

Socialist Workers Party wins final round in anti-FBI suit

BY MARGARET JAYKO

NEW YORK, March 17 — An unprecedented victory for constitutional rights was registered at a federal court house here today.

"The government's decision to throw in the towel in the Socialist Workers Party case brings this 15-year fight to a successful conclusion," Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, told a news conference here this morning.

Attorney General Edwin Meese decided to withdraw a Justice Department appeal of the August 1986 ruling of U.S. District Judge Thomas Griesa that declared it illegal for the FBI and other police outfits to use informers, disruption programs, or break-ins against political organizations and activists. Meese was joined in this action by 11 other heads of government agencies.

Griesa's ruling in favor of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance, and his 1987 injunction barring the government from using information in the 10 million pages of files obtained illegally by the FBI, are now the law of the land.

"This places a valuable weapon securely in the hands of every fighter for democratic rights and political liberties. It is a weapon that can and should be used widely and enthusiastically to win broader freedoms for everyone," Barnes noted.

"The court decision states that the use of FBI or other police informers to infiltrate



SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes (second from left) at news conference announcing government will not appeal decision against FBI spying. With him are Christina Cowger of CISPES, attorney Leonard Boudin, and (at far right) John Studer of the PRDF.

and spy on people engaged in political activity is not a neutral act — it is a violation of the right of privacy and freedom of association. This is a historic victory that expands the space for political action free from government interference," Barnes emphasized.

The SWP's general counsel and attorney in this case, noted constitutional lawyer Leonard Boudin, pointed out that Griesa's decision was also the first time that a federal judge has ruled that burglaries carried

out by the FBI to steal or copy private papers or to plant microphones are violations of the Fourth Amendment, which was written to protect the people against illegal searches by the government.

And for the first time, a federal court ruled that a surreptitious campaign of disruption operations is against the law.

In addition, the court awarded the SWP and YSA \$264,000 in damages.

The news conference, held at Boudin's offices here this morning, was called to an-

nounce the filing of the appeal dismissal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, which is in New York.

Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) Executive Director John Studer and Christina Cowger from the national advisory committee of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), joined Barnes and Boudin at the news conference.

Also in attendance were SWP presidential candidate James Warren; YSA National Secretary Rena Cacoullos; PRDF National Coordinator Holbrook Mahn; Bill of Rights Foundation President Anna Rand; Fred Dube, a member of the African National Congress of South Africa who was recently fired from a university teaching job for his political views; Edward Copeland, a partner in Boudin's firm who has worked on the case; Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born leader of the SWP who is fighting for permanent residence status; and George Novack, a founding member and longtime leader of the SWP who has a 50-year record in the fight for democratic rights.

Another news conference to announce
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Des Moines meat-packer fights rape frame-up

BY NAN BAILEY

DES MOINES — Supporters of democratic rights have launched a campaign to expose the frame-up and brutal police assault against Mark Curtis, a prominent political activist who works at the Swift packinghouse here.

Curtis was framed up on attempted rape charges March 4 and beaten by the cops so badly he had to be hospitalized.

Curtis is a member of Local 431 of the United Food and Commercial Workers at Swift. A big struggle is taking place in Des Moines to defend the rights of immigrant workers at Swift. On March 1 Immigration and Naturalization Service cops, along with other federal agents, swooped down on the plant and arrested 17 Latino workers. The cops claimed they were using fake identification papers.

The arrests have provoked an outcry among Swift workers and the Latino community here. Curtis has been actively involved in support work for the 17, some of whom remain in jail pending trial.

The day of his arrest Curtis attended a late afternoon meeting of Swift workers, residents of the Latino community, and civil rights activists to discuss defense of the jailed workers. Immigration and other government authorities also attended the meeting and were confronted with angry questions from the crowd.

Curtis took the floor during the discussion and, speaking in Spanish, raised the importance of getting Local 431 involved in aiding the victimized workers.

Following the meeting, Curtis joined other Swift workers at a bar for awhile, and then stopped at his house briefly before going out again to do some shopping. Curtis is the director of the Militant Labor Forum in Des Moines and was buying food for a reception the next evening prior to a forum on volunteer work brigades to Nicaragua. He was also organizing a forum where women farm leaders would speak about women and the farm crisis.

Curtis drove away from his house, and

less than five blocks later stopped for a traffic light. A young woman who was Black ran up to Curtis' car and pleaded for help.

"Some guy is after me and I'm scared," she said. She asked Curtis to give her a ride to her house, three blocks away. He agreed. Curtis asked if they should call the police, but the woman said no.

When they arrived at the house, the woman asked Curtis to wait in an enclosed front porch while she checked inside the house to make sure it was safe.

She then disappeared into the house and that was the last Curtis ever saw of her.

A few minutes later two cops charged onto the front porch and grabbed Curtis. One of the cops took him into a bedroom. He handcuffed Curtis behind his back, pushed him down on the bed, and pulled down his pants.



Militant/ Stu Singer
Meat-packer Mark Curtis was brutally beaten by Des Moines cops after they arrested him on phony attempted rape charge. He had to be hospitalized.

"Let's see what you've done," the cop said. "What have we got here?"

The cop then arrested Curtis, taking his wallet, license, and keys. "Bet you've got AIDS," he said, and then told Curtis, still handcuffed, to pull his pants back up.

Curtis was taken outside where a patrol car and police van were waiting. He was taken to the police station. It was only when he was allowed to make one phone

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U.S. troops out of Honduras now! No aid to U.S.-run contra war!

President Ronald Reagan's move to send 3,200 more U.S. troops to Honduras is an outrageous escalation of Washington's use of force and threats of force to try to compel the people of Nicaragua to submit to U.S. domination. The deployment of U.S. military force is intended to bolster the contra mercenaries whom Washington has organized to wage war against Nicaragua.

The troops ordered to Honduras on March 16 consist of two battalions of the

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army's 82nd Airborne Division and two battalions of the 7th Infantry Division.

The government-owned Voice of Nicaragua radio called on the Nicaraguan people "to maintain a state of alert."

In New York City, foes of U.S. military intervention responded immediately. The New York Mobilizing Coalition, which is helping build national June 11 protests in New York and San Francisco against nuclear weapons and U.S. intervention, held a news conference March 17 to denounce the troop deployment. According to a coalition spokesperson, the theme of the

news conference was "No to U.S. troops, no to U.S. invasion, no to U.S. aid to the contras."

The Reagan administration's cover story for sending troops to Honduras was the claim that Nicaraguan government forces have carried out an "invasion" of Honduran territory.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega denied the claim. "There has not been a single combat, not a single confrontation, with Honduran forces," he said.

Ortega explained that Nicaraguan forces were "carrying out large-scale offensive operations" against U.S.-organized contra units that have been attacking northern Nicaragua. Ortega added that the fighting was "always inside Nicaragua."

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry announced that Nicaraguan forces were unilaterally pulling back from the country's border with Honduras in an effort to ease tensions. It urged representatives of the Organization of American States and United Nations to visit the border region and observe the situation.

Col. Manuel Suárez Benavides, a spokesman for the Honduran military, stated, "We have no concrete information that San-

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'Militant' sales set brisk pace in Britain

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — A thousand copies of the March 4 issue of the *Militant* have been sold so far in Britain.

At a March 5 demonstration here of 100,000 in defense of the National Health Service, 340 copies of the *Militant* were sold. Many who bought the paper were trade unionists.

Distributors reported that demonstrators were attracted to the *Militant's* coverage of struggles around the world. Articles from the paper's Managua, Nicaragua, bureau, eyewitness reports from the Philippines, and articles on the Palestinian struggle were among the items mentioned in discussions with prospective buyers.

Some salespeople carried copies of the previous issue of the *Militant* that contained an article on a victorious nurses' strike in Alberta, Canada. Health workers here were particularly interested in how fellow workers in other countries were dealing with similar problems to their own.

A leader of the recent nurses' strike in Manchester read the entire article on the Canadian struggle out loud to a captive audience on a train leaving the demonstration.

One person who bought the paper from me said, "Workers in Britain and North America have common problems, and with the stock market crash this is going to be even more the case."

He was responding to the material in the

"International Socialist Review" supplement to the *Militant*, which reported on the political discussion at the recent London conference of the Communist League of Britain.

Boosted by these experiences, distributors in Britain are planning an ambitious spring circulation drive. We have set a target of winning 200 new regular readers. That breaks down as 130 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 20 to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 50 single copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*.

There are currently 176 *Militant* subscribers in Britain. Nearly 70 percent of these were won during the circulation drive last fall. Many were familiar with the paper already so convincing them to subscribe turned out to be relatively easy.

We are now talking to them about renewing for six months or a year. And we are offering a reduced price on one of four Pathfinder titles to anyone who renews for a year. On the average, five renewals are coming in a week.

The upcoming circulation drive will be different from the last one in that we will be reaching out to many new people with the press. An introductory rate of £3 for 12 weeks is being offered.

Special teams are being organized that will travel to Scotland, the northeast of

England, North Yorkshire, Staffordshire, and Kent. A focus of the teams will be reaching out to miners and residents of coalfield communities.

We are going to kick off the effort on March 19 when tens of thousands take to the streets in an abortion rights demonstration. The *Militant's* coverage of the recent abortion rights victory in Canada has been particularly well received here at a time when fresh attacks have been mounted against a woman's right to choose.

Also on March 19, the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New Internationalist* will be prominently displayed on the Pathfinder literature table at the International Book Fair of Radical, Black, and Third World Books. This annual fair in London attracts hundreds of people who are interested in antiracist and anti-imperialist struggles around the world.

We have increased the number of single copies of the *Militant* sold each week from 210 at the end of January to around 340 now. Our goal is to be selling over 400 copies a week by the end of May.

In South Wales, sales of individual copies of the *Militant* have gone from 40 to 60 papers each week. Distributors there have established plant-gate sales at the STC electronics firm and at the Tower Colliery (coal mine).

Workplace sales have been established in London at a rail depot, two postal telecommunications depots, at an electrical engineering factory, and at the Dagenham Ford auto plant.

We are finding that there is interest in the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* in the increasingly multinational working class in Britain. We are selling 10 to 15 papers each Saturday in both the Butetown Black community in Cardiff, South Wales, and in Moss Side in Manchester.

Twenty-two participants in a recent picket line against contra aid held at the U.S. embassy in London picked up copies of *PM*.



G.M. Cookson

Well over 300 copies of the *Militant* were sold at London march protesting cuts in National Health Service.

We have raised our monthly order of *PM's* from 20 to 40, and we plan to make sales of *PM* subscriptions an important aspect of the circulation drive.

Over 450 copies of the current issue of *New Internationalist* have been sold in Britain. It contains articles titled "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop," "Cuba a Historic Turning Point: Two speeches by Fidel Castro," and other material.

We will continue to sell that issue during the spring campaign but also seek to circulate the previous five issues.

Supporters of the publications have also decided to sponsor a series of New International Forums in Manchester, Nottingham, Cardiff, London, and in two South Yorkshire locations.

Campaign for Sharpeville 6 wins one-month stay of execution

BY SAM MANUEL

Six South African Blacks scheduled to be hanged Friday, March 18, have won a one-month reprieve pending a judicial review. The stay of execution was won by an international campaign of appeal for clemency, including by several European governments. The five men and one woman have become known as the Sharpeville Six. They are Oupa Diniso, Duma Khumalo, Francis Mokhesi, Reid Mokoena, Theresa Ramashamola, and Mojalefa Sefatsa.

They were tried and convicted by an apartheid court for being part of a crowd that killed Khuzwayo Dlamini, a Black township councilman in Sharpeville. Dlamini, who was also deputy mayor, was killed when townships erupted in protest against rent increases imposed by the township council. Members of the apartheid government-controlled councils are considered to be collaborators with the South African government. Many of the council members are part of the right-wing vigilante death squads that are organized and armed by the apartheid regime.

No evidence was ever produced showing that the six actually participated in the killing. The trial judge ruled that the defendants were guilty because they shared a

"common purpose" with others intent on murder. At least one key witness admitted he had been told by police whom to accuse. Neither was it clearly established that two of those accused, Diniso and Mokhesi, were even present when Dlamini was killed.

The effort to save the Sharpeville Six is part of an international campaign to save the lives of 44 Blacks scheduled to be executed by the regime. Two of the 44, Moses Jantjies and Wellington Mielies, were hanged Sept. 1, 1987. They were also charged with killing a township councilman. Ramashamola is the first woman to receive the death penalty in South Africa. Another woman, Daisy Modise, is listed among the remaining 38 scheduled to be executed.

In a telegram to Botha, Socialist Workers Party U.S. presidential candidate James Warren demanded an "immediate halt" to the execution of the six. Warren said, "The apartheid regime's barbaric record of the use of executions has not deterred the people of South Africa in their struggle for a democratic and nonracial homeland. Neither will it deter working people in this country and around the world from their commitment and action to bring an end to the hated system of apartheid."

Help get out word on rights victory

BY NORTON SANDLER

Militant distributors in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Britain, and other countries will note that they have received extra copies of this week's paper.

This is to facilitate supporters beginning a two-week campaign to sell *Militants* containing special coverage of the landmark victory scored in the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance lawsuit against the FBI and other U.S. government spy agencies.

Union members, Black and Latino rights fighters, farmers, Central America solidarity and anti-apartheid activists, students, and others who have backed the Political Rights Defense Fund's effort to raise funds and publicize the SWP and YSA lawsuit over the years will be interested in this coverage.

By taking an aggressive approach to sales over the next couple of weeks, we can get the paper into the hands of hundreds who don't normally read it. This can include a big push on circulating the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at the plant gates, in working-class communities, and on campus.

Many can be convinced to subscribe to the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial*. During this effort we can also sell the current issue of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, which contains an article by Larry Seigle entitled, "Washington's 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation."

Distributors who want to increase their order for next week's issue should contact our business office in New York by 7:00 p.m. March 23. The phone number is (212) 929-3486.

The *Militant* tells the truth — Subscribe today!

"As a Third World trade unionist, I think the *Militant* is carrying out consistent and objective work within the U.S. working class, informing it of the causes of the world's problems and the challenges all progressives must confront to construct a new society where human dignity is respected."

—Yves Antoine Richard

Gen'l secy, Autonomous Confederation of Haitian Workers

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Coup attempt fails as U.S. tightens squeeze on Panama

BY SUSAN LaMONT

A coup attempt against Panamanian leader Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega took place March 16, and was quickly put down. Washington admitted advance knowledge of the coup, which was reportedly led by an anti-Noriega army officer, but denied responsibility for organizing it.

Washington, however, has been openly trying to undermine support for Noriega by causing a split in the Panama Defense Forces, that country's army. Secretary of State George Shultz and Elliot Abrams, his main Latin American affairs adviser, recently reported that the Reagan administration was appealing to officers in the Defense Forces to rebel against Noriega.

Meanwhile, the United States — the largest, most powerful, and wealthiest imperialist country in the world — tightened its economic stranglehold on tiny Panama, a semicolonial country of some 2 million people, during the past week. The U.S. rulers took additional measures in their attempt to force Noriega, the head of Panama's army, from power.

On March 11 President Ronald Reagan ordered the \$6.5 million monthly payment due to be paid to Panama for use of the Panama Canal to be withheld and kept in escrow. These payments represent an important source of income for Panama, totaling about \$78 million a year.

Reagan also suspended trade preferences for Panama, jeopardizing some \$96 million in annual trade between the two countries.

The same day a federal court in Miami grounded Air Panama's U.S. operations, and froze its assets in the United States, including two jets, negotiable airline tickets, ground equipment, and facilities. Money held for Air Panama in four Miami banks has also been frozen.

More measures are being considered, in-

cluding an order to U.S. oil companies to avoid using a pipeline that crosses Panama. That pipeline carries crude oil from Alaska, and generates up to \$95 million a year in revenue for Panama.

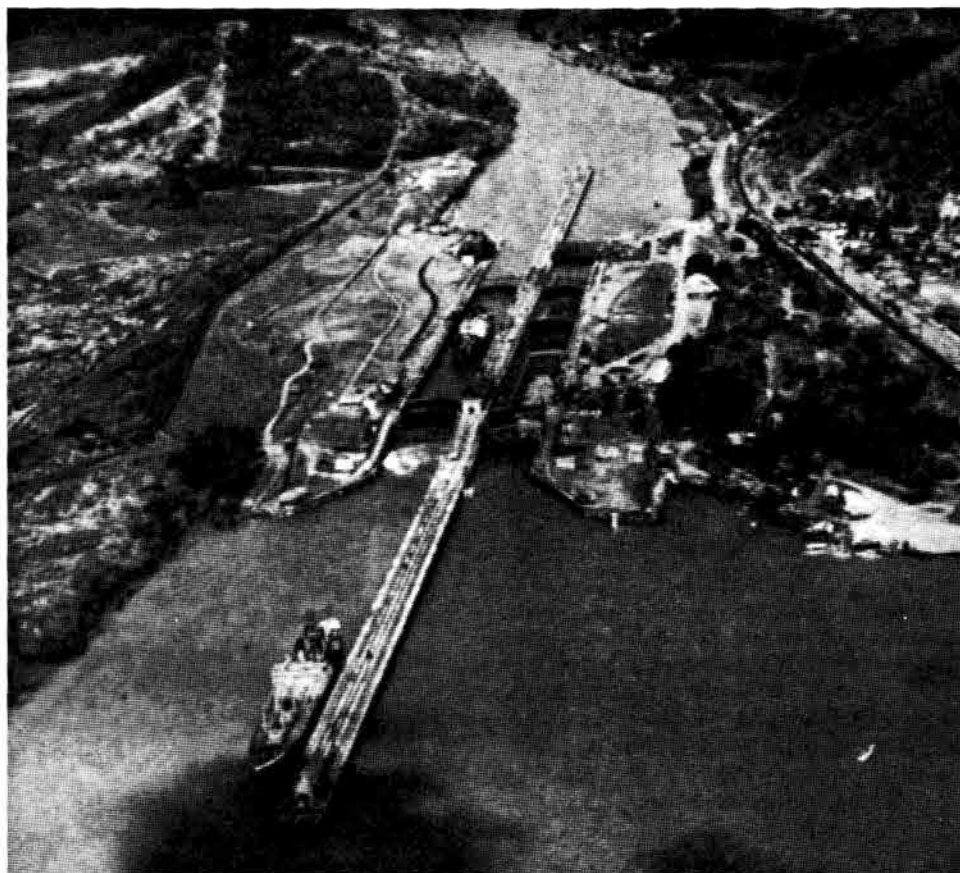
In a significant move of bipartisan support for Reagan's destabilization campaign, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution virtually unanimously — 367 to 2 — calling on Noriega to step down. The March 10 resolution urged Reagan to impose severe economic sanctions on Panama.

