

U.S. troop move in Honduras sparks widespread protest

Actions in 200 cities demand troops out!

BY FRED FELDMAN

"GI's out of Honduras now! No aid to the contras!"

Those demands have echoed across the United States as thousands of people in well over 200 cities — from Spokane, Washington, to Lewiston, Maine, and from San Diego, California, to Tallahassee, Florida — took to the streets to protest the Reagan administration's sending of 3,200 troops to Honduras.

The U.S. troops were sent to threaten Nicaragua and back up contra terrorists who operate out of bases in Honduras. The presence of the contra bases there violates the accords signed by the presidents of five Central American states last August.

For nearly a week protests took place on an almost daily basis in Minneapolis, San Francisco, Boston, and other cities.

Up to 7,000 marched and rallied in Boston March 19. An estimated 8,000 protested in San Francisco that night. About 2,000 people held a march and rally in New York City March 18.

As the protests continued, a broad array of groups in Washington, D.C., issued a call for local and regional marches, rallies, and other actions on Saturday, March 26. The call was supported by the Pledge of Resistance, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), SANE/Freeze, Witness for Peace, Socialist Workers Party, and many other groups.

In response, actions were set for that day in New York City, Washington, D.C., Boston, San Francisco, Minneapolis, and other cities. Regional actions are being held at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Fort Ord in California — the bases where the soldiers sent to Honduras were stationed. In Los Angeles a march and rally will be held the next day.

The protests have added momentum to



Militant/Jon Hillson

March 19 demonstration in Boston. Thousands of people in more than 200 cities across the country demonstrated against sending of U.S. troops to Honduras and against contra aid.

the building of the national demonstrations against nuclear weapons and U.S. intervention around the world to be held June 11 in New York and San Francisco. About 100 individuals representing many organizations met in New York City March 16, just after the troop deployment was announced, to discuss the next steps in building these events, which coincide with the Third United Nations Special Session on Disarmament.

Leslie Cagan, coordinator of the national coalition that initiated the actions, told the meeting, "The time is absolutely right. People are ready to come out. Our

job is to mobilize as many people as possible, both in New York and San Francisco."

The March 19 Boston march was led by a contingent of Vietnam veterans in olive green uniforms. Cindy Bennett, a paperworker from Jay, Maine, who is on strike there against International Paper, brought greetings from Local 14 of the United Paperworkers International Union. When Bennett concluded her remarks, the rally chanted, "Troops out of Honduras, scabs out of Jay."

Tito Meza, a Honduran, protested Wash-

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Nicaraguans mobilize against U.S. threat

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — More than 100,000 people lined 90 miles of highway from Managua to the southern border town of Sapoá March 20 in an all-night vigil to protest recent U.S. war moves in Central America. This was the biggest of many mobilizations held here since March 16, when Washington rushed thousands of troops to Honduras, claiming that Nicaragua had invaded its northern neighbor.

The March 20 mass vigil was also organized to support the Nicaraguan delegation that left for Sapoá early the next morning to begin cease-fire talks with representatives of the U.S.-backed contras.

The Nicaraguan government decreed a state of alert March 16 after Washington accused Nicaragua of invading Honduras and dispatched 3,200 more combat troops to Honduras in a "rapid deployment exercise."

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega explained the alert in nationwide speeches

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Cease-fire set to begin April 1

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government and leaders of the U.S.-backed contras announced a temporary cease-fire agreement March 23.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said this was "a first step" that should be supported "to end once and for all this cruel war that has been imposed on the Nicaraguan people." He called on the U.S. government to "support this effort and prepare to normalize relations with Nicaragua."

The agreement states that:

- A 60-day cease-fire will begin April 1. During this time, the contras will withdraw to specific enclaves.

- Negotiations for a permanent cease-fire will begin April 6 in Managua.

- The Nicaraguan government will release half the imprisoned contras once the mercenary forces have withdrawn to the enclaves. After a permanent cease-fire is signed and implemented, the government will release all remaining contras and all imprisoned members of the Somoza dictatorship's National Guard.

- The contras will receive only "humanitarian aid . . . to guarantee food and basic supplies," and that aid must be channeled through "neutral organizations."

- The government guarantees unrestricted freedom of expression.

- The contras will send representatives to participate in the political talks now under way between the government and opposition parties. Among other issues, the talks will take up the military draft.

- All Nicaraguans who left the country will be allowed to return, and all Nicaraguans who "have reintegrated themselves into peaceful life" will be allowed to participate in future elections.

Broad support gained for fight against cop frame-up of Des Moines socialist

BY BOB MILLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — At a March 19 press conference here, Mark Curtis, an antiwar fighter, socialist, and union activist, denounced the Des Moines police for framing him up on attempted rape charges and brutally beating him in jail. He also made public files that had been kept on him by the FBI when he was an antiwar activist in Birmingham, Alabama, between 1981 and 1985.

In addition to the news media, some 50 workers, students, antiwar and antiracist fighters, and women's rights activists packed the conference room to hear Curtis give his account of the frame-up and beating.

In a page 3 article in the March 19 *Des Moines Register* headlined "Rape charge called frame," Curtis is quoted as saying he has been a communist and a Socialist Workers Party member for 11 years, and has been active in civil rights and labor protests. "I know the police are involved in a frame-up when they claim they saw me doing something I didn't do," Curtis said. "I am not guilty of any charges, and I am going to fight back."

