, unites striking IP paperworkers in Jay; Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; and De Pere, Wisconsin, along with IP workers locked out since March of last year in Mobile, Alabama.

Strikers were received with a mixture of courtesy, curiosity, and support in the two towns which had been sharply polarized by



Confronting scab at Androscoggin paper mill in Jay, Maine. Jay strikers have received support from Boise Cascade workers, who struck for 11 weeks in 1986.

the 11-week Boise Cascade strike in the summer of 1986.

UPIU Local 900 at Boise Cascade donates \$11,000 a month to the Jay strike, along with helping out on a range of other strike-support work. A mark of its commitment to the IP workers was Local 900's decision last fall to forego building a new union hall to insure continued financial support to the Jay strikers.

"Even the scabs took the leaflets," said Judy Billings, Local 900's recording secretary, describing the caravan's experience leafleting at the Boise plant gates. Several hundred workers, hired as scabs during the 1986 strike, still work in the mill.

George Viger, a retired veteran of 24 years in Boise, said the leafleting was "a big boost for the local." Billings, her young son Vance, and Viger were the team

that tied thousands of blue streamers to trees and poles to welcome the Jay strikers to the area.

Local 900 President Don Barker and Local 14 President Bill Meserve spoke at the evening rally.

If the union-busting drive IP is on "doesn't stop in Jay," Barker said, "it's going to hurt every working person in the U.S."

Many have called the Jay strikers "labor heroes," Meserve said in his keynote talk, "but in the course of this war, this battle, there are real heroes, unsung heroes, and they are the members of Local 900."

The room erupted in standing applause, with more than half of the crowd composed of Boise Cascade workers, joined by townspeople from Mexico, Rumford, and Dixfield, along with area unionists, including fire fighters, postal workers, and teachers.

The Local 14 president detailed his recent trip to Miami as one of the union's labor ambassadors, and the warm response he received from airport workers, bus drivers, longshoremen, postal workers, and sanitation workers, as well as marching in and speaking at Martin Luther King Day events.

Meserve also reported on the January 21-22 meeting of UPIU's International Paper Co. council, held at the union's international headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee.

Winning the strike, Meserve said, is "not going to be easy. There are some real hard times to come." He appealed to the Boise workers for more help in the fight to gain "a fair and equitable contract that keeps our pride and dignity."

Farmers blast credit bill as bailout for banks

BY GREG NELSON, LINDA MARCUS AND GEORGE CHALMERS

WICHITA, Kansas — "We keep being told that things are different, but we come here and find out that's a bunch of bull," yelled out Michael Borosso, a rice farmer from the Sacramento, California, area.

Borosso was reacting to a statement by Ron Willson of the Wichita District Farm Credit System (FCS). Willson had just informed farmers attending a workshop on the new farm credit law at the 9th National Convention of the American Agriculture Movement, Incorporated (AAM, Inc.) that the interest rates charged by the FCS would remain in the 12 percent range.

Just before the convention opened, President Ronald Reagan signed into law a bill

that will provide billions in loan guarantees to the federally established FCS system.

This bill has been widely portrayed as coming to the rescue of hard-pressed farmers. But the money is actually earmarked to guarantee interest payments on bonds sold by the FCS to commercial banks and other financial institutions. And it guarantees financial backing for new bond issues by both the FCS and commercial banks.

As Dave Senter, Washington, D.C., lobbyist for AAM, Inc., put it, "The truth is, this bill is, in effect, a bank bailout."

Speaking with the *Militant* after his exchange with the FCS official, Borosso explained that farmers are required to buy stock in FCS in addition to paying interest.

This effectively pushes the interest rate to about 20 percent.

Another farmer told the FCS spokesman at the workshop, "We see ads in the *Wall Street Journal* saying, 'Buy Minnesota land, buy Nebraska land at 5 percent interest,' after we've been paying 9 percent all our lives. How do you expect us to have any confidence in you?"

Those attending the workshop were also told that the review board established by the bill to hear farmers' appeals against foreclosure is stacked against them. The three-member board will be composed of one representative of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, one of the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, and a farmer.