Panama's banks have been basically closed since March 3, following the freezing of Panama's assets — some \$50 million — held in U.S. banks. This robbery of Panama's assets by Washington is possible because Panama's financial and banking system is completely dependent on the United States. Panama does not even have its own currency; it uses U.S. dollars, which it calls balboas.

These moves come on top of the cutoff of U.S. military and economic aid to Panama last summer; the elimination of Panama's sugar quota; and the cancellation of a \$50 million loan to Panama by the World Bank.

Washington justifies its illegal economic moves against Panama on the basis that such a campaign was ordered by Eric Arturo Delvalle, Panama's former president. Delvalle was removed from office in late February by Panama's National Assembly after he unsuccessfully tried to force Noriega to step down as head of the army. The assembly then elected Manuel Solís Palma as president. Delvalle, who claims that he is still head of state, remains in hiding in Panama.

On March 15 the U.S. State Department announced that it would not comply with an order by Panama for Terrence Knee-



Ships passing through locks at Pacific end of Panama Canal. Washington is illegally holding \$6.5 million due Panama for use of canal.

bone, a public affairs officer for the U.S. embassy in Panama, to leave the country. "We don't accept this declaration because it does not originate with the Delvalle government," said Charles Redman, State Department spokesman.

Washington has been on a systematic campaign for several years to force Noriega from power, in an effort to get in place a more subservient regime in Panama and to undermine the 1977 Panama Canal treaty.

Calls for U.S. military action

The tremendous economic pressure on Panama is being accompanied by threats of direct U.S. military intervention.

Open calls for U.S. military action are being made by figures in the business-dominated, U.S.-backed National Civic Crusade, which has organized much of the anti-Noriega protest inside Panama. In ad-

dition, Panama Canal Administrator Dennis McAuliffe has raised the possibility that "we might have to call upon U.S. forces to be more readily available to provide protection" for the canal.

The U.S. Southern Command, which maintains some 10,000 U.S. troops in Panama, is carrying out month-long military maneuvers in Panama, called "Total Warrior." They also involve the Florida National Guard and Puerto Rico National Guard.

The Defense Department announced March 14 that 100 U.S. Marine Corps and air force "security specialists" were being sent to Panama to help protect U.S. personnel and military installations in Panama.

Because Panama's banks remain closed and the government has no access to its financial resources that are being held hostage by Washington, many working people in Panama find themselves in an increasingly difficult situation. The government has been unable to pay some 140,000 government workers. Teachers, medical workers, electrical workers, telephone workers, and others have protested not being paid. Dock workers at three commercial ports announced March 14 that they were going on strike to demand that the government pay them.

The *Washington Post* reported March 15 that store owners in Colón said that groups of hungry people had broken into grocery stores in order to obtain food. Television news reports from Panama March 16 indicate increased protests and street fighting, as well as stepped-up army efforts to stop the actions.

Castro supports Panama sovereignty

BY SUSAN LaMONT

On February 24 NBC reporter Maria Shriver interviewed Cuban President Fidel Castro in Havana. A very brief segment of the long interview was aired on February 28. The full text was made available to the press on March 2 by the Cuban Mission to the United Nations. A wide range of topics was covered in the interview, including U.S. allegations of "human rights" violations in Cuba, the role of Cuban troops in Angola, and other questions.

Castro also discussed Washington's current campaign against Panama and the attempts to smear Cuba with charges of involvement in drug trafficking, along with Gen. Manuel Noriega and others in Panama.

"I believe there is something sordid and dirty about this business," the Cuban leader said. "This campaign against Noriega is founded on a great conspiracy, not against Noriega, but against the Torrijos-Carter treaties [1977 treaties signed by President James Carter and Panamanian leader Gen.

Omar Torrijos, under which control of the Panama Canal is to return to Panamanian sovereignty at the end of 1999].

"It's a huge conspiracy to remove the National Guard from Panamanian politics, simply because the Panamanian National Guard observes a patriotic and nationalist stance. In my view, that is what's at the bottom of this." (Panama's army, the Panama Defense Forces, used to be called the National Guard.)

In response to a question from Shriver about the indictment of Noriega on drug trafficking charges, Castro said, "I say the United States' motivation is not the war against drugs. It is politics. It wants to liquidate the Torrijos process. It wants to take away the political role of the National Guard, because the National Guard has a patriotic and nationalist role to play. . . . Drugs are just a pretext.

"It's a big campaign to do away with the National Guard, not Noriega. What it really wants is to take the National Guard out of politics, because under Torrijos' leadership the National Guard took the country to negotiations with the United States.

"I'm not supporting Noriega," Castro continued. "I am supporting the Torrijos movement. I am supporting the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. I am supporting the sovereignty and independence of Panama. It's not Noriega the man who matters. The important thing is independence, sovereignty, Panama's right to the canal, the Torrijos movement, which in our opinion is a progressive, patriotic, and nationalist movement. . . . That's what we support, independently from Noriega the man."

Gen. Omar Torrijos was Panama's central leader from 1968, when he came to power, until his death in 1981. In addition to negotiating the return of the Panama Canal, his regime established friendly relations with Cuba, aided the Nicaraguan struggle to overthrow U.S.-backed dictator

Anastasio Somoza, and denounced U.S. military intervention in El Salvador.

These and other actions angered Washington, which had grown accustomed to more subservient governments in Panama. Noriega, who became de facto head of state in Panama in 1983, was a top army official under Torrijos, and presents himself as the continuator of Torrijos' programs and policies.

N.Y. picket: 'Hands off Panama!'

BY MIRTA VIDAL

NEW YORK — A spirited demonstration was held in front of the Panamanian consulate here March 11 to protest Washington's interference in Panama's internal affairs. Some 40 people joined the picket, chanting, "Embargo South Africa, not Panama!" and "The issue isn't drugs, it's the canal!" and displaying signs demanding "Hands off Panama!"

"Donna Prescott is our consul!" was another slogan chanted by participants. Prescott, who was deputy consul in New York for 10 years, was recently appointed consul general by Panama's new president, Manuel Solís Palma. U.S. State Department officials evicted her from her office on March 9. Because Washington does not recognize her appointment, she may be forced to leave the United States.

Speaking to the *Militant*, Prescott indicated that the stage is being set for a military intervention into Panama by Washington. She pointed out that former President Eric Arturo Delvalle is under the protection of the U.S. Embassy because Washington wants to install a government that represents U.S. interests in Panama.

"But how can the junta that Delvalle and the United States want be installed?" Prescott asked. Washington's strategy involves three phases, she said, "First, the campaign

around drugs; second, the indictment of [Gen. Manuel Antonio] Noriega; and third, the embargo. The only thing left to them now is a military invasion."

During the demonstration a delegation of four protest organizers was allowed into the consulate to present Alberto García de Paredes, whom Washington recognizes as consul general, with an open letter demanding that he step down; that he recognize Prescott as the legitimate representative of Panama; and that he cease to act in collusion with "the foreign aggressor state." This confrontation and the picket were covered on the evening news by one of the area's two Spanish-language television networks.

Asked what can be done to counter Washington's campaign of aggression against the people of Panama, Consul General Prescott said it was necessary to mobilize public opinion, particularly among the 60,000 Panamanians who live in the New York area, mostly in Brooklyn.

She also said that the possibilities for mobilizing opposition to U.S. intervention in Panama in the U.S. Black community are very good. A high percentage of Panamanians are Black, including many of those who currently live in the United States.



Cuban President Fidel Castro

Socialist candidates hit campaign trail

Join protests against Israeli aggression, nuclear weapons testing

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

MERCURY, Nev. — Kathleen Mickells, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president, participated in a March 12 protest rally at the nuclear weapons test site in Nevada, along with several campaign supporters.

A campaign literature table, featuring the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* was the scene of many lively and lengthy political discussions with demonstration participants.

Mickells explained that the stock market crash last October signaled that the existing economic crisis will worsen, with a devastating impact on workers and farmers throughout the world. She went on to describe some of the proposals the socialist candidates are putting forward, including fighting for a shorter workweek and affirmative action, which touched a responsive chord among a layer of people who dropped by the table.

Many of those who stopped to talk with Mickells were young, some from high schools and college campuses. A young woman of Cuban descent spoke with Mickells for half an hour. Her parents had left Cuba, but she was interested in traveling to Cuba to see for herself what the country is like. She explained that she was very much opposed to U.S. actions against Panama.

A pipefitter whose union organizes the construction workers at the test site also talked with Mickells. He and one of his co-workers attended the demonstration out of curiosity, and expressed interest in some of the socialist ideas raised in the Warren-Mickells campaign.

A junior high school teacher from Las Vegas expressed interest in organizing a program for a socialist candidate, and a high school student from Tucson, Arizona, invited Mickells to bring the socialist campaign to her school. A number of people signed up for more information. In addition to staffing a literature table, campaign supporters also distributed copies of the *Militant*.

PRICE, Utah — Following the rally against nuclear weapons testing, Kathleen Mickells traveled here to spend several days campaigning in the center of the western coal-mining region.

She had several informal meetings with coal miners, including women miners active in the Coal Employment Project, an organization that fights to help women get and maintain jobs in the mines.

Mickells also spoke with *Militant* subscribers and campaign supporters.

On March 16 she traveled to Salt Lake City for a news conference, a public meeting, and other campaign activities.



Militant/Kate Daher

Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Warren campaigned among participants at March 13 demonstration in Washington, D.C., to protest Israeli repression against Palestinians in West Bank and Gaza. The action of more than 3,000 people was organized by American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. A literature table set up by campaign supporters remained busy throughout the day. Copies of the socialist publications the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold. A statement by Warren distributed at the march read in part: "The U.S. rulers' military, economic, and political support is crucial to Israel's ability to dominate the Palestinians. Without that backing, Israel could not survive. That is why working people in this country and all partisans of social progress must fight for an end to U.S. complicity with the Israeli atrocities."

Teams building youth conference get good response from students

BY GREG McCARTAN

"Students at Oberlin College are really excited about the Socialist Youth and Activists Conference," reported Juliette Montauk, who is leading a two-week team of members of the Young Socialist Alliance to build the April 2-3 conference to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Oberlin, Ohio, was the first stop for the team, which will cover Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Montauk said 10 students at Oberlin "decided to organize a van and encourage others to attend the conference." The team was invited to set up a table at an anti-apartheid meeting at the college. Much of the day's discussions were about how to protest aid to the Nicaraguan contras and Washington's campaign against Panama.

A one-week team of YSA members will also be visiting cities in Indiana, including a Midwest student conference in Indianapolis at the end of March.

The Socialist Youth and Activists Conference will be an educational and organizing weekend of talks, classes, workshops, a panel of international youth, and a rally featuring Socialist Workers Party candidates James Warren for president and Kathleen Mickells for vice-president.

The conference will begin at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, April 2. All conference sessions will take place at the University of Pittsburgh, Lawrence Hall.

Rena Cacoullos, national secretary of the YSA, will open the conference with a talk on "The Capitalist Crisis and World Revolutionary Perspectives."

A second talk will be presented by Greg McCartan, a member of the YSA National Executive Committee, on "Building a Revolutionary Youth Organization in 1988."

A broad array of classes Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning will include: "Che Guevara and Revolutionary Cuba," "What Way Forward in the Fight Against Racist Attacks," "Does the World Have Too Many People?," "The Struggle in Southern Africa," "Abortion Rights," "Malcolm X Today," "Nuclear Weapons, Disarmament, and the Working-class Road to Peace," and "Israel and the Fight for a Democratic Secular Palestine."

Workshops will include: "Building More Brigades to Nicaragua," "Academic Freedom and the Prof. Fred Dube Defense Case/Anti-Apartheid Actions," "The Pathfinder Mural Project," "Financing the YSA," and "The 1988 Socialist Workers Election Campaign."

Supporters of the Warren-Mickells campaign are visiting college campuses in New York State to encourage students to attend the conference. At Bard College, team member Nancy Rosenstock participated in a panel discussion on the Tawana Brawley case, and set up a table of revolutionary literature. Eight students signed up to go to the conference.

YSA members who attended the California Alliance of Progressive Student Activists conference at Stanford University also report that a number of members of the group are interested in attending the Pittsburgh conference.

The conference will be an international event. Young workers and students from Canada are planning to attend. Prof. Fred Dube, a spokesperson for the African National Congress of South Africa, will also address the conference. Dube, who was fired by New York's Stony Brook State University for his political beliefs, is fighting for reinstatement.

5,000 at Nevada rally protest U.S. nuclear weapons testing

BY DAVE PRINCE

MERCURY, Nev. — More than 5,000 people rallied here March 12 at the Nevada test site to demand an end to nuclear weapons testing by the U.S. government. The rally and civil resistance action, at which nearly 1,200 people were arrested, was sponsored by American Peace Test. It marked the beginning of 10 days of protest actions, and was considered to be the largest demonstration ever held here. The nuclear test site is 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, and is the same size as the state of Rhode Island.

Participants in the nationally built rally came from Maine, Kansas, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Texas, as well as from the far western states. Also present were a delegation from the Hibashuka Federation (Survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki); a number of young people from western Europe who had participated in antinuclear demonstrations in their own countries; and a delegation from the Shoshone Nation, on whose land the test site is located.

Many of the demonstrators were young, and were participating in their first demonstration as part of high school and college contingents that they helped organize. A number of participants wore T-shirts and buttons showing their strong identification with Nicaragua.

The Young Socialist Alliance invites you to a national

Socialist Youth and Activists Conference

April 2 & 3

University of Pittsburgh
Lawrence Hall
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Join with
other students, young workers, activists

Keynote presentations

**The Capitalist Crisis &
World Revolutionary Perspectives**

Rena Cacoullos, Young Socialist Alliance National Secretary. Sat., April 2, 9:30 a.m.

**Building a Socialist Revolutionary
Youth Organization**

Greg McCartan, YSA National Executive Committee Sun., April 3, 1:30 p.m.;

Also featuring an international youth panel, Sun., April 3, 9:30 a.m.; and classes, workshops.

Special event Socialist Presidential Campaign Rally

Hear James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, and Kathleen Mickells, candidate for vice-president. Sat., April 2, 7:30 p.m., Benedum Hall Auditorium.

Conference registration \$15, or \$5 for high school and unemployed. Write or call for more information on housing and transportation.

- ☐ I want to attend. Send more information.
☐ Send me _____ copies of new conference brochure (10¢ each).
☐ I want to join the Young Socialist Alliance.
☐ Enclosed is \$4 for 12 weeks of the *Militant*.

Name _____

Address _____

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Clip and mail to YSA, P.O. Box 1235, New York, NY 10013. Tel: (212) 334-1110.



April 1936: Palestinian villagers voice support for revolt against British rule.

70-year struggle: Palestine and the Arabs' fight for liberation

BY FRED FELDMAN

(First of a series)

The struggle being waged by Palestinians throughout Israel is part of a 70-year battle by the people of the Arab Middle East to achieve a democratic revolution and put an end to colonial rule and imperialist domination.

This struggle opened up before World War I in the last years of the Ottoman Empire. Based in what is today Turkey, the Ottoman Empire ruled much of the Middle East for several hundred years.

Under the Ottoman Empire, Palestine formed part of Syria, which then included present-day Lebanon and Jordan, as well. The struggle to forge an independent Arab nation or nations began as a protest against the oppression all Arabs suffered at the hands of the decaying, feudalistic Ottoman regime.

The stirrings among the Arabs were part of a big change in world politics in which tens of millions of toilers oppressed by imperialism entered the stage of history as actors determining their own future.

Revolutionary upheavals in Mexico, China, Turkey, and Iran in the first years of this century revealed that the masses of the countries subjected to imperialist exploitation were emerging as an explosive new force.

This was given further impetus by the October 1917 Russian revolution in which workers and peasants, led by the Bolshevik Party, for the first time took power and established their own government. This new regime strongly supported the right of oppressed nations to self-determination and backed the colonial revolt.

World War I

World War I dealt a death blow to the Ottoman Empire, which fought on the losing side headed by the German imperialists. The victors prepared to dismember the empire's remains at the same time as growing numbers of Arabs were asserting their right to independence.

To further their war aims, the British imperialists moved to take advantage of the

growing opposition to Ottoman rule. With regard to the Arab peoples, the "Allies" — as the imperialist coalition of Britain, France, and later the United States was called — proclaimed the goal of "guaranteeing their liberation."

Imperialist promises

In a series of diplomatic exchanges in 1915 and 1916, British official Henry McMahon promised Hussein ibn Ali, ruler of the Hejaz (part of today's Saudi Arabia), to support the formation after the war of an independent Arab kingdom to include the entire Arabian peninsula from Syria to Yemen.

In return Hussein supported the Allies in the war against Germany and sponsored guerrilla warfare against the Ottoman Empire.

The British rulers' real plans for the Arabs, however, were signaled when they proclaimed Egypt, which had been part of the Ottoman Empire, a British protectorate.

In 1916 the British rulers signed a pact with their French counterparts that divided the region between them. According to the pact, Lebanon and Syria were to be turned over to France, while Iraq and Transjordan (as Jordan was then called) were to be under "direct or indirect [British] administration and control."

Parts of Palestine were to be placed under what was termed "an international administration." Dismissing their promises to the Arabs, the British and French imperialists began carving up the region along these lines with the end of the war in 1918.

French troops crushed Arab resistance in Syria, driving the independent government Hussein's supporters had set up out of Damascus. Monarchies controlled by Britain were set up in Iraq and Transjordan. Only Yemen and parts of what later became Saudi Arabia — which were among the least developed parts of the region — achieved formal independence.

There was one major alteration in the British-French pact. The British imperialists took Palestine as part of their share of the booty, receiving a formal mandate in

1922 from the League of Nations to legitimize their colonial rule.

Balfour Declaration

The British rulers also moved to create a powerful new obstacle to the Arab independence struggle by backing plans of the World Zionist Organization, founded in 1897, to colonize Palestine with European Jews. The imperialists calculated that colonial settlers would have a stake in helping combat the Arab democratic movement.

In a memorandum written to a prominent capitalist who was Jewish, British Foreign Minister Arthur Balfour stated, "His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

Like the agreements with the French rulers, the Balfour Declaration violated McMahon's promises of independence and self-determination to the Arabs.

The Zionist organizations proclaimed that their purpose was to provide persecuted European Jews with a homeland. In fact, Zionism was an integral part of the imperialist drive in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries to penetrate, subjugate, and colonize the Middle East.