The growing support for Curtis was evident at the press conference and at the

meeting held afterward to discuss further steps in building a campaign to defend him. Messages in support of Curtis were received.

Russell Woodrick, business agent of District 134 of the International Association of Machinists union in Waterloo, Iowa, said, "The brutal attack on Mark Curtis is an attempt to kill free speech and stifle protest against racism."

Bill Cook, a meat-packer from Austin, Minnesota, called on others to "demand the frame-up charges be dropped."

Carroll Nearmeyer, Iowa State president of the American Agricultural Movement, wrote, "As a citizen of the U.S. and a farmer who's very concerned about the common people of the world being pushed around by the governments of the world, the establishment, and police, we have to stand together and fight back."

Pat Kearns, a student at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, spoke at the press conference. Kearns expressed his solidarity with and support for Curtis on behalf of himself and 17 other students. The students had been acquitted the day before on criminal trespass charges stemming from a pro-

test against CIA recruiting on campus last fall.

Curtis' parents, Jane and Stan, sent a message that said, "No one can afford to allow injustice of this nature to be carried out. Your support is needed. Please register your protest against this and keep registering your protest until this injustice has been stopped."

During the question and comments period, Midge Slatter, the vice-president of a Des Moines Communications Workers of America local, said, "As a unionist I see the attack against Mark as part of Reagan's assault against trade unions. And as a feminist I am outraged that the police victimize an innocent man and largely ignore the real perpetrators of the serious crime of rape."

Kate Kaku, a meat-packer at the Oscar Mayer plant in Perry, Iowa, who is married to Curtis, announced that 34 coworkers had signed a petition demanding the frame-up charges be dropped and protesting the brutalization of Curtis. Also at the conference were a half dozen of Curtis' coworkers from the Swift packinghouse here, including one worker recently arrested in a

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Drive set to win 9,000 new readers

BY NORTON SANDLER

We encourage our readers to join a 10-week international drive to increase the circulation of the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazine *New International*.

We have set an ambitious goal of winning 9,000 new readers for these publications in Britain, Canada, New Zealand, the United States, and other countries between April 9 and June 15. The goal breaks down to 6,000 introductory or long-term subscriptions to the *Militant*, 1,500 subscriptions to *PM*, and 1,500 single copies of *New International*.

This circulation effort will be key to explaining to other fighters for social change the significance of the historic final victory in the Socialist Workers Party-Young Socialist Alliance lawsuit against Attorney General Edwin Meese, the FBI, and other U.S. government spy agencies.

It will also be an important part of efforts to defend Mark Curtis, a Des Moines, Iowa, political activist who was framed up and beaten by the cops and to help win permanent resident status in the United States for Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born socialist.

Reprinted in this issue is an article that appeared in the July 27, 1973, *Militant* explaining why the SWP and YSA initiated the suit against the FBI.

For the next several weeks, we will expand the paper from 16 to 20 pages so that we can reprint articles and documents from the *Militant's* unique coverage of this 15-year struggle.

This will complement efforts by supporters of the SWP-YSA lawsuit to organize a series of rallies around the country and internationally between now and May 1 to celebrate the victory.

Many *Militant* distributors responded to news of the victory by immediately doubling, and in some cases tripling, the number of papers ordered.

Distributors will also be raising their orders for the next issue of *Perspectiva Mundial*, which will be mailed from New York on March 31. It will contain coverage of the victory in the lawsuit, the launching of the SWP presidential ticket, the founding of the Communist League in Britain, and the Mark Curtis defense campaign.

Many who subscribe to the *Militant* and *PM* in the coming weeks will also have an opportunity to purchase the current issue of *New International*, which features the article, "Washington's 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation."

Written by SWP leader Larry Seigle, it describes many valuable lessons the communist movement has acquired in the decades-long struggle to defend democratic rights.

The *Militant* and *PM* are the most important tools at the disposal of supporters of

the SWP presidential ticket of James Warren and Kathleen Mickells, and SWP state candidates.

These publications will regularly carry the political perspectives and proposals put forward by the candidates, as well as news about their campaign. Selling the *Militant* and *PM* will be at the heart of campaigning for them.

Selling subscriptions goes well with a campaign focused on explaining communist ideas aimed at thinking workers, farmers, and students who will be interested in the proposals being raised and in following the week-to-week activities of the candidates.

Over the coming months, Warren-Mickells campaign supporters are planning to set up tables in working-class communities and on campuses. These tables will be centers for political discussions and subscription sales. They will also display the *New International* and the revolutionary books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder.

Many subscriptions to the *Militant* and *PM* and copies of *New International* will be sold during petitioning efforts to put the SWP candidates on the ballot.

On March 19 campaign supporters sold 13 subscriptions and 100 single copies of the *Militant* and *PM* while collecting 1,200 signatures to put the SWP candidates on the New Jersey ballot.

International drive

International distributors in Canada, Britain, and New Zealand are taking goals for the drive.

As an English-language communist paper, the *Militant* offers weekly news and analysis of world politics that is not available elsewhere.

Our international distributors are also using *PM*, which translates into Spanish many articles that have appeared in the *Militant* and *New International*, to reach out to the growing number of Spanish-speaking workers in these countries.