About 150 farmers from 20 states attended the AAM, Inc. convention held here January 8-10. The meeting adopted the goal of getting legislation passed to guarantee fairer prices to farmers for their products. AAM, Inc. is also supporting seven of its members who are seeking the Democratic nomination for congressional seats in 1988.

Harvey Joe Sanner, an Arkansas rice farmer and outgoing vice-president of AAM, Inc. was elected president.

"The farm crisis is not getting better," said outgoing president Corky Jones in his opening remarks. "They say it has bottomed out, but that's like saying that somebody who jumps off the Empire State Building and hits the ground has bottomed out."

The convention heard a report, based on statistics compiled by the American Bankers Association, that farm foreclosures are expected to jump from 2,100 per week in 1987 to 2,500 in 1988. Since 1981, the meeting was told, an estimated 620,000 farmers have been driven from their land — 20 percent of U.S. family farmers in 1981.

Most of the farmers at the convention were in the process of foreclosure.

"As foreclosures continue, the despair of

farmers is growing," said Mona Lee Brock, head of the Farm Crisis Hotline in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Brock told the *Militant* that she gets an average of 60 calls per day.

"I got a call at 4 a.m. a few weeks ago from a farm husband and wife. They had written to their children explaining why they were choosing to end their lives. In the two years since I've been there, we have catalogued 108 farm crisis-related deaths."

Brock and her husband lost their grain farm in Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, in 1985.

"We raise cattle and grow wheat, sorghum, everything that's not worth anything anymore," commented Connie Andes, a farmer from Winfield, Kansas, who was attending her first AAM, Inc. convention. "We're losing our farm."

Helen Waller, president of the National Save the Family Farm Coalition, spoke to the convention. In a subsequent interview, she told us:

"It's just like the Ma and Pa grocery stores that used to be everywhere. Now they are owned by Seven-11 and Stop-and-Go, and they are run by people making minimum wage. That's the future projected for American family farmers."

The convention endorsed a seven-point resolution that had been drawn up by farmer representatives from 40 countries who attended the 1987 meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva, Switzerland.

The resolution affirmed the right of all countries to establish agricultural self-sufficiency and called for fair international producer prices worldwide for agricultural commodities.

Corky Jones, who attended the Geneva meeting, told the convention, "We were there to make sure that people knew that the U.S. government's agricultural policy was not supported by U.S. farmers. We learned that what we have is not just a U.S. farm crisis, but a worldwide farm crisis."

Castro no 'two-headed monster'

WICHITA, Kansas — "I went there expecting to meet a two-headed monster who eats babies for the fun of it, but President Castro knew more about U.S. agriculture than most Americans."

Harvey Joe Sanner, an Arkansas rice farmer who was elected president of the American Agriculture Movement, Inc. at its Ninth National Convention here, was reporting to the gathering on the trip he took to Cuba in 1987. In addition to this report, an article by Sanner describing the trip appeared in the December 14 *AAM Reporter*.

Castro, Sanner said, "wanted to know everything, how much land we plowed, how much rice we produced."

"He chided me," Sanner reported, "about the subsidies U.S. farmers received, and I explained how these subsidies only benefited the grain traders like Cargill and Bunge. He understood that."

Sanner told this reporter that he met twice with Castro as part of a delegation organized by a Washington, D.C.-based group of business people, scholars, and former appointed and elected government

officials who were interested in the idea of improving U.S. relations with Cuba.

"One night we met with President Castro until 3 a.m. We spent more time discussing agriculture than anything else. He wanted to know how many people worked on my farm. I told him that besides me and my son, we had one hired hand. He said I should let my son and my 'exploited worker' run my farm and that I should come teach Cuban farmers."

Castro "asked if we got what we wanted in the 1987 farm bill. I told him no, but we still believed in the system. At the end of our meeting Castro turned to the rest of our delegation and said, 'You should all support this man and his farm work.'"

Sanner explained that Castro invited him and other U.S. farmers to come to Cuba in order to see Cuban farms and meet with Cuban farmers. "I believe I'll be selling that man some rice someday," Sanner said.

Sanner sponsored a resolution adopted at last year's AAM, Inc. convention calling for an end to the U.S. government's embargo on trade with Cuba. — G.N.