"We should there [in Palestine] form a portion of the rampart of Europe against Asia," Theodor Herzl, founder of the World Zionist Organization, wrote, "an outpost of civilization as opposed to barbarism."

Chaim Weizmann, a central leader of the Zionist movement to colonize Palestine and later president of Israel, explained, "What we wanted was a British protectorate."

"A Jewish Palestine would be a safeguard to England," he explained to British officials, "in particular in respect to the Suez Canal."

Self-determination opposed

At the beginning of World War I, there were 85,000 Jews in Palestine — a figure which dropped to 56,000 during the war. Many of those who remained were descendants of families that had lived in the area for generations.

In voicing support for Zionism, Balfour justified rejecting any form of self-determination for the Palestinian Arabs. The Allied powers, he said, "do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants... Zionism being of far profounder import than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land."

A U.S. commission that visited Palestine in 1919 reported to President Woodrow Wilson, "The Zionists look forward to a practically complete dispossession of the present non-Jewish inhabitants of Palestine, by various forms of purchase." The report pointed out that this goal could only be accomplished "by force of arms."

Expropriating peasants

After World War I, backed by the British colonial administration, the Jewish National Fund, set up by the World Zionist Organization in 1901, stepped up its purchases of land from Arab landowners in Palestine. This step was often followed by expulsion of Arab peasants from the land, which was then turned over to Jewish settlers, set aside for future settlers, or used

to foster Jewish-owned industry.

The British authorities restricted the former rights of Arab landlords and peasants to expand their holdings.

Between 1922 and 1939, the amount of land held by the fund rose from 150,000 to nearly 400,000 acres.

The massive infusion of capital from abroad to purchase land in Palestine caused a boom in real estate prices that led to the Zionist expropriation of ever more Arab peasants.

Zionist organizations campaigned for the dismissal of Arab workers from jobs in Jewish-owned businesses and their replacement by settlers. Arab-made goods were boycotted. And the flow of capital from the Jewish National Fund and other backers of colonizing Palestine spurred the growth of a strong capitalist class among the settlers.

The result was a developing system of segregation directed against the Arab population, including wage differentials and other privileges for the settlers. To protect these privileges, the settlers formed armed units that were the nuclei of the Zionist Haganah and Irgun armies that forged the Israeli state in 1948.

Palestinian Arab nationalism

Resistance to Zionist colonization of their homeland spurred the development of Palestinian national consciousness and resistance to British rule.

While the British imperialists often worked closely with the Zionists, they did not support the Zionist goal of transforming Palestine into an independent, exclusively Jewish state. They backed the Zionists as a means of reinforcing their own rule. As the Zionists later moved toward their goal — with the backing of U.S. imperialism — the colonial settlers and the British rulers came into sharp conflict.

In 1921 massive protests against British rule and Zionist settlement greeted a visit to Palestine by Winston Churchill, then the minister of colonies in the British cabinet. An Arab general strike greeted Arthur Balfour when he visited Palestine in 1925.

Arab revolt

In the 1930s the growing national movement exploded into a popular revolt against British rule.

This coincided with unrest across the Middle East as a revolt challenged British rule in Egypt, and a general strike shook the French grip on Syria. The British imperialists yielded a little ground. Iraq gained its formal independence in 1932, and the protectorate over Egypt was ended in 1937.

In 1936 a general strike swept Palestine, accompanied by the formation of Arab National Committees across the country. The strike demanded the suspension of Jewish immigration.

For the next three years, Palestinian peasants waged a guerrilla war against the British occupiers. In 1938 the guerrillas controlled the whole Arab area of the country, establishing an unofficial administration that was finally rooted out only with considerable difficulty by British troops.

At the height of this anti-imperialist upsurge, half of the British Army was tied down in the Middle East.

Official British figures — vastly under-

Continued on Page 13

Ad supports Palestinian struggle

Three hundred prominent individuals signed a full-page advertisement — published in the Sunday, March 13, *New York Times* — that calls on the U.S. government to end all aid to Israel and urges solidarity with the struggle for a democratic and secular Palestine.

The advertisement denounced the "brutal occupation, daily humiliation, military rule, mass imprisonment, and institutionalized torture" that is being carried out against the Palestinian people by the Israeli government. It called for support to the struggle to dismantle the State of Israel and establish "a democratic, secular Palestine, where Jews and Arabs, Christians and Moslems live together with equal rights and opportunities."

"Since 1948," it continued, "\$92 billion of U.S. tax money — \$6 billion in 1987 alone — have financed Israel, a state built on expulsion, dispossession, and subjugation. The American people have no interest in subsidizing the world's fourth largest military power or the torment of the Palestinian people. End all aid now!"

The signers included 200 people from the United States, and another 100 from 15 countries including Israel and countries of Europe, Latin America, and North Africa.

Among the signers were authors Jessica Mitford, Bertell Ollman, Gore Vidal, and Alice Walker; Rabbi Elmer Berger; Jim Guyette, former president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9; Oakland, California, City Council member Wilson Riles, Jr.; Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling; Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition; Muhammad Hallaj, editor of *Palestine Perspectives*; veteran civil rights fighter Robert F. Williams; antiwar activist Ron Kovic; Nat Weinstein, national secretary of Socialist Action; poet Laurence Ferlinghetti; and attorney William Kunstler.

James Mac Warren, presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, and Rena Cacoullos, representing the Young Socialist Alliance, were also among the signers. Another was George Novack, a longtime leader of the SWP and author of many books on history and philosophy.

SWP wins court case against FBI spying

Continued from front page

the victory was also held today at the Los Angeles Press Club in California. Speaking at the West Coast event were SWP leader Larry Seigle; Frank Wilkinson of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation; Khader Hamide, one of eight supporters of Palestinian rights that are threatened with deportation; SWP vice-presidential candidate Kathleen Mickells; and PRDF representative Elizabeth Stone.

Statements celebrating the victory have come from New York State Assemblyman Roger Green; Kathy Andrade, an official of Local 23-25 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Robert and Michael Meeropol, sons of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were framed up and executed in 1953 on charges of giving the Soviet government the "secret" of the atomic bomb; Morton Sobell, who was convicted with the Rosenbergs and sent to prison; actor Ed Asner; Peter Schey of the National Center for Immigrants Rights; Jack Foley, director of District 1 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; and the Los Angeles chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

"I think we helped bring about, with many, many others, a shift in the political sensibilities in this country," Barnes said. "The right to privacy, the right of association, the refusal to accept national security as the rationalization for any action by the federal police — all this changed in the past period and I think our case has helped change that."

And, Barnes said, "the fact that even the federal government at the highest levels has to pay fines and attorneys' fees is no small part of the victory."

"But it is not only the SWP and YSA who are the victors," he said. "Every labor union and farmers' organization, every group seeking to halt racist discrimination and cop violence against Black people, every defender of women's rights and the rights of immigrants, every opponent of Washington's intervention into the affairs of other countries and aggression abroad, every political party or association — all of us have a new tool to use to defend constitutional freedoms against government violations."

"How were we able to do this?" asked Barnes. "Because the we was so much more than the formal plaintiffs." He praised the Political Rights Defense Fund, "whose tens of thousands of supporters in the United States and in many other countries have made this conquest possible."

He thanked the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and the Bill of Rights Foundation. He also saluted Leon-

ard Boudin and his decade and a half of work on the suit.

What Watergate exposed

On July 18, 1973, as the Watergate scandal was bringing to light previously hidden facts about the FBI's covert domestic operations, the SWP and YSA filed a lawsuit against then-President Richard Nixon and 18 other officials and former officials of the U.S. government.

"This case is winnable," Boudin told reporters at the time.

Having won the case, this doesn't sound like a radical judgement today, said Barnes. But at the time Boudin said it, it was a new idea.

The suit charged Nixon and the other defendants with "illegal acts of blacklisting, harassment, electronic surveillance, burglary, mail tampering, and terrorism" against the SWP and YSA and their members and supporters.

The plaintiffs asked for a court injunction to halt these government acts.

Through the lawsuit, literally hundreds of thousands of pages of secret FBI files were brought to light. These documents became one of the chief sources of information about the FBI's Cointelpro ("counter-intelligence program") operations, the extent and character of its informer network, and its "black-bag jobs" — burglaries to plant bugs and steal papers.

Boudin told reporters today that he viewed the SWP case as a kind of "laboratory study of how the FBI actually functions in terms of trying to penetrate and injure an organization that engages in lawful political activities." It is an example of "what must have been done against scores of other organizations."

Origins of anti-SWP campaign

As Judge Griesa recorded in his 1986 opinion, the FBI's operations against the SWP began in the years leading up to World War II. The employer class was gearing up for the restrictions on democratic rights that the war would make necessary.

The SWP became a target of the government because of its class-struggle policy in the unions its members participated in, its opposition to World War II, and its efforts to spread Marxist ideas.

The case started, wrote Griesa, "with a series of directives issued by President [Franklin] Roosevelt to J. Edgar Hoover. Roosevelt met with Hoover on August 24, 1936, and this meeting was recorded in a memorandum written by Hoover. According to the memorandum, Roosevelt 'was desirous of discussing the question of the subversive activities in the United States,

particularly fascism and communism' . . .

"In 1941 Director Hoover wrote the New York office of the FBI complaining about the lack of information regarding the SWP and requesting that every effort be made 'to obtain from book shops, informants, and other sources whatever written materials existed about the SWP.'"

'New' and 'old' FBI

Barnes said that many people had asked him whether the SWP case basically dealt with the "old" FBI under Hoover or the current FBI.

Initially, Barnes said, it was about the legacy of the Hoover FBI. It was about "30 years of what we thought we had suffered under the FBI in addition to what we knew we had suffered and the desire to get justice and to advance the fight for democratic rights in this country."

But over the course of the case, this changed, Barnes said. What was exposed was the "depth of determination of the government to defend what the Hoover FBI had done and to defend it from the point of view that it was necessary for them to carry out their work. And if nothing else, 'national security' was used to justify it."

Barnes quoted Griesa's 1987 injunction, when the judge answered government officials' demands that they be able to use the illegally obtained spy files that contain reports gathered for almost 40 years:

"The government contends that there should be no injunctive relief because there is no threat of future unconstitutional use of the illegally obtained information — such as use in a disruption program. But this ignores the fact that any use or dissemination of this material would be tainted with illegality because the information is not lawfully in the hands of the Government. The Government can hardly deny the possibility of usage when it has presented affidavits of seven federal agencies . . . urging that they need to have access to the information in these documents for various purposes."

The case, said Barnes, thus came full circle: what was made known and exposed at the trial about the 30 years of Hoover's disruption efforts, "were precisely the things that they were determined to defend because they had to continue to use them. It turned into a case that both dealt with the history of injustices and the realities of what tools they insist they must have today."

Barnes pointed out that in his decision, Griesa provided an extensive summary of the government's illegal operations against the SWP and YSA as revealed in the case. This included the FBI's use of informers, disruption operations, wire-taps, electronic surveillance, and black-bag jobs.

Then, said Barnes, this Republican judge, who was appointed by Nixon, concluded that "there is no evidence that any FBI informant ever reported an instance of planned or actual espionage, violence, [or] terrorism."

Instead, wrote Griesa, the informers helped the FBI amass "thousands of reports recording peaceful, lawful activity by the SWP and YSA," and carried out FBI orders to "suppress recruiting activities," to "frustrate the growth of the organizations," and "to attempt to disrupt them."

Griesa concluded that this entire government operation was illegal.

He specifically ruled that the FBI cannot appeal to "national security" to authorize its agents to violate the Constitution, writing "the FBI exceeded any reasonable definition of its mandate and had no discretion to do so."

In his August 1986 decision, Griesa said he would issue an injunction to prevent the government from using the illegally obtained materials.

In response, the Justice Department and several other governmental agencies filed affidavits arguing that barring the use of the illegally obtained files would have dire consequences for their work and "national security."

In addition to a memorandum by Meese, affidavits were filed by the FBI, CIA, Office of Personnel Management, State Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Defense Investigative Service, National Security Agency, Secret Service, and the U.S. Army and Navy.

But the judge dismissed their claims and issued his injunction last year. The 12 government parties who signed the agreement

not to appeal the case included several who had submitted affidavits.

In response to a question about why the government decided at the last minute not to appeal the case, Barnes said there was no way it could have been appealed on simply narrow technical grounds. "To appeal the case would mean rehearsing publicly in front of the U.S. people what has been exposed in this 15-year effort," he said. It would have meant redoing the case before the appeals court and then, possibly, before the Supreme Court.

"The current administration faces problems. Its activity has not been primarily lawful. The appeal dismissal was filed the day after indictments came down against a few of the minor figures in the Iran-Contra-gate scandal," Barnes pointed out.

He was referring to the federal grand jury indictments of four men for setting up a secret operation to channel funds to the Nicaraguan contras. They are former national security adviser John Poindexter, former White House aide Oliver North, retired air force major general Richard Secord, and his business partner, Albert Hakim.

Barnes also emphasized the importance of the recent revelations about FBI spying on CISPES.

As the result of an effort by CISPES and the Center for Constitutional Rights, the FBI has been forced to admit that it carried out an extensive nationwide drive to "break" CISPES.

In this operation the FBI spied upon, harassed, and collected more than 3,700 pages of files on hundreds of individuals and 150 organizations. This underground operation, which the FBI admits it conducted between 1981 and at least 1985, was carried out under classified "Foreign Intelligence/Terrorism" guidelines adopted by the Reagan administration in 1981.

CISPES has been fighting to gain access to all the files the FBI developed. CISPES representative Cowger told reporters at the news conference that the SWP's "historic victory" is a component of a larger victory which CISPES is also part of. She said the decision in the SWP case was an aid for all those fighting for peace and justice, who will not be intimidated by government harassment.

"These things will continue as long as there are police, as long as there's a tendency to expand executive power to carry out these policies in a world that won't accept U.S. government dictates," said Barnes. "But CISPES and their friends managed to expose them quicker" than the SWP was able to do. People see rights in a different way today, he said.

Decision more important than ever

Mounting evidence now points to the conclusion that the stock market crash last October signaled that a qualitatively new period of economic instability, social crisis, and hard times for tens of millions of working people is in the offing. Government agencies and many employers will step up efforts to force through deep social and economic cutbacks. To carry out these blows successfully will require intensified government efforts to interfere with the right to organize, meet, and protest. This makes this victory even more important.

"We said 15 years ago when we launched the case that the FBI's purpose was to discourage political activity, to lessen the space for it, to narrow the de facto use of the Bill of Rights, to shrink the confidence of working people and anyone who wants to use their democratic rights, in order to prepare for the war and repression they felt was necessary," Barnes told reporters.

"At a minimum we can say that our victory helps encourage people to engage in political activity, increases the space for politics, expands the de facto use of the Bill of Rights, increases the confidence of working people that you can be political and hold the deepest convictions against the government and it's your right to do so and act upon them, and weakens their ability to prepare secretly for war and repression."

"I think we can justly say that what the *Nation* magazine called the government's 50-year domestic contra operation was exposed. And everyone who wants to fight can fight in better shape today, and rights for all were expanded."

Spread the word about this victory!

The historic victory in the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance suit against FBI spying and disruption is a weapon in the hands of all those fighting for peace, social justice, and democratic rights.

The Political Rights Defense Fund has won broad political and

financial support for this fight since the suit was filed in 1973.

The PRDF is organizing rallies across the country to celebrate this victory and let everyone know about the new ground for political rights that has been conquered.

Join us in this effort!

- ☐ I enclose \$_____ to help the PRDF.
- ☐ Please send me _____ copies of Judge Griesa's decision that government spying and disruption are unconstitutional. Booklet also has judge's injunction against use of illegal FBI files. \$1 per copy.
- ☐ Please send me _____ copies of *Una lucha por derechos políticos*, (A Struggle for Political Rights), a pamphlet in Spanish about the case at \$1 per copy.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Title/Union/Organization _____
(for identification purposes only)

Political Rights Defense Fund, P.O. Box 761, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10007. Telephone (212) 941-1174.

Massive FBI wiretap revealed in trial of 15 Puerto Ricans

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

"All of us who are in opposition to a government are branded terrorists," said prominent Irish independence activist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey. She was standing outside the courtroom in Hartford, Connecticut, where pretrial testimony is being heard in the case of the Hartford 15.

McAliskey was there the first week of March to demonstrate her support for the 15 Puerto Rican independence activists being framed up by the U.S. government on charges of conspiring to rob a Hartford Wells Fargo depot in 1983. The 15 are also accused of membership in Los Macheteros, a Puerto Rican organization the U.S. government calls "terrorist."

She attended pretrial hearings and met with defendant Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, who has now been in jail for more than two and a half years — with no bail and no trial date. His fifth appeal for release was turned down by the court in February on the basis of FBI claims that he is a "dangerous terrorist."

Codefendant Juan Segarra Palmer was finally released on \$1 million bail March 7 after 31 months of "pretrial detention."

Outrageous violations of the defendants' rights to privacy have been coming to light in pretrial testimony since February. The hearings began more than a year ago.

1,500 hours of tapes

At the center of the revelations are 1,500 hours of conversations taped by the FBI as it spied on the defendants in their homes and workplaces in Puerto Rico. Defense attorneys are challenging the legality of these recordings — the prosecution's principal evidence in the case.

To begin with, the defense points out, the Puerto Rican constitution forbids the use of any kind of wiretaps or electronic devices. Although the U.S. government claims that Puerto Rico is "autonomous," it systematically violated this law, installing wiretaps and planting bugs in the defendants' homes, cars, and workplaces for long periods of time.

Defendants Luz Berríos and Segarra Palmer's house was bugged for more than a year. "The FBI listened to every sound in that house," one of the defense attorneys noted. "We know they listened to everything because they turned over to us tapes in which you can hear the toilet flushing, people in the shower, parents putting children to bed, and intimate moments between a married couple."

The FBI not only tapped the defendants' private telephones, but all the public phones in their neighborhoods.

The cops also broke U.S. federal laws limiting FBI electronic spying.

They systematically violated two provisions of the 1968 federal wiretap law — that agents can only listen to conversations about specific illegal activity and that they must record everything they hear. These stipulations were included in the bill to assuage fears of unlimited trampling on the privacy of those targeted by the FBI.

The cops are required to keep a written log of everything they listen to and record on reel-to-reel tapes so the court can check compliance with its surveillance order. A practice known as "live monitoring" where the agent listens through the monitoring device but does not record what he or she hears is forbidden.