And they are planning a big effort to increase the circulation of *New International*, which has in-depth articles on topics covered in the *Militant*.

Plant-gate sales

Militant distributors participate in a year-round effort to circulate the revolutionary publications at mines, mills, factory gates, and rail yards.

These sales at shift changes are aimed at developing a regular readership among workers in important industrial unions.

Last fall, a few dozen meat-packers, coal miners, auto workers, and garment and textile workers purchased subscriptions from plant-gate teams.

A goal of the drive should also be to in-



Militant/Eric Simpson
Supporter of *Militant* discusses paper with miner at March 6 rally in Lebanon, Virginia. Rally supported members of the United Mine Workers of America fighting for a contract with the Pittston Coal Group.

crease significantly the number of subscriptions and single copies of *New International* sold on the job to workers in the industrial unions. Those who have already purchased subscriptions should be encouraged to renew.

We are also building on last year's success in selling the three publications at regional campuses and plant gates outside of major cities. This can now be combined with talking to students and workers about the Curtis case, the victory in the SWP-YSA lawsuit, and the 1988 SWP election campaign.

Some teams can be organized for weekends, others for several days at a time. Mem-

bers of the YSA at regional campuses are planning to join this effort.

During the last drive, New York distributors were successful in getting *New International* placed in bookstores and on newsstands. We encourage other distributors around the country to do the same.

The first scoreboard for the drive will be printed in *Militant* No. 14, which will be shipped to distributors April 7.

That scoreboard will contain each area's combined goal for all three publications. Anybody who wants to help on the drive can look us up in the directory on page 12, or contact the business office at the address below.

Talks to resume in paper strike

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — Negotiations between top company officials from International Paper and the United Paperworkers International Union, including local presidents from Jay, Maine; Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; De Pere, Wisconsin; and Mobile, Alabama, are scheduled to begin March 28 in Louisville, Kentucky.

The giant paper corporation locked out the Mobile workers in March 1987. In June paperworkers in Jay, Lock Haven, and De Pere went on strike rather than accept major concessions in wages, work rules, holidays, and other issues demanded by the company. Some 3,400 unionists are involved at the four mills.

Announcement of the negotiations was made by Paperworkers International President Wayne Glenn March 18. This marks the first time since the lock-out and strikes began that International Paper has negotiated with unions at the four sites together.

"We have agreed," Glenn stated, "to conduct our negotiations in a constructive and positive manner, and concentrate on the task of returning the relationship to its historic mode."

"It is hoped," Glenn continued, "that

local union and management officials of the struck and locked-out plants will subsequently meet on the problems of the individual plants."

Malcolm Lovell, a professor at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., has been asked by both parties to help in the negotiations, the union reported.

The announcement came on the heels of a local negotiating session in Jay, in which the company repeated its longstanding offer to help relocate and retrain nearly 1,200 strikers. International Paper considers the nearly 1,000 scabs currently working in the mill to be "permanent" replacements.

Local 14 President Bill Meserve from Jay told the *Militant* that the upcoming negotiations are a product of "solidarity and the Corporate Campaign." The Corporate Campaign has been helping coordinate support and outreach activities for workers at the four mills. In recent weeks, regional strike caravans have mobilized hundreds of paperworkers to reach thousands of other unionists, students, farmers, and others in New England, Pennsylvania, and the South with the message of their fight.

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—Betty Tsang

Miami postal worker and union activist

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SPECIAL OFFER



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

Washington victimizes Panama toilers

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Conditions for Panama's workers, peasants, small businesspeople, and others continued to worsen this past week, as Washington kept up its unrelenting pressure aimed at forcing Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, the head of Panama's army, to step down.

On March 21 the National Civic Crusade began an "indefinite general strike," which it claims will be maintained until Noriega is forced out. The Crusade is a business-dominated coalition backed by Washington that has organized much of the recent antigovernment protest in Panama. Its "strikes" are more akin to lockouts, as they largely involve owners shutting businesses.

Panama's toilers have been the chief victims of Washington's stranglehold on that country's economic life. Banks have been closed since early March, following the freezing of \$50 million in Panamanian assets by Washington. Some \$6.5 million due Panama in payments for the use of the Panama Canal are also being withheld. This has caused a severe cash shortage, as Panama does not have an independent banking system or its own currency. Panama uses U.S. dollars.

As a result, some 140,000 government workers have not been paid for several weeks, and pensioners have not been able to cash their retirement checks. Unable to purchase food, some workers are seeking relief through church-organized food pro-

grams. There have also been reports of grocery stores being broken into by hungry people.

The government is trying to work out temporary pay arrangements, including a combination of some cash payments, checks, and souvenir coins held in banks, with the lowest-paid workers receiving the most in payment. Government workers, including dockworkers at Panama's ports, are on strike to demand that they be paid in full.

Panama has requested a meeting of the Latin American Economic System, a regional economic organization, to discuss how to replace the dollar as Panama's currency.

The government workers' strikes have affected public services, including telephone, electricity, and water.

On March 18 Panama's government declared a "state of urgency" in the country in response to the deteriorating economic situation. Panama, the decree states, has become "the object of an attack on its economy by the United States in coordination with national political sectors eager to seize power by force."

"A real situation of undeclared war against the Republic of Panama" exists, the decree said.

This view was echoed by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, who said March 21 that "the Panamanian people are being subjected to grave violations of international law."