Agents who spied on the Hartford 15 have admitted destroying hundreds of cassette tapes that documented what they heard after turning off the reel-to-reel machines making their "official" recordings. A few of these accidentally preserved illegal cassettes demonstrate that there were no holds barred on the FBI's spying.

Listened to every conversation

Segarra Palmer, who is participating in his own legal defense, has shown that the cops listened to virtually every conversation and activity in his home for more than a year. This included conversations that took place in the privacy of bedrooms to

discussions between parents and children to a conversation about someone's favorite movie. Much of what was recorded didn't even involve the defendants, but others who were in the house.

Some of the cops who spied on Berríos and Segarra Palmer moved in next door to gain access to their home. They questioned the couple's children to find out when the family would be away so they could enter the house and plant their listening devices. Interrogating children is illegal.

Live monitoring, perjury

Defense attorneys have demonstrated that the cops used live monitoring by analyzing the reel-to-reel tapes, which reveal the eavesdroppers' practice of using a radio or television in the listening post to match the station that is on in their target's home. This can be accomplished only by continual listening in by the agent before and after turning on the recorder. The matching of stations is done so the tape can later be "washed" of background noise to hear conversations more clearly.

In the Hartford tapes, the recordings begin when the channels are matched. The cops claim they somehow knew exactly what was playing at the defendants' homes the instant they began to record. FBI agent J. Antonio Rivera perfectly matched eight channel changes in a two-hour period, for example, explaining this as "coincidence."

Defense attorneys also argue that the cops are guilty of perjury. Seventy of them submitted false sworn affidavits denying any wrongdoing and then lied on the witness stand.

"It was obviously a deliberate policy approved at the higher ranks of the FBI, who had to have known about and approved of the bootleg cassettes, the cover-ups, and the lying under oath," said defense attorney Harold Mayerson. "For the perjury alone,

Des Moines meat-packer fights rape frame-up

Continued from front page

call to a friend that the police told him what he was charged with: sexual abuse in the second degree.

Then the police brought Curtis into a room and made him take all his clothes off. Three cops began an "interrogation."

One said to Curtis, "You're going to have to face up to this thing. You're going to have to tell us what you did."

"You were raping that girl," said a second.

Curtis replied that he wanted to talk to an attorney.

The cops then shifted their line of "questioning."

"You're one of those Mexican-lovers, aren't you?" said one of the cops. "Just like you love those coloreds."

"I'll bet he's got AIDS," said another.

Curtis refused to be provoked. One of the cops then grabbed him in a chokehold, where he could hardly breathe, and a second cop kned him in the stomach. He clubbed Curtis on the face with a nightstick. The three then beat Curtis all over his body.

"The next thing I remember," Curtis told the *Militant*, "I was in the hospital. My ankles were in terrible pain, they were shackled together. My wrists were shackled to a bed."

The cops who had brought him to the hospital told doctors and nurses, "We've got a rapist here."

Curtis had to have stitches all around one eye, which was swollen shut. The cops had fractured his cheekbone.

Curtis was then taken back to the police station and thrown naked into a cement-floored cell with no water, bed, toilet, or blankets. He was left there freezing all night.

The next morning Curtis was arraigned on charges of sexual abuse in the second degree and two counts of assault against police officers. The sexual abuse charge



Militant/Pat Hunt

New York demonstration in support of Hartford 15

this entire prosecution should be dismissed."

Many of the agents have admitted live monitoring out of boredom or curiosity.

Political dossiers

But idle prying was not the reason the FBI broke the wiretap laws, defense lawyers point out. The cops listened in for the illegal purpose of gathering information about the personal lives and opinions of the Puerto Rican independence fighters to add to the personality profiles and other dossiers the FBI compiles on activists — regardless of their supposed involvement in illegal activities.

They note it is also possible that the FBI listened to private conversations in the defendants' homes to collect information that could be used to harass prominent pro-independence activists or disrupt their political work, as was done to Martin Luther King, Jr., and many other figures during the heyday of the FBI's illegal Cointelpro program in the 1960s.

When Judge T. Emmet Clairie granted bail to Segarra Palmer, he argued that possible flight was not a justifiable basis for pretrial detention under the Bail Reform Act. Only if the defendant represented a "danger" to others could he be held. Segarra Palmer's two and half years in jail then was to convict him before the trial even takes place.

In the hearing for Ojeda Ríos' motion for bail, his lawyer pointed to the reason for the U.S. government's attempted frame-up of the Hartford 15. "Filiberto Ojeda Ríos is on trial," he explained, "because he is an *independentista*" opposed to U.S. colonial domination of Puerto Rico.

Supporters of the Hartford 15 are continuing a petition campaign demanding the release of Ojeda Ríos, the dropping of all charges in the case, and an end to the harassment of the Puerto Rican independence movement.

The pretrial hearings are continuing. Defense attorneys say that it may be six more months before jury selection begins.

can carry a 25-year sentence. Bail was set at \$28,875. Supporters raised the funds and got him out of jail that day.

The cops are telling the media that they received a phone call for help March 4 and arrived at the house just as Curtis was trying to sexually assault the young woman. The police say the woman told them, "That guy just raped me."

To cover up the brutal beating they gave Curtis, police officials say he became "violent" during interrogation.

"The claim that I tried to rape this woman, and that I attacked the cops afterward, is a complete lie. I am innocent," Curtis told the *Militant*. "I've been falsely arrested, framed up for attempted rape, beaten into unconsciousness, and then framed up again for supposedly assaulting the cops who assaulted me!"

"This violation of my constitutional rights turns out to be more widespread in the city. Since my arrest a number of people, including some Swift workers, have told me how they too were beaten up by the Des Moines police or know someone who was."

"The charge against me of sexual assault makes no sense to those who know me and what I've dedicated my life to," Curtis said. "I plan to fight this frame-up to the end, get all the charges overturned, and not stop until the full truth comes out about what happened."

Curtis is well known at the Swift plant, where several months ago, coworkers and the union won his job back. The company had put Curtis on indefinite suspension for leaving the assembly line to see a nurse for a work-related back injury.

Curtis is also a longtime member of the Socialist Workers Party and a former national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance. In addition to his activity in support of immigrant workers, he has been involved in protests in the Des Moines suburb of Clive against racist police practices.

Curtis is also a firm opponent of U.S. intervention in Central America. Secret FBI files recently released on the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) reveal that the FBI investigated Curtis as one of the main activists in the Birmingham, Alabama, Committee in Solidarity with Central America in 1984. One heavily censored letter to FBI headquarters from the Birmingham FBI lists Curtis as one of those identified "as acting in the leadership role in the Birmingham area."

Supporters organize defense

On March 12, a week after his arrest, Curtis joined a demonstration in support of the 17 arrested Swift workers called by groups in the Latino community and others.

Following that march, a meeting of more than 40 people was held to discuss Curtis' defense campaign. Participants included Swift workers, members of the Iowa Citizens Action Network, students from the University of Iowa and Drake University, and Jane Curtis, Mark's mother.

They decided to organize a news conference, scheduled for March 18, to get out the truth about Curtis' case. In addition, Curtis will be a featured speaker at a Des Moines rally March 27 sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund, which organizes support for the SWP's lawsuit against FBI spying.

Curtis is urging all supporters of democratic rights to immediately send telegrams to the Des Moines police, demanding that all charges be dropped against him; protesting his brutalization by the cops; and demanding an investigation into the beating.

Protests should be directed to Police Chief William Moulder, 25 E. First St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Telephone (515) 283-4800.

Copies should be sent to Mark Curtis, 2105 Forest Ave., Des Moines, Iowa, 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

British troops gun down Irish activists on Gibraltar streets

Thousands protest killings in Ireland

BY DONNEIL NASH

LONDON — Thousands of supporters of the Irish freedom struggle lined the route as a funeral cortege with the bodies of three Irish activists, the latest victims of Britain's shoot-to-kill policy, made its way from Dublin to Belfast in Northern Ireland March 14.

Daniel McCann, 30, Mairead Farrell, 31, and Sean Savage, 24, were gunned down in cold blood in Gibraltar March 6.

The killings are also serving to fuel the already raging debate in Britain over a series of previous government murders of Irish activists.

The Conservative Party government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher immediately tried to justify the latest shootings with the claim that army experts had defused a 500-pound bomb found in the victims' car near the British governor's residence on Gibraltar. That is also the spot where the Royal Anglian Regiment stages its changing of the guard ceremony.

But the government was quickly forced to admit that the three were unarmed and that no bombs were found.

Gibraltar is a British colony of 29,000 located on a small promontory attached to Spain at the western entrance to the Mediterranean Sea.

Gibraltar resident Pepi Celecia told the press she was looking out of her window at about 3:30 on Sunday afternoon March 6.

"I was watching a couple walking down the road in the direction of the border, when I saw a blond man come up from behind them, and without any warning, he shot at them. The woman, who was carrying a large shoulder bag, fell to the ground immediately," Celecia said.

"The young man, in a white track suit and running shoes, staggered toward the service station. The man fired at him four or five times more, and he collapsed with blood all over the place."

She said that a police car had roared up to the gunman, who immediately jumped in. The car made a U-turn and sped away.

The next day, British and Spanish police changed their story again, saying they had found 140 pounds of explosives in a car in Marbella, Spain, a resort town 50 miles up the Spanish coast from Gibraltar. The cops

asserted that the car had been abandoned by the victims.

British and Spanish cops also claimed that they had been trailing the three since last November. Fearing a "terrorist attack," the cops placed 89,000 Irish and British citizens living in Spain under investigation.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) stated that the victims "were volunteers killed in active service." The IRA believes that an armed struggle is necessary to end the partition of Ireland and to liberate the six counties in the north from British rule.

Outrage over murders

Several days of protests took place in Belfast, Northern Ireland, following the killings.

In Dublin, capital of the Republic of Ireland, hundreds gathered after the shootings to sign a book of condolences prepared by Sinn Féin, a revolutionary nationalist organization with close ties to the IRA.

On March 14, Sinn Féin arranged for a special plane to transport the bodies of the murdered republicans to Dublin. They were then moved in the cortege to Belfast for burial.

As the procession passed through loyalist areas, it was stoned by a crowd waving British flags.

On March 14 British troops took another victim, gunning down Kevin McCracken in Belfast.

Outrage in Ireland in the first days following the killings was so great that even Prime Minister Charles Haughey was forced to speak out. "I have already said that the shooting of unarmed civilians is unacceptable to this government, and I think it should be unacceptable to democratic governments everywhere," Haughey exclaimed.

British, Danish, Dutch, Irish, and Spanish members of the European Parliament meeting in Strasbourg, West Germany, also condemned the killings.

The furor is also growing in Britain. Eric Heffer, Labour MP (member of Parliament) from Liverpool put forward a motion in the House of Commons that says the shootings are "tantamount to capital punishment without trial."

The entire episode adds weight to the growing belief that the British government and its military exercise a shoot-to-kill policy in perpetuating British rule in Northern Ireland.

Stalker investigation

This is the essence of the raging public controversy over the "Stalker affair" — an investigation named after the high-ranking police officer John Stalker.

He was deputy chief constable of the Greater Manchester police, appointed by the British government to investigate the killings of six unarmed Irish men.

The story began in 1982 in the pro-nationalist area of Armagh in Northern Ireland.

In order to cope with IRA activity in the area, which had broad popular support from the local community, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) formed the Mobile Support Unit, which worked closely with the British Secret Service's MI5.

In November and December of 1982, the Mobile Support Unit was involved in three separate incidents resulting in deaths. Five of the men killed were known to be active republicans. Eugene Toman, Sean Burns, and Gervaise McKerr had IRA connections. And Roddy Carroll and Seamus Grew were members of the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA).

None of these men were armed or involved in military activity when they were shot.

The death of Michael Tighe, a 17-year-old, has been surrounded by even more controversy. Tighe and a school friend,



Royal Ulster Constabulary and British soldiers constantly harass republican population in Northern Ireland. Recent killings are fueling furor in Britain over cover-up of murder of six Irish activists in 1982.

Martin McCauley, were in a deserted barn when they were fired on by the RUC. McCauley was seriously injured, and Tighe died of multiple wounds.

The RUC claimed that the youths were armed, but the two rusty rifles found at the scene had no bolts or ammunition and were not in usable condition. Local residents claimed the rifles were planted by the RUC and dismissed police claims that the youths were given a chance to surrender.

It has since emerged that the barn was under MI5 surveillance and the whole incident was actually recorded on tape.

RUC agents lied about the killings in court. And the government has steadfastly maintained that prosecutions or public knowledge about the incidents would damage "national security."

When Stalker was investigating the shootings, he was refused access to the tapes by John Hermon, head of the RUC.

Stalker has described how he "met increasing resistance" from the RUC and that just at the point when he was finally going to gain access to the transcripts of the tape recording, he was removed from the inquiry and suspended from duty.

His superior officer, James Anderton, claimed Stalker had associated with known criminals. Anderton is famous for saying that he gets his instructions directly from God.

Stalker was cleared and reinstated to duty in Manchester. He has since taken early retirement. His new book *Stalker*, about the "Stalker affair," is being widely read in Britain.

A second inquiry into the killings was ordered by the British government. But the government again decided not to prosecute the murderers and is trying to keep the findings of the investigation secret.

British Labour MP Ken Livingstone has described Patrick Mayhew, the government's chief law officer in charge of the cover-up, as "an accomplice to murder."

Even a big-business publication such as the *Economist* has stated, "The government has admitted that members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary have conspired to pervert the course of justice. Yet it is still not taking full responsibility for discovering how such a conspiracy came about."

Birmingham Six

Adding fuel to the mounting anger against this situation is the Thatcher government's refusal to grant freedom to the six Irish men known as the Birmingham Six.

Hugh Callaghan, Patrick Hill, Robert Hunter, Richard McKelvey, William Power, and John Walker were convicted in 1974 of carrying out a series of pub bombings in Birmingham, England. They have maintained their innocence throughout.

The convictions rest on forensic evidence that has been challenged by several

experts and on confessions gained after severe beatings. A campaign launched in defense of the men won widespread support in the labor movement and in Irish communities here in Britain.

The case of the Birmingham Six bears striking resemblance to the case of the Guildford Four, who were also convicted of pub bombings and are widely regarded as innocent.

But the government is refusing to budge on both cases.

Irish solidarity activists argue that the imprisonment of these 10 innocent people is designed to intimidate the potentially powerful Irish population in Britain.

Repressive legislation

This is what lies behind the Thatcher government's move to make the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) permanent. This act, which was introduced as a "temporary measure" in the hysteria that followed the Birmingham bombings, allows the state to detain people up to seven days or longer without access to lawyers, and without charges being brought against them.

At least 10,000 people have been detained under the PTA. Only a handful of those detained have ever been charged.

Participants in the Irish solidarity movement complain that the PTA is used to try to "criminalize" their political activity.

Even before the latest killings, two more incidents occurred that deepened protests.

The first was the gunning down of Aidan McAnespie in Ireland on February 25. McAnespie, 24, was killed by a British soldier as he was strolling to a Sunday afternoon Gaelic football match.

Local people reject army claims that he was killed by a ricochet bullet and point out that McAnespie and his family have been threatened several times by British soldiers. This in spite of the fact that McAnespie was not active in politics.

Within days of this shooting, it was revealed that Ian Thain, the only British soldier ever convicted of murder in Northern Ireland, was released after serving just over two years of a life sentence.

Thain, who was found guilty of murdering unarmed Irish nationalist Thomas "Kidso" Reilly, has been returned to active duty in the British army.

The Gibraltar killings are the most recent in a deepening assault on civil and democratic rights by the Thatcher government.

But the ruling circles do not agree on how to deal with the growing clamor over the attacks on democratic rights, as public debate over the Stalker affair, the Birmingham Six injustice, and the Gibraltar killings shows.

And there is a growing mood in support of the Irish freedom struggle in Britain, with Irish republicans getting an increasing audience in the labor movement.

Three die in attack on Belfast funeral

BY CLIVE TURNBULL

BELFAST, Ireland — An armed attack on the funeral of Mairead Farrell, Sean Savage, and Daniel McCann at Milltown Cemetery here has resulted in three deaths and many injuries.

The assault on the funeral took place in full view of the two British army helicopters that hovered overhead throughout.

Several hundred in the crowd pursued the two gunmen, who threw grenades and fired shots to cover their escape. Despite this, one of the gunmen was captured when his pistol jammed. He was placed under citizen's arrest until Royal Ulster Constabulary officers arrived to rescue him at gunpoint.

The murderous attack took place following a funeral procession of tens of thousands. The crowd lining the route to the cemetery was the biggest since the funeral march for hunger striker Bobby Sands in 1981.

Several hundred wreaths were carried behind the three coffins, which were draped with Irish national flags. Black flags flew from every lamp-post and many houses throughout west Belfast. All stores and workplaces in the area were closed for the day.

Philippine Muslim rebels get int'l support

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — A new international initiative by the Moro National Liberation Front has created headaches for President Corazon Aquino, whose government has been trying to defeat the struggle for self-determination of the Moro people.

The Moros are Muslims. About 5 million are concentrated on the southern Philippine islands of Mindanao, Sulu, and Palawan. The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) is the main organization leading their struggle.

The MNLF has applied to the 48-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to be accepted as a full member at the OIC conference scheduled to be held in Jordan this month. For the past 11 years the MNLF has had observer status.

The OIC groups together the governments of countries that have a Muslim cul-

Among some of the Philippine tribes, a distinct civilization began to develop through contact with the Islamic traders. This evolving social order adopted the Islamic religious, social, and legal code of the Arab traders.

The Muslim people, or the Moros as they were called by the Spanish, bitterly resisted Spanish and subsequent U.S. conquest of the Philippines. Unlike the people of Luzon Island and the Visayan island group, both of whom were conquered and Christianized, the Moros preserved many elements of their culture and way of life as farming, fishing, and trading people.

Recent decades have seen large-scale foreign capitalist penetration of Mindanao in the form of logging, mining, and plantation operations, and tenant and owner-operated commercial farming. The capitalists rely largely on an immigrant work force of peasants displaced from their homes in the overwhelmingly Christian north.

The penetration of capitalism has been accompanied by large-scale grabbing of the land of Moro farmers.

Struggle against Marcos

Moro resentment exploded in the 1970s into a war, led by the newly formed MNLF, headed by Nur Misuari, against the martial law regime of Ferdinand Marcos. An estimated 50,000 to 100,000 people died and one of every four Moros was rendered homeless by Marcos' counterinsurgency operations.

In 1976 Marcos was compelled to sign an agreement with the MNLF, under the auspices of the OIC, granting Muslim autonomy in the southern Philippines.