The unsuccessful March 16 coup attempt against Noriega by a small group of Panamanian officers, including the chief of police, has been followed by a strident chorus of U.S. administration and congressional figures demanding that Noriega step down. "He should leave now," President Ronald Reagan told reporters March 22.

This is despite Noriega's stated willingness to negotiate his departure from power, and possibly even from the country. On March 18 it was announced that he met with several State Department officials, who were anxious to get Noriega's agreement to seek asylum in Spain, which had earlier made such an offer. In return, Washington claims it would not seek Noriega's extradition to the United States on drug charges brought against the Panamanian leader earlier this year.

The Panamanian Defense Forces issued a statement March 19 explaining that Noriega spoke with the State Department officials because he has an "open door to dialogue." The statement also said Washington's offer was rejected as "improper, unacceptable, and anti-Panamanian."

A few days later President Manuel Solís Palma said that Noriega would be willing to step down as head of the army before Panama's presidential elections, scheduled for May 1989, pending the outcome of negotiations with the opposition. This was immediately rejected by the Civic Crusade and Washington.

A further threatening note against Panama was sounded March 20 when reports that Panama was stockpiling arms from Cuba appeared in the U.S. daily press. A Panamanian air force officer who defected to the United States after the coup attempt against Noriega claimed he had flown to Cuba several weeks earlier to pick up the arms shipment.

Washington's intensifying drive against Noriega is aimed at undermining the 1977 Panama Canal treaties, which return the canal to Panamanian control by the year 2000. It is also designed to replace Noriega with a regime that is more cooperative with Washington's counterrevolutionary aims in Central America, especially its war against the workers and peasants of Nicaragua.

Irish republican funerals attacked

BY CLIVE TURNBULL

BELFAST, Ireland — A republican funeral came under armed attack for the second time in less than a week in this city, which is the largest in the six northern counties of Ireland still under British rule.

Two British soldiers were killed March 19 after they stormed into the crowd attending the funeral of Kevin Brady.

Brady had been killed three days before during a murderous attack on another funeral, which was held for three Irish Republican Army (IRA) volunteers. That attack was witnessed by this reporter.

In the March 19 attack, the two soldiers, dressed in plain clothes, drove their unmarked car at high speed with horn blaring and lights flashing into the hundreds of people lining Brady's funeral procession.

As the attackers' vehicle was hemmed in by cabs accompanying the hearse, the soldiers drew handguns, but were overpowered and dragged away by the outraged crowd.

A British Army spokesperson claimed that the two soldiers were from the Royal Corps of Signals and that they were on a routine journey to their barracks when they had strayed by mistake into the procession.

"I did my best to restore calm," Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams said, "What were they doing there?" he asked. Sinn Féin is a republican and revolutionary nationalist party that, along with the IRA, is struggling for a united Ireland.

On March 16 I witnessed the grenade and gun attack on the funerals here of IRA volunteers Mairead Farrell, Dan McCann, and Sean Savage. Two others were killed in addition to Kevin Brady, and 70 injured.

Farrell, McCann, and Savage were unarmed when they had been gunned down 11 days before by a British Army Special Air Service squad in the British colony of Gibraltar in southern Spain.

Despite Royal Ulster Constabulary and British Army intimidation, thousands lined the roads as the funeral procession for the three passed through republican areas of Northern Ireland on its way from Dublin to Belfast.

In Belfast the day of the funeral, more than 20,000 were in the streets or followed the three coffins, draped in the Irish tricolor, to Milltown cemetery. It was the largest number to turn out for a funeral since the deaths of Bobby Sands and other imprisoned republican hunger strikers in 1981.

Black flags flew from every lamppost and many houses along the route. All local shops, schools, and workplaces were closed for the day. Patrols by the British Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) had withdrawn from the area. For the first time in 18 years, a republican funeral was taking place without the provocation and intimidation of hundreds of heavily armed soldiers and police. The sole British Army presence was a helicopter hovering 200 feet overhead.

A brief service was held at the cemetery and two coffins were lowered into the graves. The third coffin was about to be lowered when a grenade exploded 20 yards away sending fragments of shrapnel and gravestones into the crowd.

The screams of the injured merged with



Catholic mourners seek safety from murderous assault on March 16 IRA funeral

shouts of Sinn Féin marshals to "get down, get down!" as a second grenade landed 10 yards away, followed by a third, and a series of pistol shots.

Dozens of youths who had earlier climbed onto a nearby factory roof pointed towards the gunman shouting, "There he is. Get him!"

Sinn Féin Vice-president Martin McGuinness, dived in the direction of the attacker who headed towards the nearby M-1 motorway. Dozens, including many youths, chased the gunman. The attacker stopped several times to reload, then shoot, or throw grenades at his pursuers.

Eventually he was cornered and overpowered. The gunman was bundled into the trunk of a car, but before he could be driven away, RUC armored Land Rovers appeared to rescue him.

Sinn Féin President Adams appealed over the public address system for calm.

The funeral ceremony resumed just 15

minutes after the attack, ending with comments by Adams.

"Your presence here today," he said, "despite the recent incidents at this ceremony, is proof that [British Prime Minister] Thatcher's terrorists, whether in the uniform of the British Army or the state police cannot and will not intimidate us. They have tried and they have failed."

Sinn Féin Vice-president McGuinness pointed out that in spite of a British Army helicopter circling above the crowd during the attack, it took the RUC 15 minutes to arrive.

The gunman was later identified as Michael Stone. He has tried to claim that he acted alone in the grenade and gun attack on the funeral. But at his March 22 arraignment, Stone was also charged with three earlier murders of Catholics. The Ulster Freedom Fighters, a loyalist terror group, has claimed responsibility for those killings.

Youth conference to discuss Iowa defense case

BY GREG McCARTAN

"The Socialist Youth and Activists Conference will be a place where political activists can hear about and discuss joining the fight to defend Mark Curtis," said Rena Cacoullos, national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance. The YSA is the organization sponsoring the April 2-3 conference in Pittsburgh. "Curtis' fight is one that workers and students will want to take up. He was falsely arrested, beaten up by police, and framed up because he has organized protests against U.S. aggression in Central America, racist attacks, victimization of immigrant workers — in short because he is a political fighter," Cacoullos pointed out.

Curtis is a former national chairperson of the YSA.

Two teams of YSA members are visiting cities and college campuses in Indiana, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. Andy Coates reports that his team addressed a meeting of three student organizations at the University of Illinois, in Champaign. The team also was invited to attend a meeting in defense of the Nicaraguan revolution at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Students from both cam-

puses plan on attending the conference.

At Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania, a second conference-building team participated in two protest actions — an anti-apartheid protest and a rally against the U.S. government sending troops to threaten Nicaragua. Students at Penn State have set up a "Meet the YSA" event and have invited Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president, to speak on March 28.

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

The YSA's national gathering will be a weekend of talks, classes, workshops, a panel of international youth, and a rally featuring Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Warren and Kathleen Mickells.

Special presentations will be made by a representative of the South West Africa Peoples Organisation and by Prof. Fred Dube, a member of the African National Congress of South Africa who was fired for his political views from New York's State University at Stony Brook.

A delegation representing the Committee for Pro-Unity Youth from the Dominican Republic will attend the conference as well as a delegation from the Young Socialists, a revolutionary youth organization in Canada.

If you are interested in attending, fill out the coupon below. Conference registration \$15, or \$5 for high school and unemployed.

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West Coast tour promotes Pathfinder mural

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

News of a six-story-high mural being painted on a public wall in New York City to celebrate the struggles of working-class fighters around the world was received enthusiastically during the West Coast tour of Pathfinder Mural Project Director Mike Alewitz. Pathfinder is an international publishing house that prints the speeches and writings of the outstanding revolutionary leaders whose portraits are featured in the mural.

At meetings in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Portland in February and March, Alewitz presented a slideshow on art and revolution. Using slides of paintings, posters, photos, and architectural sketches, he presented a history of great artistic expression inspired by revolutions — from the October 1917 Russian revolution to the Mexican mural movement to the flowering of culture in Cuba and Nicaragua today.

Alewitz described how the creative energies of the Soviet people were released through their revolution, despite an invasion by imperialist armies, famine, and backwardness. Artists from around the world took part in the cultural activities organized in the cities and countryside in the years when the revolutionary government was headed by the Bolshevik Party led by V.I. Lenin.

The Mexican mural movement came out of the experiences of the Mexican revolution of 1910. The works of art produced by this movement celebrated the struggles of workers and peasants and drew on the rich Indian heritage of the country.

Mexican artists traveled to the Soviet Union. Three of the most important muralists — David Siqueiros, Diego Ri-

vera, and José Orozco — were members of the Mexican Communist Party and participated in the discussions and debates taking place in the workers' movement. Many Mexican muralists also traveled to and painted in the United States, Alewitz noted, although many of their works have been lost, covered up, or destroyed.

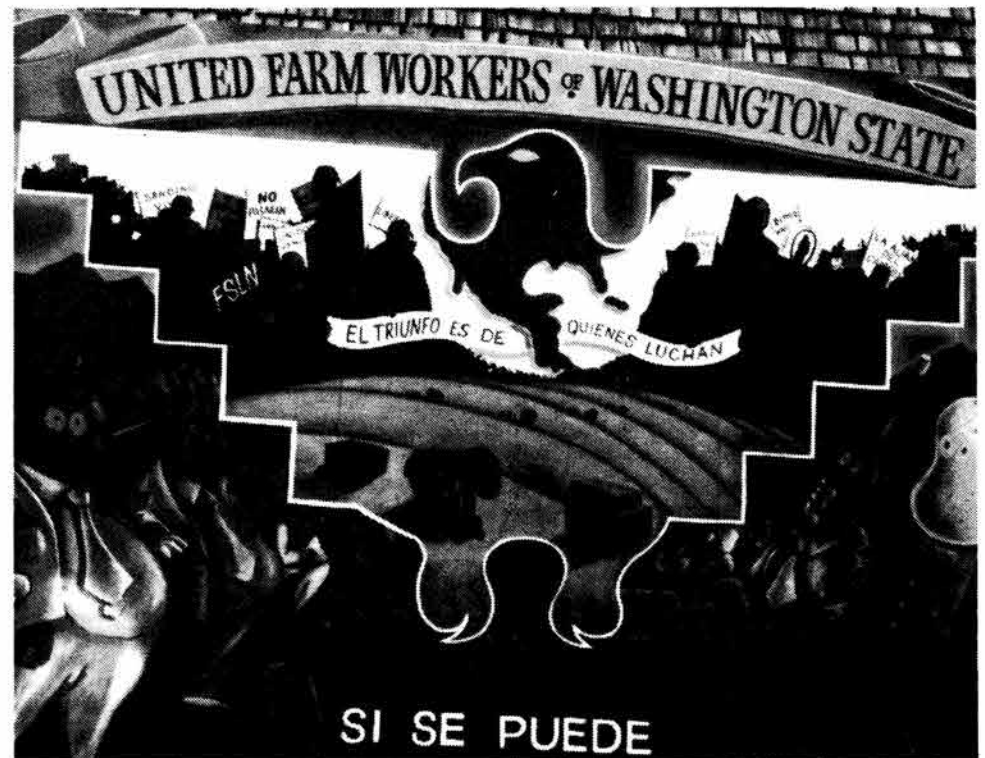
These revolutions and artistic movements had an impact on artists in the United States. A rich tradition of political art flourished and reached its peak in the activities of the Works Project Administration in the 1930s, Alewitz explained. These projects employed thousands, bringing art to public places (though much of it too has been destroyed) and to people previously denied access to art.