But the dictator stalled on implementing this agreement. Intermittent warfare continued. The Moro guerrillas received military and economic support from some OIC countries. Two groupings broke from the MNLF and established their own guerrilla forces.

The overthrow of Marcos in February 1986 created a new opening for the Moro people to press their demands. President Aquino flew to Sulu in September and signed a cease-fire agreement with Misuari.

The new constitution adopted in a plebiscite in February 1987 committed the government to legislating autonomy for Muslim Mindanao within two years from the day the charter came into effect.

But the Aquino government has been refusing to carry out its commitment to grant Moro autonomy in 23 provinces on Min-



Moro (Muslim) people of the southern Philippine islands are fighting for self-determination.

danao, Sulu, and Palawan.

Instead, the regime sought to undercut the MNLF and bribe Moros willing to collaborate with Aquino. On February 26 she flew to Mindanao to launch a billion-peso economic program for the island, a windfall for corrupt officials who won local elections in January and February.

Aquino is also planning to announce appointments to a Regional Consultative Commission for Muslim Mindanao, which is to advise her on drawing up a new Muslim autonomy law.

Using the pretext of keeping the peace during the recent local government elections, Philippine armed forces commanders threatened to break the cease-fire by launching offensives against the MNLF. Military mobilizations were staged in Moro areas, including sending five battalions to Sulu. More armed clashes between the military and the MNLF are being reported.

Aquino's countermoves

In an effort to block the MNLF from gaining OIC membership, the government announced that Aquino will be making state visits to Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries.

In February Ramon Mitra, speaker of the lower house of the Philippine Congress, was sent on a similar trip. King Fahd of

Saudi Arabia reportedly refused to meet with him.

The government fears the impact the Moro struggle can have on economic links with the Middle East. Remittances from the more than 300,000 Filipino construction workers, domestics, and professionals working in Saudi Arabia and other gulf states are a major source of funds to the Philippines.

Thousands of other Filipinos staff oil tankers that ply the gulf.

The MNLF has at least 15,000 armed fighters. In parts of the south it is the real governing power.

Manila Chronicle correspondent Carol Argillas wrote from Sulu in relation to the January-February local elections: "In the town of Jolo, there are about two [military] checkpoints until Kilometer 5. Beyond this, the MNLF flag flies over the rest of the municipality with checkpoints and detachments manned by the MNLF."

The MNLF has warned that any Moros who join Aquino's Regional Consultative Commission will be considered guilty of treason. The organization has indicated that it is considering setting up a provisional government for the 23 southern provinces. Spokespeople have also indicated willingness to increase cooperation with New People's Army guerrillas fighting the government if the Aquino regime's forces go on the attack.



ture and tradition.

The Palestine Liberation Organization has been the only liberation movement not holding state power to be granted full OIC membership.

The Aquino government was dealt a blow when the OIC commission responsible for the Moro issue agreed March 1 to recommend to the conference that the MNLF application be approved. The commission cited the government's failure to implement agreements promising Moro autonomy.

The roots of the Moro struggle go back centuries.

For at least 200 years before Spanish colonization in the 16th century, Arab merchants had been carrying on trade along the Philippine coast.

New from Pathfinder

Surrogate Motherhood, Women's Rights, & the Working Class

by Cindy Jaquith

The case of "Baby M" has been one of the year's leading news stories. But behind the often-sensationalized headlines are a number of important questions addressed in this pamphlet:

In what ways do "surrogate motherhood" contracts violate basic democratic rights won by the workers' movement over more than 100 years?

How can the workers' movement fight to fulfill society's obligation toward children and to advance women's rights?

24 pp., \$1. Order from: Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Enclose 75 cents for postage and handling.

Pathfinder a hit at Manila book fair

BY DEB SHNOOKAL

MANILA, Philippines — For the second consecutive year Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia participated in the Manila Book Fair with overwhelming success. The February 27 Manila Chronicle reported that Pathfinder had one of the busiest booths at the February 20-28 fair.

This was reflected both in book sales and the enthusiastic response of many bookfair visitors to the Pathfinder booth. A total of 1,623 books and pamphlets were sold, most at reduced prices. This was double the previous year's sales.

The booth featured the Pathfinder range of titles on Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Grenada, South Africa, women's liberation, and Black rights.

During the 10-day bookfair, Pathfinder received considerable publicity in Manila's daily papers, including the Manila Chronicle, the Philippine Daily Enquirer, Manila Standard, Business Star, Philippine Star, and the Manila Bulletin. The February 24 Manila Standard and the February 23 Business Star did feature on Pathfinder's latest book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, which was launched at a meeting February 26 during the bookfair.

Other press reports focused on another Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia title, *Fidel and Religion, Conversations with Frei Betto*, which Johanna Son in the Dec. 26, 1987, Manila Chronicle named as among the 10 best books of the year.

The nearly 80 copies of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* sold out quickly, and a further 12 orders were prepaid during the last two days of the bookfair, bringing the total sold to 90.

Apart from the book of Guevara's writings, 44 copies of *Socialism and Man* by Guevara and 26 copies of a *Tricontinental* magazine special on him were sold.

Three other titles sold out as well. They were: *Fidel Castro: Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*, an interview with the Cuban president, by Jeffrey Elliot and Mervyn Dymally, 62 copies; *War and Crisis in the Americas*, by Fidel Castro, 50 copies; and *Time Was On Our Side*, by Mario Mencia, an account of the imprisonment of Fidel Castro and other July 26 Movement leaders following the Moncada attack, 51 copies.

The successful Guevara book launching showed the interest that exists here in the Cuban revolution. This was also reflected in the sales of 39 copies of *Fidel Castro's Political Strategy from Moncada to Victory*, by Marta Harnecker; 33 copies of *Fidel Castro's History Will Absolve Me*; and 36 copies of *Fidel and Religion*.

The Pathfinder titles on Nicaragua also remain popular. The 35 copies of *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution* were sold out, as were the 15 copies of *Sandinistas Speak*.

Reflecting interest in the history of the world communist movement, bookfair participants bought 14 copies of Pathfinder's

Founding Congress of the Communist International and nine copies of *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International*.

The majority of visitors to the Pathfinder booth were young, including many students.

As was the case last year, many visitors returned to the Pathfinder booth again and again over the 10-day bookfair, showing books to friends they had brought along or buying titles they didn't have the money for a few days before.

Noticeable this year was the interest in the classical Marxist works and the key strategic questions facing the world's workers and farmers. This was reflected in the sales of works by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, and Rosa Luxemburg, as well as the interest displayed in the *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, of which 51 copies were sold. Thirteen of the latest issue, with the feature article entitled, "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop," were sold.

Around 150 individual back issues of the *Militant* were sold, mostly to people seeing the paper for the first time. Two one-year and three introductory subscriptions were bought.

The Manila fair was held at a big exhibition center known as Philcite. It is organized by the Philippine Exhibition Co. Other displays included ones from the embassies of China, the USSR, Korea, and Malaysia.

Curaçao socialist hails Nicaragua advances

Plans cultural tour of Atlantic Coast groups to publicize autonomy example

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Curaçao socialist leader Eugene Godfried recently visited Nicaragua to arrange a tour of the Caribbean for cultural groups from Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. A central goal of the tour will be to publicize the autonomy project being developed by the Indian and Black peoples of the Atlantic Coast.

"The Nicaraguan experience is very important for Curaçao and the entire Caribbean area," Godfried said in an interview here. "Nicaragua has a long history of oppression, submission, and dependence on big capital. But they are now in the forefront of carrying out the big task that we all face: to work for genuine independence."

Curaçao is one of six small Caribbean islands that make up the Dutch colony known as the Netherlands Antilles. These islands are located off the coast of Venezuela, and have a total population of 250,000. Their economy is dominated by oil refineries owned by U.S., Dutch, and Venezuelan corporations.

In Curaçao, Godfried explained, "we have a double task: the fight for formal independence, and the fight for our national liberation just like Nicaragua."

In Nicaragua, he said, "the people are in power. They are in a position to actively respond to the ills of the society that they have inherited. We have to come here to learn how they are working and solving their problems; how they can improve life for the workers and farmers."

Godfried is general secretary of the Action Committee for a Socialist Movement in Curaçao. The Action Committee is a member of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America, which groups some 37 organizations from 22 countries in the Spanish-, Dutch-, English-, French-, and Creole-speaking Caribbean and Central America. He noted that the Sandinista National Liberation Front is also a member, "and we are giving active support to them, and to the Nicaraguan people."

Autonomy: example for Caribbean

Godfried said he was particularly impressed with the experiences of local autonomy being developed by the peoples of the Atlantic Coast. Under the autonomy law adopted last year by the revolutionary government here, the Coast peoples will elect local governments with wide author-

ity over educational, cultural, social, and economic affairs in their region.

Godfried contrasted the Nicaraguan autonomy project with the so-called autonomous governments that administer the Netherlands Antilles.

"What the Dutch call autonomy is autonomy within the framework of an imperialist power," he explained. "The people of the islands elect their own local government, but you have the Dutch queen as head of the government, and there is a governor in the islands as the representative of the queen."

"This so-called autonomy has meant that the Dutch government makes decisions about us without even informing us. It is autonomy that keeps us submitted to the interests of the Dutch and other transnational corporations."

Here he stressed, "the Nicaraguan autonomy enhances the possibilities of the peoples' full participation in the economic, social, cultural, and political spheres. It is for the liberation of the Nicaraguan people. That is why I feel that their autonomy should be discussed much more with the peoples of the Caribbean."

Publicizing the autonomy project will be a major goal of the cultural tour he is organizing, Godfried explained. A big advantage in touring Atlantic Coast groups is the similarity between their music and cultural traditions and those of much of the rest of the Caribbean. This will facilitate "establishing a dialogue between the Nicaraguan and Caribbean peoples," he said.

Example for farmers

Godfried said he was also impressed with Nicaragua's land reform program. Since the 1979 revolution, the workers' and peasants' government here has distributed land to tens of thousands of landless families, directly benefiting half a million people in this country of 3.5 million.

Godfried is a leader of farm organizations in Curaçao and helped organize protests last year to demand that the government distribute land to farmers and unemployed workers. Despite the protests however, "we haven't got a real agrarian reform yet, because we don't have the type of government to do it," he said. "But the revolution in Nicaragua shows that it can be done."



Militant/Roberto Kopeck

Eugene Godfried, leader of Action Committee for a Socialist Movement in Curaçao.

Godfried concluded with a brief message to workers and farmers of the United States.

"The American people have been the first to face the ills of big capital," Godfried said. "I think that they have tremendous experience in working and living under the complicated circumstances caused by the transnational corporations that are causing all our difficulties. It is important for us to learn from their experiences."

"I believe that other countries in the region can only come to liberation through active support and understanding from the U.S. people," Godfried continued. "We have seen in Vietnam how the awareness and involvement of the American working masses helped bring an end to the war."

"Therefore," he concluded, "I would make an urgent call for deepening this alliance through such ways as visiting each other's countries and through working together as you are doing with Nicaragua."

New York meeting highlights gains of Grenada revolution

BY MERYL LYNN FARBER

NEW YORK — One hundred people turned out here for a meeting to mark the ninth anniversary of the Grenada revolution. The March 12 event was sponsored by the Grenada Foundation and the Medgar Evers College Student Government.

Wilton DeCoteau from the Grenada Foundation moderated the meeting and introduced members in the audience from the Socialist Bloc of the Dominican Republic, the Committee Against Repression in Haiti, and the South West Africa People's Organization of Namibia. A representative of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations was greeted by prolonged applause.

The program opened with Themba Ntinga from the African National Congress. Ntinga related his experiences at State University of New York at Stony Brook as an African student leader prior to the criminal U.S. invasion of Grenada in October 1983. He described the large Caribbean, African, and U.S. student protests against the U.S. invasion. Ntinga said he had been harassed by university officials and Suffolk County police as a central organizer of the protest actions.

Prof. Roderick Thurton from Queens College discussed the situation of Caribbean countries in the postcolonial period and the impact of the defeat of the Grenada revolution.

He explained that 25 years of formal independence from colonial rule has produced declining social conditions for the masses of working people in the Caribbean. The policy of inviting in foreign capital, primarily U.S. capital, has failed miserably. Thurton said Cuba is the only country in the Caribbean that has moved ahead in the past 20 years, meeting the basic necessities of life for its people.

Steve Clark, director of Pathfinder and author of the recent article, "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop" (*New Internationalist* No. 6), took up the relationship between the Grenada revolution and recent developments in Cuba and Nicaragua. He said the current "rectification process" in Cuba, which is deepening the political understanding and involvement of Cuban workers and farmers in the building of socialism, would not be possible without the Grenada and Nicaraguan revolutions.

These revolutions served to break the isolation of the Cuban revolution imposed by U.S. imperialism.

Clark pointed to the special role the Grenada revolution played in cutting across language, cultural, and national divisions that are the legacy of colonial rule and imperialist oppression in the Caribbean. Grenada was the first revolution in an English-speaking country with a majority Black population.

Clark described the example set and lessons to be learned from Maurice Bishop. Bishop understood that the revolution could advance only by basing itself on the growing involvement of workers and farmers in the state, the party, and all aspects of social and economic life. The reversal of this course by the counterrevolutionary clique led by Bernard Coard — culminating in the October 1983 murder of Bishop and other leaders — destroyed the revolution and laid the basis for the subsequent U.S. invasion.

The New York celebration was one of several international meetings and events being held in Britain, Cuba, Nicaragua, and the Netherlands to commemorate the ninth anniversary. In Grenada on March 13 the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) planned a series of cultural, sports and political activities to mark the day.

Wilton DeCoteau announced the launching of a campaign to pressure the U.S.-imposed government in Grenada to allow Terry Marryshow, a leader of the MBPM, to practice medicine in Grenada. Marryshow is a young Cuban-trained doctor who is being denied the right to work, despite the desperate need for doctors in Grenada today. Petitions addressed to the government in Grenada were circulated at the meeting.

The New York meeting was cosponsored by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement Support Group; Organization for a Better Grenada; Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial; Young Socialist Alliance; Committee Against Repression in Haiti; Center for Caribbean Studies; Medgar Evers College; Center for Women's Development; Medgar Evers College; Dominican Workers Party; African National Congress; and the Socialist Bloc.

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With imperial arrogance, Washington's campaign is aimed at overturning the Panamanian government and establishing one more subservient to the U.S. rulers. This attack on Panamanian sovereignty threatens to reverse the 1977 agreement to turn the Panama Canal over to Panama by the year 2000.

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At home in Nicaragua, artist discusses work on N.Y. mural project

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Arnoldo Guillén, one of Nicaragua's most prominent painters and a leader of the Sandinista Association of Cultural Workers, traveled to the United States last October to participate in the Pathfinder Mural Project and speak in several cities. Guillén's visit was cohosted by the Pathfinder Mural Project and Ventana, an organization of U.S. artists supporting Nicaragua.

The mural project is a six-story-high painting on the side of the building that houses Pathfinder's editorial offices and printshop in New York City. It depicts revolutionary fighters, past and present, whose speeches and writings Pathfinder publishes and distributes around the world.

Guillén is one of a number of prominent international artists who have been helping paint the mural and gather support for the project. He painted a portrait of Augusto César Sandino, the revolutionary leader who led a workers' and peasants' army against U.S. occupation forces in Nicaragua in the 1920s and early 1930s. Guillén also completed a portrait of Carlos Fonseca, Marxist leader and central founder of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

Impressions of U.S.

Guillén recently described his impressions of the United States and his experiences with the Pathfinder mural in an interview here.

"What motivated me to participate in the mural," he said, "was the political significance of the project. It's not often that you find the faces of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Malcolm X, and other such leaders on the walls of New York City. That political connotation in itself made it interesting for me."

"Many revolutionary and social protest murals have been painted, but they were done in a somewhat underground manner," he continued. "This time, I see very broad and important publicity [for the mural]. It has provoked great interest among U.S. citizens, as well as among international citizens living in the United States. And on a world scale, artists who don't live there are very much interested in participating, precisely because of the challenge it represents."

Guillén's many portraits of Sandino are well known throughout the world. Referring to the Pathfinder mural, he said he had "a special interest in presenting an image of Sandino with a little more depth in that mystical expression of his. I really put a lot of interest and love in painting it, as I did with the portrait of Commander Carlos Fonseca."

Fonseca's portrait had actually been started by two other Nicaraguan artists,

Baltasar Gutiérrez and Bayardo Gámez. They were working on another mural project in Boston and worked for a few days on the Pathfinder mural during a brief visit to New York. Guillén completed the portrait.

Tours U.S. cities

While in the United States, Guillén also went on a speaking tour to several cities in New York and New Jersey and to Boston, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Newark, Delaware. He also visited striking paper mill workers in Jay, Maine.

"There is great interest in general in knowing the truth about what is happening in Nicaragua," Guillén said. However, he added, "in many cases there is also a lot of confusion because the [U.S.] media distorts everything. There are some doubts about the decisions made by the Nicaraguan government, which are made to appear in the media as something that they are not."

Thus, "*Perspectiva Mundial* and the *Militant* are two very important publications," he said. "I quoted them many times while in the United States because there are very few news media that are reliable about what is going on, not only in Nicaragua, but in all countries of the Third World."

For Guillén, the most interesting thing about the talks he gave was "the chance to dialogue, to clarify things. In some cases there were provocative, even hostile questions. But these are also important because it allows one to discuss and clarify things."

'U.S. not an enemy country'

During one of his speaking engagements he was asked how it felt to be in an "enemy" country. "I answered that I did not consider the United States an enemy of Nicaragua. The interests of the U.S. people are the same as our interests. We fight for the same things."

Guillén said he not only talked about Nicaragua but also learned about the United States. "What most interests us is this necessary communication. It is very important to know the reality of the United States because one realizes that we share the same interests."

"I learned that the American people also have a great desire for peace, jobs, and freedom. They are struggling in one way or another, and furthermore, they have a great tradition of struggle."

Commenting on Pathfinder, Guillén said that "it made a terrific impression, and its work is praiseworthy. Pathfinder is a publishing house that I was completely unaware of previously. It was a surprise to discover that it has been working for many years publishing important political works that few other publishing houses are interested in."

Missourians hit farm foreclosure

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — For 40 years Herbert and Mary Jones farmed and paid on their land in Caldwell County, Missouri. Their farm is now owned by Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. of Newark, New Jersey.

More than 100 farmers, farm activists, and their supporters picketed the Mutual Benefit office here on February 16 to protest this absentee landlord's farm policies and practices, and their treatment of the Jones' family farm.

After foreclosing on the Jones' farm in the spring of 1985, the insurance company's first act of land ownership was to bulldoze the farm. Photographs on an informational leaflet distributed at the protest revealed the bulldozer's handiwork.

It showed jagged gullies, knocked-over trees, and pasture land scraped bare and never replanted on the once award-winning conservation farm. Mutual Benefit's opinion is also quoted on the flier, "In regard to the property in Caldwell County, Missouri... we firmly believe this property is in

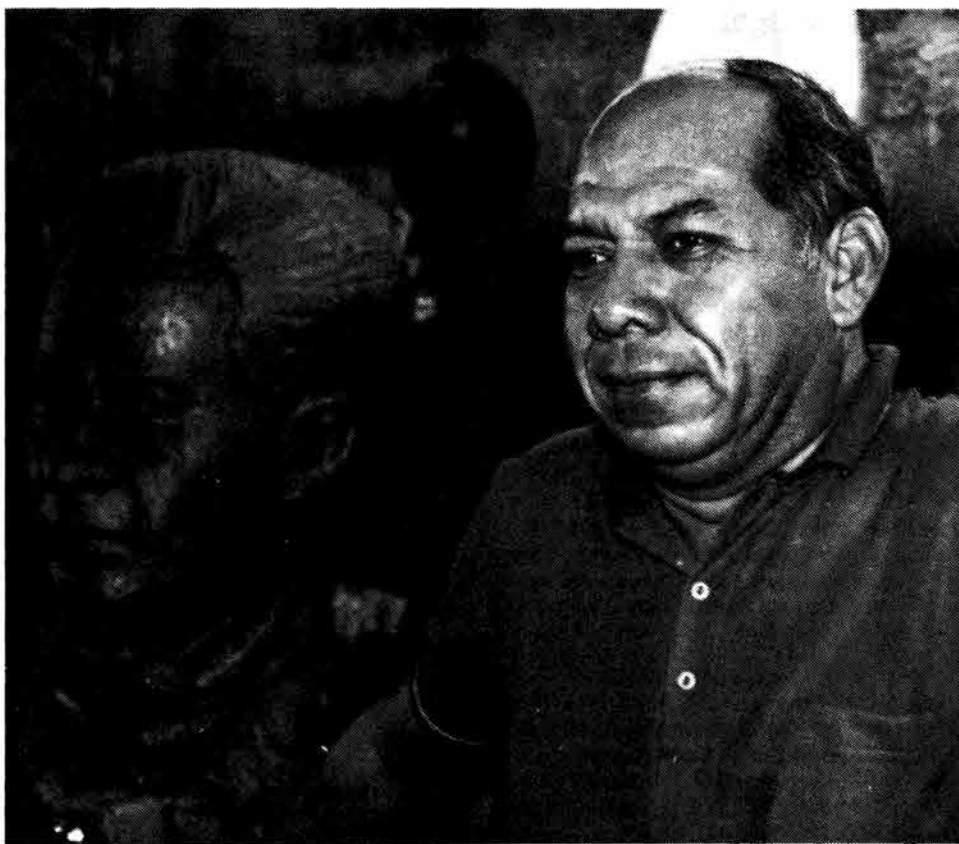
better condition today than when we acquired it."

Protesters entered the Mutual Benefit building. After a brief statement by the company's spokesperson, many farmers began to chant, "One phone call." This referred to the demand that the Kansas City office contact the company's Farm Investment Division, which has refused to sell or rent the farm back to the Jones family for three years and in the last year has refused to meet with the Jones.

When the company spokesperson refused, farmers and their supporters remained in the building and called by pay phone.

Friends and neighbors of the Jones family as well as activists from Farm Alliance of Rural Missouri, American Agriculture Movement, Land Stewardship Project, Ecumenical Rural Advocacy Network, Hunger Action Enabler, and others discussed future plans.

According to Mark Schultz of the Land Stewardship Project, the insurance industry owns 4.1 million acres of farm land valued at more than \$2.3 billion.



Militant/Roberto Kopec

Artist Arnoldo Guillén in his Managua studio, with his bust of Sandino.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Walter Rodney's death ruled an 'accident'

Death by "accident" or "misadventure" was the unsurprising ruling delivered in mid-February by a belated Guyanese coroner's court inquest into the death of Walter Rodney. Rodney was a prominent political figure in the Caribbean and a founder of the Working People's Alliance of Guyana. He was killed in Guyana's capital of Georgetown on June 13, 1980, when a walkie-talkie rigged with explosives blew up in his car.

For years the ruling People's National Congress government, headed by the late President Forbes Burnham, refused to hold an official inquiry into Rodney's death. Many people in Guyana and around the world believed that Burnham's government was behind Rodney's death. Conceding to international pressure, Burnham's successor Desmond Hoyte ordered the coroner's hearing, which began February 1 and lasted nine days.

Appeals by the attorneys for the Rodney family to call two key witnesses before the inquest were denied by Coroner Edwin Pratt. The two witnesses were Gregory Smith, a sergeant in the Guyana Defense Force, and Donald Rodney, the brother of Walter Rodney. The latter was with Walter Rodney when the explosion took place. His testimony was key to establishing that Smith, who had infiltrated the Working People's Alliance, was the person who gave the walkie-talkie to Walter Rodney.

The February 1 *Open World* published by the WPA reported that Smith now lives in Guyana, a French colony east of Guyana, under the name of Cyril Johnson. It also reported that Smith renewed his passport in 1987 at the Guyanese embassy in Suriname under the assumed name.

"This is not a valid attempt to determine the circumstances surrounding the death of Dr. Walter Rodney," declared the attorney for the Rodney family. With no material witnesses having been called, the five-member jury handed down its verdict.

British maneuvers in the Malvinas protested

Several Latin American nations protested plans for British military maneuvers on the Malvinas Islands, located off the coast of Argentina. Disregarding the protest, London went ahead with the maneuvers as scheduled on March 7.

Argentina demands that Britain, which militarily occupies the islands, negotiate their return to Argentina. The British government went to war with Argentina in 1982 when the South American country attempted to regain control

of the islands, which the British seized in 1833.

The Organization of American States held an emergency meeting in late February to discuss the maneuvers. Several Latin American countries known as the Group of Eight demanded that London cancel the exercise.

Brazil and Uruguay, members of the group, canceled a scheduled trip to those countries by Britain's junior foreign minister, Tim Eggar.



The British government announced on March 6 that it would go ahead with the maneuvers involving as many as 1,000 troops. Code-named Fire Focus, they are intended to test British capability for rapidly reinforcing its military presence on the islands. It is the largest use of British troops on the islands since the 1982 war.

French gov't to deport prisoners

The French government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has opened up a new drive against immigrant workers in France. It is aimed at the estimated 10,000 prisoners in France who are from the North African countries of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

Under the government's deportation proposal, prisoners from North Africa who have completed half their sentences would be given the option of early release in exchange for voluntarily leaving the country.

A prominent French civil liberties lawyer, Georges Kiejman, has called the proposal a "xenophobic and demagogic" move by Chirac's party to draw votes from the ultraright National Front presidential candidate, Jean-Marie Le Pen. The elections are scheduled for April 24.

Although the government says that the plan is simply aimed at relieving overcrowded French jails, the March 10 *London Times* reported that Chirac has said that France must not accept any more immigrants because "we are not in a position to receive them with dignity and assure them a normal life."

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Matewan. A film based on a 1920 fight by coal miners to unionize. Sat., March 19, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

Young Socialist Alliance Fundraiser. Help Alabama youth attend the socialist youth and activists conference in Pittsburgh. Sat., March 26, 7 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: YSA. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Art in the New Nicaragua. A talk with slides by Carlos Montenegro Altamirano, award-winning Nicaraguan painter; Ray Patlán, community muralist; Jim Prigoff, documenter of mural and spray-can art. Sat., March 19. Reception, 6:30; program, 7:30 p.m. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. (at 25th). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project, Mission Gráfica, Centro Cultural Nicaragüense; Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador NW Region; others. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

Dance/Baile. Help Maestros por la Paz send teachers and material aid to Nicaragua. Latin rhythms, rumba, merengue, salsa. Sat., March 19, 8 p.m. 362 Capp St. (between 18th and 19th streets). Donation: Sliding \$3-\$5. Sponsor: Maestros por la Paz. For more information call (415) 824-9380.

Annual Fun Run for Salvadoran Teachers. Sun., March 20, 9 a.m. Golden Gate Park Polo Field. Donation: \$12. Sponsor: Committee in Solidarity with ANDES.

Art in the New Nicaragua. Speaker: Carlos Montenegro Altamirano, award-winning Nicaraguan painter. Tue., March 22, 7:30 p.m. San Francisco Art Institute Lecture Hall, 800 Chestnut St. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

U.S. Hands Off Panama! Speaker: Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers Party, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, attended 1987 Central America women's conference. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 26, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

FLORIDA

Miami

U.S. Hands Off Panama! Speakers: Marty Anderson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 19, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: Liz Ziers, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union Local 511; Robin Singer, member Atlanta Committee On Latin America; Joseph Frank, Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 19, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

U.S. Hands Off Panama! Speaker: Marilee Taylor, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union Local 1245. Translation to Spanish. Sun., March 27, 6:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Brigades Help Build the New Nicaragua. Speak-out against U.S.-backed contra war. Speakers: Deidre Fitzgerald, Carrie Nelson, Chicago-area high school students who went to Nicaragua in December; Brooke Webster; representative of Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., March 19, 7:30 p.m. Open house and dinner, 6 p.m. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$2, dinner \$3. Sponsor: YSA. For more information call (312) 363-7322.

United States Economic and Social Crisis: What's Coming After the Stock Market Crash. Speaker: Omari Musa, National Committee Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 26, 7:30 p.m. Dinner and open house, 6 p.m. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$2, dinner \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

IOWA

Des Moines

U.S. Hands Off Panama! Speakers: Ellen Whitt, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 431, antiwar activist. Sat., March 19, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

Stop Government Attacks on Democratic Rights. Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, national labor spokesperson for the Political Rights Defense Fund; Ed Sparks, secretary-treasurer, Teamsters Local 387; Alfredo Alvarez, chairperson, Des Moines Human Rights Commission; Don Zmolek, retired National Farm Organization organizer; Pat Kearns, member New Wave, University of Iowa, participated in demonstrations demanding CIA off campus; John Tinker, plaintiff in 1960s Supreme Court case involving high school rights; Mark Curtis, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431, political activist and victim of police frame-up and brutality. Translation to Spanish. Sun., March 27, 3 p.m. Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting House, 4211 Grand Ave. Sponsor: PRDF. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Defend Democratic Rights; Rally to Stop Police Spying. Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, Political Rights Defense Fund representative; Michael Avery, National Lawyers Guild; Franz Minuty, Committee in Solidarity with Haiti; Elías Castro, Hartford 15 defendant; representative from Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts; representative from New England Central America Network. Sat., March 19, 7:30 p.m. Service Employees International Union Local 285, 145 Tremont St., 7th floor. Sponsor: PRDF. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Defend Irish Political Prisoners. Speaker: Eileen McIlkenny, Irish activist interned in Armagh women's prison; video on strip searches. Sun., March 20, 7:30 p.m. 5019½ Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

Grand Opening of Pathfinder Bookstore. Sat., March 26. Noon to 6 p.m., videos on South Africa, labor, Malcolm X, Cuba, and Ireland. Program of greetings at 7:30 p.m. by Gina Aranki, Palestine Aid Society; Kathy Gonzalez, Nicaraguan solidarity activist; Emirene Mendoza, Guatemalan Solidarity Committee; Joannette Nitz, Michigan Coalition for Human Rights; Dick Soble, National Lawyers Guild; and Jackson Swarz, South West Africa People's

Organisation of Namibia. 5019½ Woodward Ave. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Benefit for the Progressive Student Organization. Raise money for legal expenses for lawsuit against University of Minnesota for its harassment of Progressive Student Organization. Speakers: Meridel LeSeur, Jim Guyette, others. Music by the Maroons. Sat., March 19, 7 p.m. People's Center, 2000 S 5th St. Donation: \$5-\$10. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Fiesta El Salvador. In commemoration of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Speaker: Gustavo Acosta, representative of Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front. Salvadoran dinner, music. Sat., March 26, 6:30 p.m. Holy Trinity Church, 2730 E 31st St. Also, at same location at 5 p.m., Mirna Anaya, Salvadoran human rights activist, will speak. A former judge and lawyer for political prisoners, she is the widow of Herbert Anaya, human rights leader who was assassinated by the death squads last October. Donation: \$3.

St. Paul

Support Self-determination: End U.S. Intervention in Central America. Rally, march, and commemorative service. Sun., March 27. Assemble at State Capitol 5 p.m.; rally 5:30 sharp, march to Cathedral of St. Paul 6:15 p.m.; service at 7 p.m. Sponsor: Central America Week/Peace Action Committee. For more information call (612) 378-1460 or 379-8799.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Defend the Framed-up Kentucky Coal Miners. Speaker: Mary Zins, member United Mine Workers of America, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 19, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

The World Economic and Social Crisis. Speaker: Tom Leonard, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 26, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

United Mine Workers of America On Strike. Eyewitness report on March 12 solidarity rally in Sheridan, Wyoming. Panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 19, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

Cuba Today. An 11-part weekly educational series. Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m., through April 16. 140 S 40th St. Donation for series: \$1.50. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance, Socialist Workers Party, Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

U.S. Hands Off Panama! Speaker: Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., March 18, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Young Socialist Alliance Fundraising Party. Raise money for transportation to national Socialist Youth and Activists Conference in Pittsburgh. Sat., March 19, 8 p.m. DJ Fitz Pollard with rock, salsa, reggae, merengue, disco,

Canada

The Worldwide Fight for Black Rights Today

Hear James Warren

Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president

Montreal

Sat., March 19, 7:30 p.m. 4274 Papineau, No. 302. For more information call (514) 524-7992.

Toronto

Sat., March 26, 8 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

and other music; Orientación, cultural group of young Dominicans; Kevin O'Keefe, a juggler who just returned from Nicaragua, member Ventana and Bread and Puppet Theater. 79 Leonard St. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (212) 219-3679.

In Defense of Tawana Brawley. Speaker: James Harris, national leader, Socialist Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., March 25, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Give Peace a Dance. Benefit for tecNICA and the Nicaragua Medical Aid Campaign. Afro-Caribbean music with the Harp Band. Sat., March 26, 10 p.m. Manhattan Plaza, 66 E 4th St. Donation: \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. For more information call (212) 496-6945.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Report on International Miners' Conference. Speaker: Libby Lindsay, member United Mine Workers of America, attended 1987 International Miners' Conference for Peace and Disarmament and Against Apartheid held in Australia. Sun., March 20, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

The Fight Against Racism: a Look at Robeson County. A representative of the Robeson County Justice Committee will speak on the defense case of Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs, two Native American activists who took over a newspaper office to draw attention to racist policies in that county. Sun., March 27, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Behind the U.S. Drive Against Panama. Speaker: Bill Breihan, longtime socialist and labor activist; others to be announced. Sat., March 19, 7:30 pm. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Labor news in the Militant

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Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4725 Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0224.

St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

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

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, c/o Mark Mateja, Edinboro University of Pa. Zip:

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

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

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

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

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

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

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

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

They care — Workers at nine USG Corp. plants have been told to quit smoking or be fired. They make tiles and insulation containing mineral fibers. The fiber causes lung cancer, with a higher

rate — and the compensation claims.

And that despite the role models — A survey found that 43 percent of teenagers who attend evangelical churches had engaged in sex by age 18, and a third of them declined to brand sex outside marriage as immoral.

The march of science — A Florida company is doing a brisk business freeze drying deceased pets. A bit stiff, but otherwise quite lifelike. The company says there's no technological barriers to doing the same with people.

But not to worry — The 3M

Corp. was ordered to recall 45,000 ionizing air guns used in the food, beverage, pharmaceutical, and cosmetics industries to control static electricity and remove dust. So far radiation contamination has been found at 118 plants. But, the feds assure, the radiation levels are "virtually" harmless.

Reasonable chap — "Compromises have to be made between what is best in environmental terms and what is commercially viable and desirable." — Nicholas Ridley, Britain's chief guardian of the environment.

Decorator tip — A Santa Monica shop offers a chaise

lounge made from sheets of corrugated cardboard, plus a pillow of crushed paper. \$4,500. A neat idea, if the ceiling doesn't leak.

Nothing's perfect — Sixty-one percent of the more than 1,000 hazardous waste sites operated by the government — mainly by the Defense Department — are known to have released dangerous substances into the surrounding air, land, and water. "The numbers don't surprise me," a federal waste coordinator said philosophically.

Freedom of choice — In your supermarket you have, on the average, a choice of 128 dry cereals, 204 soups, and more than 120 pet

foods. When you take it home, you can peruse the Sears catalog and choose between 166 varieties and styles of window blinds.

Spiritual offering — A toy company will offer "Special Blessings," a kneeling doll with hands clasped in prayer. The maker said studies showed a growing interest in religion and "traditional values." \$20.

Funniest assertion of the week — "We don't feed masses of people. We feed individuals." — A spokesperson for Creative Gourmets Ltd., which puts out 54,000 meals a day in 60 company cafeterias.



Harry Ring

rate reported among smokers. The company assumes the ban on smoking will reduce the cancer

Palestine and Arabs' fight for national liberation

Continued from Page 5

stated — report that 2,000 Arabs were killed in suppressing the rebellion, while 100 freedom fighters were hanged for their role in it.

The British imperialists got strong backing in the war from the Zionist organizations in Palestine. They enlisted the formally underground Zionist militia to combat the Arabs, and established a 20,000-member Jewish Settlement Police. Joint British-settler night patrols were formed.

The crushing of the 1936-39 Arab revolt made it possible for the Zionist colonialists to press harder against the Palestinian people.

"The Jewish community emerged from these dangerous 1936 events in a stronger position as a result of the strong support it received from the British government and army in Palestine," the Israeli daily *Haaretz* summed up three decades later. "This confrontation with the British ... caused the destruction of Arab military strength in Palestine and was responsible for the partial elimination of Arab leadership in the country."

A 1940 diary entry by Joseph Weitz, onetime head of the Colonization Department of the Jewish Agency, an organ of the World Zionist Organization that often worked closely with the British administration, stated the goal frankly:

"Between ourselves it must be clear that there is no room for both peoples together in this country. ... The only solution is Palestine, at least Western Palestine, without Arabs. ... And there is no other way

out but to transfer the Arabs from here to the neighboring countries; to transfer all of them; not one village, not one tribe should be left."