Alewitz described the explosion of creative expression in Nicaragua since the revolution in 1979. Brigades of artists have traveled to Nicaragua from the United States to participate.

Alewitz noted that the Pathfinder Mural Project is internationalist in this tradition. Artists from Nicaragua, South Africa, Ireland, Puerto Rico, and elsewhere will be participating in the project.

In San Francisco a Pathfinder mural display at the conference of the Alliance for Cultural Democracy received much interest. A central theme of the gathering was solidarity with the peoples of South Africa and Latin America. Participants included art, theater, dance, and other cultural groups. Dozens of people signed a petition protesting the harassment of the mural project by the city administration of New York.

"Art in the New Nicaragua" was the theme of two public meetings attended by



Militant/Angel Lariscy

Mural painted for United Farm Workers of Washington State by Pathfinder Mural Project Director Mike Alewitz. On West Coast tour, Alewitz spoke on history of art inspired by revolutions and workers' struggles. Pathfinder mural is in this tradition.

nearly 200 people on the west and east sides of Los Angeles. The west side meeting was chaired by muralist Judith Baca, who directed the painting of "The Great Wall of Los Angeles," the longest mural in the world. In East Los Angeles, Alewitz was joined by several Latino poets and singers, as well as Guatemalan folk dancers.

In Granger, Washington, Alewitz paint-

ed a mural sponsored by the United Farm Workers of Washington State. The painting depicts solidarity between farm workers there and in Nicaragua.

At a union meeting where the work was dedicated, Alewitz explained that "the Pathfinder mural project aims to celebrate and be part of struggles such as yours." He presented a slideshow on mural art in the U.S. labor movement and in Nicaragua.

Diana Cantú of San Francisco, Matt Herreshoff of Seattle, and Pat Nixon of Los Angeles contributed to this article.

Socialists finish Arizona ballot drive, launch North Carolina campaign

BY SUE ADLEY

PHOENIX, Arizona — Socialist Workers campaign supporters have filed 5,736 signatures on nominating petitions to put Bernie Senter on the ballot for governor. A press conference to announce the filing of the petitions was covered by five area TV stations and several newspapers and radio stations. Senter was joined at the press conference by Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Kathleen Mickells.

Senter is seeking a ballot spot in the May 17 election, which was scheduled after nearly 400,000 people signed petitions to recall Gov. Evan Mecham. Mecham has been impeached and is being tried by the Arizona Senate.

The nearly 6,000 people who signed the petitions is well over the 3,336 required by law. Supporters of Senter's campaign utilized the petitioning process to distribute thousands of brochures and sell the socialist publications the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Teams were organized from Phoenix to campaign among coal miners on the Navajo reservation; copper miners in Globe, Miami, and San Manuel; farm workers in El Mirage and Surprise; and meat-packers at Sunland Beef in Tolleson, where Senter works.

"With most people, as soon as I told them I'm supporting a meat-packer for governor, they signed the petition," a campaign activist at South Community College here said. He first learned of the campaign from a co-worker at Revlon, a large cosmetics plant organized by the United Auto Workers union.

On the Navajo reservation in Kayenta 181 people signed petitions. One coal miner offered to house future campaign teams.

Arizona Attorney General Robert Corbin has said that all petitions will be assumed to be valid unless they are challenged by another candidate. Despite the attorney general's word and the successful completion of the signature requirement, the socialist campaign expects a fight to ensure a ballot spot for Senter.

"The amount of public attention won by this campaign will make it very difficult for state officials to exercise any undemocratic

moves against our right to ballot access," Senter said. Statements supporting Senter's right to appear on the ballot are being gathered. To find out how you can help, contact Socialist Workers Campaign, 1809 W. Indian School Rd., Phoenix, Ariz. 85015 or phone (602) 279-5850.

BY MICHAEL FITZSIMMONS

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Stuart Crome, a 30-year-old textile worker at Highland Yarn Mills and a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 319T in High Point, announced he is running for governor as a candidate of the Socialist Workers Party.

Crome, who is also a member of the Young Socialist Alliance, explained that he is running for governor "to give voice to the needs and hopes of the working class

and the exploited in North Carolina, across the country, and throughout the world.

"Ours is a campaign in support of workers fighting for their unions and their rights like the paperworkers in Jay, Maine," Crome said. He pointed to the struggle of 2,000 workers at the Big Star grocery chain who are fighting to keep their union. In a clear attempt at union-busting, Big Star was purchased by Harris Teeter, a non-union chain. Teeter has said neither the jobs or contract rights of previous employees will be guaranteed.

Crome called for a shorter workweek, with no cut in pay, and jobs for all. He also called for an end to the oppression of the Palestinian and South African peoples, and an end to the U.S. war in Nicaragua.

To find out more information or to help with the campaign contact Socialist Workers Campaign, 2219 E. Market St., Greensboro, N.C. 27401 or phone (919) 272-5996.

GE women strikers fight police brutality

BY VALERIE LIBBY AND OVE ASPOY

CINCINNATI — Chanting "Stop police brutality" and "Evendale cops work for GE," more than 100 women strikers and supporters demonstrated March 11 against cop brutality. The action was called to protest the beating of striking United Auto Workers union member Judy Hurst. Protesters marched from the UAW hall to the Evendale police station.

The demonstrators were protesting other police beatings and harassment of unionists on strike against General Electric Co. at the jet engine facility in Evendale, a suburb of Cincinnati.

The strike of more than 7,000, which involves members of the UAW and International Association of Machinists, began February 16. GE provoked the walkout by trying to unilaterally impose a sweeping job combination plan. Strikers are also angry over the January layoff of 322 workers, while millions of dollars of work is being subcontracted out.

On March 6 Judy Hurst and a companion left UAW strike headquarters to get

sandwiches to bring back to the union hall. As Hurst returned, three Evendale police cruisers surrounded her car, claiming she was speeding. She was handcuffed, taken to the police station, and beaten. Hurst suffered a broken nose and large bruises on her shoulders, arms, and legs.

Two days later the UAW held a news conference to protest the beating. Dan Radford, executive secretary of the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council, made public a letter he sent to Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste demanding an investigation of the beating.

That afternoon several women at the union hall decided more had to be done to protest the beating. When pictures of Hurst were posted at the union hall showing her injuries, anger mounted. Support for a march to the police station grew during the afternoon, and the women called a "Women's Protest Against Police Brutality." That night women union members were on the phones to get the word out.

The morning of the demonstration, a group of 20 women painted signs, called the media, wrote a news release, and organized a team of monitors to guide the

marchers. Most of the women had never participated in a protest march before, much less organized one.

The protesters were joined by Black rights activist Marian Spencer; representatives of several women's organizations, including the National Organization for Women; and a dozen women workers from the nearby Formica plant, who are members of the International Union of Electronic Workers. The IUE members had built the march inside their plant and were cheered as they left work to join the protest.

Evendale Police Chief Daniel O'Malley keeps changing the cops' version of what happened to Hurst. Now he denies any beating took place and claims that her injuries were self-inflicted. Another union member, however, saw the cop hit Hurst in the jail's holding cell.

Valerie Libby is a member of UAW Local 647, and Ove Aspy is a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 912. Both are on strike at GE.



July 1956: Egypt's President Nasser in march hailing nationalization of Suez Canal.

BY FRED FELDMAN

(Second in a series)

The establishment in 1948 of Israel, the seizure of the great bulk of Palestine by colonial settlers, and the defeat of the military forces of six Arab governments in the 1948 war with Israel were devastating setbacks for the Palestinian people and for the national liberation struggle against imperialist oppression throughout the Middle East.

More than 700,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes. Tens of thousands were forced to live in refugee camps.

With backing from the United States and other imperialist powers, Israel rapidly developed into a powerful economic and military beachhead for imperialism in the Middle East.

Over the next three decades Israel received billions in aid, including "charitable" donations from pro-Zionist organizations. This outside aid was augmented by the wealth expropriated from the Palestinian people.

Despite the massive blow they had been dealt and their dispersion, Palestinian fighters did not give up the struggle to return to their homeland.

Their efforts to forge organizations capable of advancing the goal of overturning the Israeli regime were intertwined with anti-imperialist struggles throughout the Middle East and North Africa — from the democratic revolution that transformed Egypt in the 1950s to those that came later in Algeria and Iran.

Far from putting an end to the growth of anti-imperialist struggles in the Middle East, as Israel's backers had hoped, the 1948 war instilled deeper opposition to Israeli colonialism among the peoples of the region.

Revolution in Egypt

Backward, imperialist-dominated regimes that had proven incapable of defending the Palestinians and their own countries against Israeli forces faced a storm of criticism. Popular struggles to make basic social changes spread.

Efforts by some of the regimes in the area to suppress the Palestinian struggle and reach an accommodation with the Israeli occupiers were stymied.

The first big blow to imperialist domination in the region in the wake of the establishment of Israel came in Egypt. In the midst of popular unrest, a military coup carried out by the Free Officers movement overturned King Farouk and abolished the monarchy, long subservient to British imperialism. A republic was established.

The Free Officers were headed by Gamal Abdul Nasser, who became head of the government in 1954. The estates of the biggest landlords were redistributed, in many cases to landless or land-starved peasants. Rent reductions increased the income of millions of peasants by about 50 percent.