In the course of World War II, anticolonial struggles gained steam in many parts of the world. At the same time, the European imperialist powers emerged from the war in a weakened condition. Over the next decades they were forced to concede independence to the overwhelming majority of their former colonies.

In the immediate wake of World War II, French forces were compelled to withdraw from Syria. Syria and Lebanon became independent of France, and Jordan of Britain. British forces had to pull out of Egypt and Iraq.

But these newly independent states remained weak and backward, dominated by landlords and ruled in many cases by monarchies set up by the imperialists.

U.S. imperialism, the real victor in World War II, moved rapidly to extend its influence in the Middle East into areas where the French and British capitalists were being forced to pull back. In a situation where direct imperialist rule and occupation of the region was clearly in decline, the U.S. rulers saw the Zionist colonization of Palestine as a potentially powerful weapon against anti-imperialist struggles in the region. Washington emerged as the strongest backer of the drive to create an Israeli capitalist state in the Palestinians' homeland.

Washington and the Zionist organizations viewed the tens of thousands of Jewish refugees who had survived Hitler's anti-Semitic extermination campaign as reinforcements for the operation. To a considerable extent their settlement in Europe and North America was systematically blocked, and they were urged to pour into Palestine. About 70,000 new settlers arrived in Palestine soon after the war ended.

In May 1946 an Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry recommended the immediate admission to Palestine of 100,000 Jews who were being held in refugee camps in Europe. In the big-business media, this cynical exploitation of the refugees was hailed as humanitarian, while the Palestinians' resistance to the seizure of their homeland was decried as anti-Semitism.

Conquest of Palestine

The British rulers, however, resisted turning over their colony to the Zionists and their backers. This led them at times to seek to halt or slow the influx of settlers.

The Zionist-organized armies, which eventually came to number well over 60,000 in this period, responded with a terrorist campaign against British soldiers and officials, as well as against Palestinians. Finally, the British government yielded.

After an intensive campaign by U.S. diplomats, the United Nations General Assembly voted 33-13 on Nov. 17, 1947, to call for the end of British rule and the partitioning of Palestine into Jewish and Palestinian states. This move also got the backing of the Soviet government headed by Joseph Stalin.

The proposed partition provided for an Israeli state covering 54 percent of Palestine (where the population of 900,000 was 55 percent Jewish) and a Palestinian state in the remainder. In 1947 Palestine had a population of 1,835,000 — 608,000, or

one-third, of them Jewish.

Among Arabs, however, the forced partition of Palestine was seen as a terrible blow to their independence. Their representatives denounced the measure in the U.N. And the Arab League — made up of representatives of governments of Arab countries — pledged to resist.

As Palestinian and other Arab guerrillas began to resist the imposition of partition, the Zionist forces largely ended attacks on Palestinian villages. The initial aim was to crush Palestinian resistance and consolidate the Jewish majority in the areas allotted to Israel.

The Zionist armies then began to seize the areas allotted to the Palestinian state by the partition resolution. On April 9, 1948, 254 unarmed inhabitants in the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin were murdered by Zionist military units. This and other "reprisals" against Palestinian villages deliberately aimed to set off a massive flight of Palestinians in the path of the Israeli forces.

"The Arabs began fleeing in panic, shouting 'Deir Yassin,'" boasted Menachem Begin, a future prime minister of Israel. By the time the State of Israel was proclaimed on May 15, 1948, 200,000 Palestinians had been driven from their homes and out of the territory of the Israeli state.

In the wake of the proclamation of the new state, units of the Syrian, Jordanian, Lebanese, Iraqi, and Egyptian, and Saudi Arabian troops crossed the border into Palestine. Between them, these countries maintained a total of no more than 80,000

troops. Only 20,000-25,000 took the field against the battle-tested Israeli troops — including tens of thousands of settlers who had fought in World War II.

The Israeli forces defeated the Arab regimes and seized still more Palestinian territory.

At the same time, Egyptian forces took control of the Gaza Strip, and the Jordanian monarchy occupied the parts of Palestine on the West Bank of the Jordan River that had not been captured by Israeli forces. The Palestinian statelet promised under the UN partition plan had been completely swallowed up.

Israeli state

Israel now held nearly four-fifths of the territory that formerly constituted Palestine. Of the approximately 859,000 Arabs who had lived in these areas, only 133,000 remained. The rest — aside from those killed — had been driven into exile. "It was a miraculous clearing of the land," exulted Israeli President Chaim Weizmann, "the miraculous simplification of Israel's task."

The defeat dealt the Palestinian people in their struggle to prevent the colonization of their homeland and their own dispossession was a big blow to the freedom struggle across the Middle East.

The next article will take up some of the advances that the Arab struggle to end imperialist domination made in the coming years and how these affected the Palestinian people's democratic struggle against Israel and its imperialist backers. These events culminated in the June 1967 war.

New York students hear professor fired for political ideas

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

PURCHASE, N.Y. — Fred Dube spoke to 90 people attending a meeting on March 10 at the State University of New York at Purchase to protest apartheid in South Africa.

Dube is a leader of the African National Congress of South Africa who has been denied tenure at the State University of New York at Stony Brook because of his political views.

The meeting was sponsored by the New York Public Interest Research Group, Latinos Unidos, and the student government at SUNY Purchase.

Dube explained how the apartheid system of racism developed in South Africa. He described the struggle against apartheid today and the need for solidarity from the people of the United States.

Many students took information on Dube's case and signed petitions to urge that tenure be granted to him immediately.

For more information on Dube's fight, write the Committee to Support Prof. E. Fred Dube, 126, W. 119th St., New York, N.Y. 10026.

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—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

March 24, 1978

Striking on a 40-mile front, the Israeli army invaded Lebanon March 14. Preceded by artillery barrages and air strikes, at least 10,000 Israeli troops, led by columns of tanks, crossed the Lebanese border. Others landed by sea on the Lebanese coast.

The pretext for Israel's invasion was the March 11 Palestinian guerrilla attack that killed 34 Israelis along the Haifa-Tel Aviv road. Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin seized this as an opportunity to launch a campaign of terror against the Palestinians.

The Israeli high command described its attack on Lebanon as "a purifying operation," claiming: "The Israel Defense Forces do not intend to harm the population, the Lebanese army, or the Pan-Arab [Syrian] force, but rather the terrorists and their helpers."

It insisted that "the goal of the operation is to root out the bases of the terrorists."

But the truth is that what the Zionist command calls "terrorist bases" are villages and refugee camps housing tens of thousands of people. Zehdi Labib Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization representative at the United Nations, warned in reply to Israeli statements that the aim of the invasion was to destroy the PLO:

"They can't destroy the PLO unless they

eliminate the entire Palestinian population. It would be another genocide."



The United States government mortally fears a free exchange of ideas with Cuba. It is seeking to impose thought control on Latin America and is prepared to crush any traditional civil liberties that stand in the way. That is the clearest fact to come out of the Costa Rica conference last week between President John F. Kennedy and the heads of state of the five Central American governments and Panama.

"We will build a wall around Cuba," said Kennedy as the conference opened. Kennedy asserted it would be a wall of "freedom."

A six-point plan to this effect was prepared by the United States government, discussed among the officials at the conference, and reportedly presented to the conference itself, where the proceedings were secret. A news service dispatch said, "The six points include: 1. Greater control over the movement of Latin Americans to and from Communist bloc nations, especially Cuba. 2. Tighter reigns on the flow of Communist propaganda in Latin America. 3. Restrictions through effective police action on the traditional rights of citizens to demonstrate."

Gallaudet: 'Idea becomes reality'

"It's a historic moment for deaf people in the world. We will no longer accept limits on what we can achieve. Students showed us that we can seize an idea with such force that it becomes a reality."

This observation, by Irving King Jordan, the new president of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., captures the central accomplishment of the week-long struggle of the students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Gallaudet is the only liberal arts college in the world for deaf people and the only university in the United States for the hearing impaired.

The students won three of their four demands: that the new college president, for the first time in the school's history, should be a person who is hearing-impaired; that the chairperson of the college board, who opposed the protests, should resign; and that the school administration would take no reprisals against anyone involved in what they called "our historical movement." The fourth demand, that a new board be appointed with deaf people making up half its members is still pending.

Practically overnight, this campus struggle became a national focal point for the frustrations and demands of all hearing-impaired people. And its success is their victory.

But it is something else as well: it marks another step forward in the fight by all of progressive humanity to expand the category of people considered to be truly human, with the same rights and responsibilities as other members of society. Deaf people are taking their rightful place next to Blacks, Latinos, women, gays, the physically handicapped, and others who have fought to have their humanity recognized.

The main point, argued those who stood for the resignation of the recently appointed college president — who was not hearing impaired and who didn't know sign language — was that deaf people are sick and tired of being people whom things were done *for* and *to*. They want instead to be the *subjects* of their own destinies; they want the opportunity to be equal leaders with others.

The struggle at Gallaudet dealt a blow to prejudices and bigotry of every kind. And it put the government and employers on notice that discrimination against those with hearing problems is repugnant to the majority and will not be tolerated.

Because working people in this class-divided society suffer the most from every form of physical handicap and every kind of social discrimination, all workers and farmers, whether they have hearing problems or not, should give a special salute to the young fighters at Gallaudet.

More than 21 million people in the United States have

impaired hearing, ranging from a hearing loss to deafness. Most of them, including the great majority of the 8 million with significant hearing loss in both ears, are elderly. Less than 1 million are totally deaf.

The revolution of rising expectations among deaf people was inspired by the Black civil rights movement's militant and successful fight against segregation based on skin color.

"It's our Selma," was how one graduate student at Gallaudet described the struggle there, referring to the 1965 civil rights battles in Alabama. And a college staff member commented, "In some real way, this is an extension of that movement. It's 20 years late, but things always come late to the deaf community."

Because deafness makes it difficult to communicate, the deaf have traditionally had difficulties getting integrated into society.

Many people tend to equate hearing impairment with a lack of intelligence. Thus deaf children are often put into classes for children with learning disabilities. Hence the emphasis by protesters on the fact that "we're deaf, not dumb."

In movies, stores, restaurants, banks, and other public places, deaf people are generally either scorned or ignored.

Deaf people are routinely denied access to jobs, promotions, and schools of all kinds.

Even where hearing-impaired workers are hired, they are often the targets of abuse and discrimination. For example, the postal service, which has a special recruitment program for the deaf, paid them half what other workers were paid and made their probation period three times as long as for workers without hearing problems. Last year they were forced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to end this two-tier scam.

There's been an increase in other deaf-rights court cases, involving equal access to employment and education. Victories in these cases stand on the shoulders of the civil rights movement, which was responsible for winning the legislation that made the government responsible for upholding equal rights.

The fight for greater rights for deaf people has also been spurred by the advances in technology which can enable deaf and hearing-impaired people to use telephones and watch television.

Commenting on the victory, a Gallaudet alumni said, "What's happening now is just the beginning of an entirely different future for us because things will never go back the way they were last week."

More discussion with readers on Palestine struggle

BY DOUG JENNESS

We've published two letters that take issue with the column I wrote, "A discussion with readers on the Palestinian revolt," in our February 26 issue. The first by David Finkel from Detroit was printed in the March 11 *Militant* and the other by Jack Fields from Minneapolis appears in this issue on the facing page. Both raise points that merit clarification.

First, however, I will repeat the main theme of my article. I stated, "The fight against military rule in the West Bank and Gaza and for democratic rights and land to

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

those whose lands have been stolen is an important part of mobilizing the forces" that can overturn the Israeli state and establish a democratic, secular Palestine.

I explained that the road of the Palestinian democratic revolution will lead to *overturning* the Israeli government, not to the Israeli government *withdrawing* from Palestine — all of which was forcibly brought under Israeli domination between 1947 and 1967. Nor will the right to self-determination be achieved through the formation of a Palestinian minstate adjacent to Israel.

This view that the solution to the Palestinian question is an "independent" Palestine alongside a slightly reduced Israel is prevalent today among liberals, and even many who regard themselves as socialists.

A welcome contrast to this stance was the advertisement in the March 13 Sunday *New York Times*, signed by more than 300 individuals. It stated that the tyranny suffered in the West Bank and Gaza today is a continuation of the way "all of Palestine was colonized." The ad called for dismantling the Israeli state and "replacing it with a democratic secular Palestine, where Jews and Arabs, Christians and Moslems, live together with equal rights and opportunities." (See article on page 5.)

Fields seems to think that as a result of its perspective on Palestine, the *Militant* doesn't support the fight of Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip to get Israeli military forces off their backs. But even a casual reading of the *Militant* since the current uprising began in December — and for many years before — would show that this is false.

Fields also implies that the Palestinian fighters in the current upsurge are demanding an "independent state" in the West Bank and Gaza. But whenever the views of the Palestinian youths find a way into the capitalist media, they say they are fighting for all of Palestine.

We've unambiguously expressed our solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and called for an end to Israeli military rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. An editorial in our March 4 issue, for example, solidarized with a series of specific demands that are being raised by the Palestinians for democratic rights and an end to repression. We backed the call for an end to Israeli military rule and getting Israeli troops out of the West Bank and Gaza.

The struggle around these demands will help to educate, mobilize, and organize Palestinians for building a mass movement that can overturn the Israeli government and carry through a democratic revolution.

Finkel sarcastically "wonders whether Jenness' sudden enthusiasm for the territorial concept of Greater Israel will next find him calling the West Bank 'Judea and Samaria.'"

Finkel places greater weight than I do on the fact that the West Bank and Gaza are not formally annexed to Israel like the parts of Palestine conquered before 1967. This reflects the assumption of most liberals and radicals that those parts of Israel that the regime has incorporated are legitimate parts of Israel, while those they have not annexed are "Palestine."

This juridical relation is simply the method that the Israeli rulers have used to incorporate the Palestinians as a superexploited part of the country's working class.

The recent events have highlighted the fact that in the past 20 years thousands of Palestinians have been driven off their land and out of their trades and into working jobs in Israeli factories and capitalist farms.

The Palestinian population of the West Bank and Gaza have become an important component of the working class in Israel and therefore is in a potentially even stronger position to help lead the struggle of all working people — both Arabs and Jews — against the Israeli capitalist rulers.

The "territorial concept of Greater Israel," that Finkel asserts enthralls me should not enthrall anyone who supports the Palestinian struggle. But recognizing the hard facts about the changing relationship of class forces arrayed against Israel — whether you call it Greater or not — is important to any serious class-struggle fighters.

U.S. troops out of Honduras!

Continued from front page

dinista troops have crossed our border. What I can say for certain is that no Honduran military units are engaged in any combat in that area or anywhere else."

Administration officials claimed that Honduran President José Azcona Hoyo requested U.S. military assistance against Nicaraguan forces. The alleged request was reported after Azcona met with the U.S. ambassador to his country, and hours after the U.S. forces that have been sent to Honduras had been placed on alert.

"That left the clear implication," reported the March 17 *New York Times*, "that the idea for the troop deployment had come from Washington."

This is not the first time the Reagan administration has shouted about a Nicaraguan invasion of Honduras to justify coming to the aid of the contras, threatening Nicaragua, and expanding the U.S. military presence in Honduras. And each time that Washington does this the danger of a possible invasion of Nicaragua itself is posed.

In March 1986, the administration used the pretext of a Nicaraguan "invasion" to justify sending U.S. helicopters to transport Honduran troops and shipping \$20 million in military aid to Honduras. Congress echoed the invasion propaganda as its excuse for voting a \$100 million appropriation to aid the contras.

A year later John Ferch, who had been U.S. ambassador at the time the Honduran government requested U.S. help, described how he ordered Azcona to call for assistance against a nonexistent invasion.

"You've got to get a letter up there right now," he recalled telling the Honduran president. "This is absurd, but you've got to do it."

It is not the Nicaraguan government, but the U.S. rulers who are trampling on the sovereignty of Honduras and occupying its territory. Under Washington's pressure, the Honduran rulers have allowed the U.S. government to take over parts of the country that border on Nicaragua. These areas are used to provide bases for a U.S.-organized mercenary army carrying out a bloody war of aggression against Nicaragua, in violation of the peace accords signed by President Azcona and four other Cen-

tral American heads of state last August.

Washington's mercenary war against Nicaragua has cost the lives of tens of thousands of Nicaraguans and has maimed many others. Farms, schools, hospitals, and other vitally needed resources have been destroyed. When the Nicaraguans attempt to defend themselves against this U.S.-organized invasion, Washington hypocritically accuses them of threatening their neighbors.

In Congress, Democratic and Republican leaders have gone along with the administration's frame-up of Nicaragua. Democratic Speaker of the House James Wright warned March 6, "We would regard an invasion as a very serious matter" and demanded that Nicaraguan "troops be returned immediately."

Majority Whip Tony Coelho (D.-Calif.) blamed House Republicans for not having backed a proposal by Democratic leaders to provide \$30 million in "humanitarian" funding for the contra war. "The Republicans abandoned the contras to the politics of cynicism," he said. The Democrats' proposal was rejected by a narrow margin March 3, in part by Republicans and Democrats who favored a Republican-sponsored funding measure. President Reagan's proposal to fund the war was narrowly defeated in the House in February.

All opponents of U.S. intervention in Central America should respond to the U.S. government's latest war moves by stepping up our efforts to get out the truth about Washington's role as the real aggressor in Central America. News conferences, picket lines, and other activities are needed.

These activities can contribute to building the broad national antiwar, anti-nuclear weapons actions that have been called for June 11, as well as important local antiwar protests such as the march and rally to be held in San Francisco April 30.

By protesting the current escalation and building broad protests such as those set for April 30 and June 11, foes of U.S. intervention can make our demands heard loud and clear:

"U.S. troops out of Honduras! U.S. forces out of Central America and the Caribbean! No aid to the contras!"

British rail unionists fight deportation of coworker

BY CHRIS MORRIS
AND ARTHUR STEWART

LONDON — The February 5 issue of the *Militant* ran an editorial on "Racism and the right to travel." The editorial called attention to the racist immigration legislation in force in Britain.

At the London Bridge rail depot here, we've just had an example of the kind of harassment that results from this legislation.

The victim is Andrew Asafu-Adjaye a guard (brakeman) at British Rail and a member of the National Union

UNION TALK

of Railwaymen. Asafu-Adjaye is from a West African country and has lived in Britain since 1985.

After arriving at work on January 18, Asafu-Adjaye was told to go and see the train crew manager. The manager then told Asafu-Adjaye to come back to his office at 4:00 p.m. when his shift was scheduled to begin.

When our coworker returned to the manager's office, he encountered a couple of cops and an official of the Home Office, the department of the British government that is responsible for dealing with immigration.

Our workmate immediately asked to see his union representative who was on the premises at the time. He was refused this right and taken away in handcuffs.

Officials of the railway union and his coworkers were not informed of the arrest. The manager later said he was bound to keep the matter under wraps for 24 hours be-

cause he had signed the Official Secrets Act. This undemocratic law forces individuals to remain silent in cases involving so-called state security.

Management then began spreading rumors that our coworker had been deported back to Africa. But the deportation rumor was false. Asafu-Adjaye had been taken to a detention center. His family was able to obtain a lawyer and our coworker applied for bail.

He was released by a judge, over the objections of the Home Office, but only after stringent conditions were imposed. Asafu-Adjaye cannot be away from work more than two days without informing the Home Office and he must stay home at night.

Asafu-Adjaye's alleged offense centers on the fact he is separated from his wife who is a British citizen. This reveals that the government has been snooping into his private life in order to contrive a case against him.

People charged in deportation cases have few rights. Their cases go to an "adjudicator" or to an Immigration Appeals Tribunal before going to an open court. Few appeals of rulings by adjudicators or tribunals are successful.

The outrageous use of the Official Secrets Act and the complicity of British Rail management in the case was an attempt to keep Asafu-Adjaye from using even the limited rights which exist under the Immigration Acts. It was also designed to keep the National Union of Railwaymen from coming to his assistance.

Many NUR members are disgusted by management's conduct. Workers are also discussing the lessons of what happened. Some said the union should negotiate a clause with British Rail that prohibits management from talking to workers without a union representative present. Sev-

eral NUR members stressed that rumors floated by management should always be treated with suspicion.

Much confusion about the immigration laws exists among working-class people in Britain. Even some militant trade unionists are influenced by arguments pedaled by the government. These arguments include the line that Britain is overpopulated, or that racial prejudice is the result of the immigration of Blacks to Britain.

Immigration laws are selectively used by the government and the employers to help undermine working conditions and union organization. The bosses want a section of the working class that it can direct into the lowest-paid jobs under miserable working conditions.

This is then used as a lever to try to undermine the wages and working conditions of all workers. The laws are also used to undercut solidarity among working people.

By campaigning around cases like Asafu-Adjaye's, the unions can help educate the entire working class about the need for unified political struggle to get rid of these laws.

Recently NUR District Officer Jimmy Stevenson said, "The present immigration laws are based on racialism. Deportations divide families and communities and undermine the unity of workers. Brother Adjaye, a guard at London Bridge and member of the NUR, deserves our total support in his fight to remain with his family and friends."

Rail workers are circulating a petition protesting the attempted deportation.

Chris Morris and Arthur Stewart are members of the NUR at the London Bridge depot.

LETTERS

Israeli withdrawal

With the February 26 edition the *Militant* enters into a discussion on the demand for Israeli "withdrawal from the occupied territories. Tom Mauer of Dallas, Texas, asks a very good question: "Why hasn't the *Militant* raised the demand?"

Doug Jenness, in response, gives us a very weak and disjointed look through his crystal ball and offers, "Proposing an 'independent' Palestine in Gaza and the West Bank is an obstacle, not a stepping stone. . . ."

The youth and working class in Gaza and the West Bank have risen up. They make an immediate demand: Israelis out! They make this demand with their barricades and their blood, and Jenness, from his lofty dust-covered closet, dribbles that to support the Palestinian demand is incorrect.

Thank you so much, Jenness, for teaching us about your brand of socialism. For my part, I think I'll stick with Karl Marx's "The communists . . . have no interests separate and apart from those of the proletariat as a whole. They do not set up any sectarian principles of their own, by which to shape and mould the proletarian movement." Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*.

Jack Fields
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Tawana Brawley

Your coverage on the Tawana Brawley atrocity is excellent! The *Militant* tells the truth, the real truth.

A prisoner
Walkill, New York

'Nicaraguans are heroes'

On March 4 Sharon Gonyea, a striker from Jay, Maine, spoke at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology about the paperworkers' battle against International Paper Co. and the struggle's impact on women workers. She got a standing ovation from the more than 250 people attending the International Women's Day celebration, which was also called as a protest against U.S. aid to the contras fighting to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

Gonyea shared the platform with Boston-area union and women's rights leaders, and keynote speaker Rosa Tünnermann, cultural attaché of Nicaragua's em-

bassy in Washington.

"A year ago I had barely heard of Nicaragua," Gonyea explained. Now, after learning more about it, she had seen "how a small group of people with hardly any technology could fight for what is right and just, and win. [Nicaraguans] are my heroes, our heroes. If they can band together and win, American workers can do the same thing."

Appealing to the youthful crowd, Gonyea said the paperworkers' battle "isn't just for union people, but for everybody, for working people, Black and white, men and women. We ask you for support because you are us."

Jon Hillson
Boston, Massachusetts

Impeach them

Let's impeach Bush and Reagan soon.

T.R.
Crystal, Minnesota

More

More stuff on the USSR, and economics. I love the *Militant*.
E.K.
Los Angeles, California

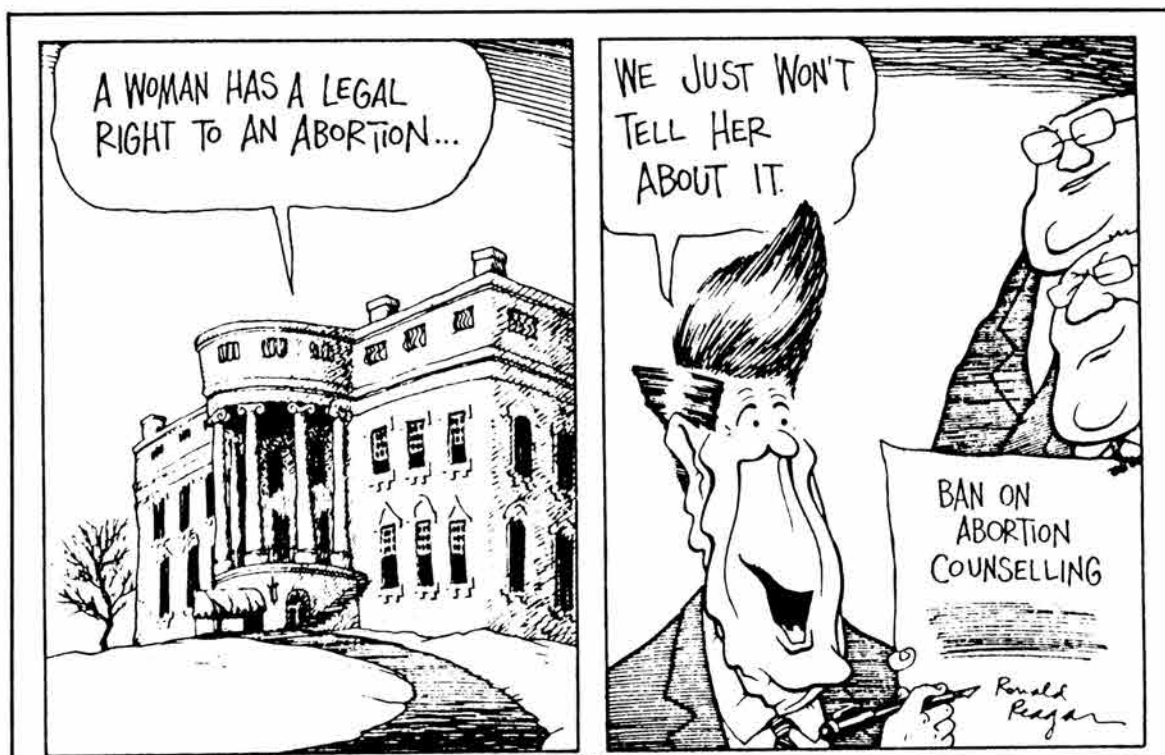
Pro-Israel lobby

The pro-Israel lobby in the United States openly boasts of the power it wields in the political arena. Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson is its current target for political assassination.

In an interview with Jackson in the magazine *Tikkun*, editor Michael Lerner says he undertook the interview "to end all problems with Jesse, to show the centrists in the Jewish world . . . they would not have any problems with Jackson."

I came away with the sense that there are deep problems. . . . "If he can't satisfy our audience . . . he is in deep trouble," Lerner writes. The implication here is that "our audience," i.e. the pro-Israel lobby, has the power to make or break even a presidential candidate.

Why is Jackson's candidacy so unpalatable to the lobby? What is the "deep trouble" alluded to by Lerner after his interview with Jackson? As for Jackson, he supports the right of the Palestinians to a homeland and advocates their inclusion in any Mideast peace discussions. Neither of these posi-



Tony Auth

tions are acceptable to the pro-Israel lobby.

Claire Crouch
Decatur, Illinois

My interests

You represent my interests. I commend the whole staff.

Paul Latourell
Ventura, California

Trustworthy source

I assure you the *Militant* is very informative. It gives us honest reporting and political commentary. It's the most trustworthy source of the important news today, and it confirms my natural optimism about the future. If we know, we can do.

P.T.
Oakland, California

Ark. workers' victory

Workers at the Alliance Rubber Co. in Hot Springs, Arkansas, won a victory last fall when the National Labor Relations Board ordered the company to reinstate, with back pay, 15 workers who were fired after polygraph tests "revealed" them to be union supporters.

The company forced workers in the plant to take the tests, which it said were mainly to find out about drug use and equipment sabotage. The 15 workers were laid off the next day, and three other union supporters soon after. This took place in 1980.

One of the fired workers, Louise Sullivan, described how she and others were trying to get a union formed. She had to be "awful careful about who I got to sign the card," she said.

"We had a bunch of people who favored the union, but they [the company] scared half of them to death." The union was the Southern Council of Industrial Workers, an affiliate of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

All 15 workers were actually ordered reinstated in 1982 by an NLRB administrative law judge, and by 1983 they had all been offered their jobs back.

But Alliance, a rubber-band manufacturer, went ahead and appealed the decision. The NLRB upheld the reinstatement order, and finally, late last fall, Alliance said they would comply.

A reader
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

AIDS

Your paper's been better and better. I felt the AIDS articles were excellent.

A prisoner
Walla Walla, Washington

Did me a favor

This letter is written on behalf of all the brothers confined to this segregation unit. We thank you for sending us a copy of the *Militant*.

I myself think it's a crying shame that some of us had to come

to the penal system to learn the truth about the United States and her European allies. This also includes those who support wars that this state inflicts on others.

The Massachusetts prison system did me a favor. No school, home, or college taught me what I've been taught while confined to this block.

A prisoner
Walpole, Massachusetts

Truth

As long as you print the truth, I will continue reading your paper.

J.C.
Fort Pierce, Florida

Keep presses rolling

What a neat alternative to the lies and distortions of the mainstream press! Keep the presses rolling 'til the revolution and then roll 'em faster to keep the latter honest!

And thanks: unlike so much literature on the left, the *Militant* is a pleasure to read because it's so uniformly well written.

R.F.
Rolling Meadows, Illinois

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

Deaf students win major victory Protests force D.C. school to appoint deaf president

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Student protesters at Gallaudet University — the only fully accredited college for deaf people in the world — won a sweeping victory here March 13.

The students won the appointment of Gallaudet's first deaf president; the resignation of board of trustees chairperson Jane Bassett Spilman and the appointment of a deaf chair; immediate movement toward a majority of deaf people on the board of trustees; and no reprisals against students, faculty, campus workers, or administrators supporting the strike.

For one full week, some 2,400 Gallaudet students shut down and took over the 99-acre Washington, D.C., campus in a strike that captured the attention and support of people throughout the United States and around the world.

The revolt was kicked off when Dr. Elizabeth Zinser, who hears and does not know how to use the American manual alphabet (sign language), was appointed university president by the board of trustees.

Gallaudet was established by the federal government under President Abraham Lincoln in 1864 and remains 75 percent funded by Congress. It has never had a deaf president. The 24-member board of trustees that appointed Zinser has only three deaf members. The students and faculty had long campaigned for a deaf president.

March downtown

The evening of Zinser's appointment, which bypassed two deaf candidates, 1,000 students marched to the downtown hotel where the announcement had been made. In a confrontation with students, Spilman defended Zinser's selection, saying "Deaf people are not ready to function in a hearing world." The enraged students then marched on the White House and the Capitol.

At 5:30 the next morning the students barricaded all the entrances to the campus with their cars and their bodies. At the main gate hundreds rallied and picketed with signs and banners. The protest swelled,



Meeting at Gallaudet on March 12. One-week strike by 2,400 students won sweeping concessions and captured attention of people around the world.

taking over the major D.C. thoroughfare in front of the campus when the police arrived.

After the police damaged, ticketed, and towed cars blocking the campus entrances, the students set up a "Deaf President Now Fund" to raise money to organize the strike and defend students from administration or police victimization.

Among the first checks that poured into the strike headquarters was \$5,000 from the American Postal Workers Union (APWU). There are some 4,000 deaf workers in the U.S. Postal Service. The first day 20 postal workers, including APWU President Moe Biller, joined the students at the main gate, which became a daily mass picket line. Another day a delegation of deaf machine-tool operators joined in support of the student demands.

Campus becomes organizing center

While Zinser and the board of trustees tried all week to tough out and ignore the student mobilization, the students turned the occupied university into an organizing center to win their demands. They first won the support of the faculty — one-third of whom are hearing-impaired — who voted to support the strike. A strong statement of support for the strike was issued by the campus staff association. The Gallaudet Alumni Association gave their campus building to the students for the strike headquarters.

Mass meetings of up to 1,000 were held every night in the campus gymnasium. Committees were set up to organize every aspect of the strike. The students initiated a "Deaf President Now Council" made up of students, faculty, and campus workers, and elected three central student leaders to represent them on it.

Everything the students did was geared to winning public support. As one student told the *Militant*, "Since we shut down the campus, our most important job is to put a lot of pressure on the board of trustees by not giving up, and by getting more people to support us."

'Deaf president now!'

This reporter was able to spend some time on the campus at the height of the strike. Student guards directed all movement in and out of the main gate and all entrances to the campus. There was a continual noise of honking cars, trucks, and city buses passing by the main gate in response to picket signs saying "Honk for a deaf president!". In sign language, hundreds of students chanted, "Deaf president now!", "Deaf pride!", and "Deaf power!".

nated 50 sheets to make more protest banners."

Ramos said that the students' unity and refusal to compromise on the four demands was strengthened by the outpouring of solidarity, first and foremost from other deaf students and organizations. Solidarity rallies were held in schools for the deaf across the country.

The student association of the predominantly Black Howard University was the first nondeaf organization in D.C. the students sought and got the support of. The many Black students at Gallaudet were prominent in the organization and participation of the strike.

Donna Handley, a physical and secondary education major from South Dakota, explained to the *Militant*, "We are doing what the Black people did in the 1960s. It's a reminder of history to them and they all support us. It's our civil rights."

Deaf students from all over the world attend Gallaudet. I met strike activists from Canada, Mexico, France, and the Middle East.

By midweek the students decided to organize a national march on Washington for March 11. The unprecedented action was a big success, with more than 4,000 protesters converging on the Capitol on less than three days' notice. Buses brought deaf students and their supporters from across the United States for the action.

That evening Zinser resigned under intense pressure and the board of trustees announced they would meet to pick a new president. The next day the board of trustees, after a seven-hour meeting, gave in to all the student demands.

Strikes, protests rock the Dominican Republic

BY MIKE TABER

Since mid-February the Dominican Republic has been rocked by a wave of strikes, demonstrations, and street battles. These protests, which have received scant attention in the U.S. media, are the most widespread actions in this Caribbean country since April 1984. At that time, government forces killed hundreds who were protesting austerity measures imposed at the insistence of the International Monetary Fund.

The current round of protests began in the town of Cotuí, when hundreds of peasant families demanded that they be relocated because of contamination of the area's water supply. The source of the contamination was the Rosario Dominicana gold mine, which had dumped large amounts of cyanide and sulfur into a nearby river, making the water unfit for crops and for human consumption. The fight of these peasant families touched off a general strike in parts of Sánchez Ramírez Province.

This action in turn helped spark protests throughout the country around a wide variety of issues that deeply affect Dominican working people and peasants: the high cost of living; low wages; the lack of schools, hospitals, and roads; the forced dispossession of poor tenants; and the unjust system of land distribution.

In working-class neighborhoods of Santo Domingo, the capital city, and in most other major towns and cities, strikes and demonstrations occurred. In some areas these reached the point of general work stoppages.

Fueling the wave of protests is the worsening economic situation confronting Dominican working people. Like other

semicolonial countries, the Dominican Republic — with a population of more than 6 million — is burdened by a massive foreign debt, amounting to \$4 billion. To meet all its debt payments — something it has been unable to do — the Dominican Republic would have to devote a full 70 percent of its resources merely to servicing the debt.

On top of this, the U.S. government has intensified the crisis by drastically cutting back its purchase of Dominican sugar, the country's main export crop.

Inflation is running at 35 percent and rising. Some estimate that up to 40 percent of the work force is totally unemployed, not counting those only partially employed. And workers lucky enough to obtain full-time jobs still have to struggle to survive: the minimum wage is about \$2.50 a day.

What this situation means in human terms is that the majority of the population suffers from malnutrition. Infant mortality in the past five years has risen from 64 per 1,000 to 80 per 1,000. Cases of tuberculosis are mounting. Thousands have been forced to leave the country to look for work. One million Dominicans live in the United States, most of them in the New York area.

The U.S.-backed government of Dominican President Joaquín Balaguer has responded to the protests by calling out the army and resorting to repression. Already, hundreds have been arrested, scores have been wounded, and more than half a dozen have been killed.

Among the 200 of those arrested who are still being held are leaders of the General Workers Federation and the Dominican Workers Party. Demands for their release are continuing.

Tribute to deaf students from socialist candidate

James Warren, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, gave solidarity greetings to a mass meeting of hundreds of Gallaudet University students March 12.

Warren told the students that overnight they had educated millions of people about the problems and rights of deaf people. "Your victory has been an inspiration to thousands of students throughout this country. You have accomplished what many of them would like to accomplish, a change."

Warren pledged to bring the Gallaudet message to thousands of working people during the Socialist Workers Party election campaign.

The students warmly applauded when Warren said, "Your victory has taught me a very important thing: being deaf is normal — you just can't hear."

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign went to Gallaudet to show solidarity and learn from and talk with the student fighters. The Young Socialist Alliance distributed literature and issued a statement in solidarity with the strike.