The new Egyptian government supported and helped organize the struggle to end British colonial rule in the Sudan, just south of Egypt. The British were forced out in 1956. Nasser's government campaigned for the withdrawal of about 80,000 British troops from the Suez Canal Zone. In 1954, the British government agreed to pull its forces out.

When the Algerian National Liberation

Front launched an armed struggle for independence from France in 1954, the Egyptian government aided the fighters. Nasser backed demands raised in Tunisia and Morocco for independence from France. Both countries won independence in 1956.

The Nasser government also opposed the 1955 Baghdad Pact, which established the Middle East Treaty Organization, a "mutual security" alliance between the governments of Britain, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, and Iraq. The agreement allowed for military intervention to defend reactionary regimes in the area from upheavals such as had occurred in Egypt. The U.S. government adhered to the pact in 1959, at which time its name was changed to the Central Treaty Organization.

The Egyptian government proclaimed a policy of nonalignment, or "neutrality" as it was called then, at a time when the United States and other imperialist powers were pressing to impose military "defense" pacts on newly independent governments in Asia and Africa.

Suez invasion

The Egyptian revolution was a threat to the imperialists, and especially to the British and French rulers, who had carved up the region between them after World War I.

Washington, while maneuvering to replace British and French influence in the region, also sought to push back the Egyptians' moves against imperialist domination. The U.S. government canceled offers to help build a major Nile River dam in Egypt after the Nasser regime recognized the Chinese government. (At that time, Washington did not have diplomatic relations with China and demanded recognition of the counterrevolutionary exile regime on Taiwan as the government of China.)

Washington, London, and Paris counted on Israel as a key military and political ally against Egypt. In 1955, the Israeli regime launched five major raids into Egypt, killing dozens of people. The attacks were warnings to Nasser of what could happen if his regime didn't bow to imperialist and Israeli demands.

In retaliation, Nasser began allowing Palestinian fighters in Egypt to strike at Israel.

In July 1956, Nasser nationalized the joint British-French company that owned and managed the Suez Canal. The U.S., British, and French governments retaliated by freezing Egyptian assets in their countries.

In October Israeli troops invaded Egypt, heading for the Suez Canal. Nasser rejected a joint demand by the British and French governments that they be permitted to militarily occupy the Egyptian cities of Port Said, Ismailia, and Suez in order to protect "freedom of transit" through the canal. British and French jets then bombed Egyptian airfields and landed paratroopers at Port Said. The people of Port Said put up a stiff resistance.

The joint British-French-Israeli drive stirred worldwide protest.

Even the U.S. government publicly disassociated itself from the invasion. The Soviet government threatened to come to Egypt's defense. The invaders were compelled to pull out of Egypt, the canal remained in Egyptian hands, Nasser remained in power, 55 British- and French-

Palestine and the Arabs' fight for liberation:

From revolution in Egypt to 1967 war

owned corporations in Egypt were nationalized, and millions of oppressed throughout the region were inspired.

The Suez invasion ended as a historic victory for the cause of Arab independence, and a watershed in the decline of imperialist domination in the region. Although the U.S. government had aligned itself with those pressing for the occupiers to pull out, government consultant Charles Cremins sized up the significance of the setback four years later.

Nasser's "decision to nationalize the canal company," he explained, "was a challenge not just to a company, not just to a single nation, but to the whole system by which the Western powers and their allies had once dominated many of the affairs of the world." The success of that challenge inspired others.

Iraq and Lebanon

In July 1958, nationalist military officers overthrew and executed King Faisal II of Iraq, the last of the Hashemite dynasty placed on the Iraqi throne by the British imperialists three decades earlier.

The Hashemites were among the ruling clans of the Arabian peninsula at the time of the collapse of the Ottoman empire. Hussein ibn Ali, the king of the Hejaz (now part of Saudi Arabia), who supported the British in World War I in exchange for promises that he could found an independent Arab kingdom, was a member of this dynasty. Although the British rulers reneged on their promises, they placed sons of Hussein on the British-created thrones of Iraq and Jordan.

Hussein himself was ousted from his throne in 1924 by the head of a rival clan, the House of Saud, which conquered the Hejaz and other parts of the peninsula, and established the state of Saudi Arabia.

The new government of Iraq established a republic and withdrew from the Baghdad Pact.

This upheaval deepened unrest that had been growing against the Hashemite monarchy in Jordan, and in the former French protectorate of Lebanon. In Lebanon, the rightist Camille Chamoun had attempted to force acceptance of a constitutional amendment assuring him a second term as president.

This spurred a nationalist revolt, based

on the Muslim majority in Lebanon, which was effectively disfranchised under the existing political setup. This discriminatory political system had been established by the French imperialists, who had counted on the capitalists and landlords of the Maronite Christian sect to provide a base for imperialist domination.

When it appeared Chamoun might be overthrown, U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower sent in more than 14,000 U.S. marines and army troops, while the British government sent 2,000 troops to prop up the regime of King Hussein in Jordan.

The U.S. government claimed its action was justified by the "Eisenhower Doctrine" issued in 1957, which proclaimed the right to send troops to the Middle East to combat "communist aggression."

The U.S.-British operation succeeded in stabilizing the Lebanese and Jordanian regimes for the time being (although Chamoun was forced to step aside in Lebanon), but it did not halt upheavals in the region.

In 1962, a military coup toppled the ruling dynasty in Yemen and established a republic there.

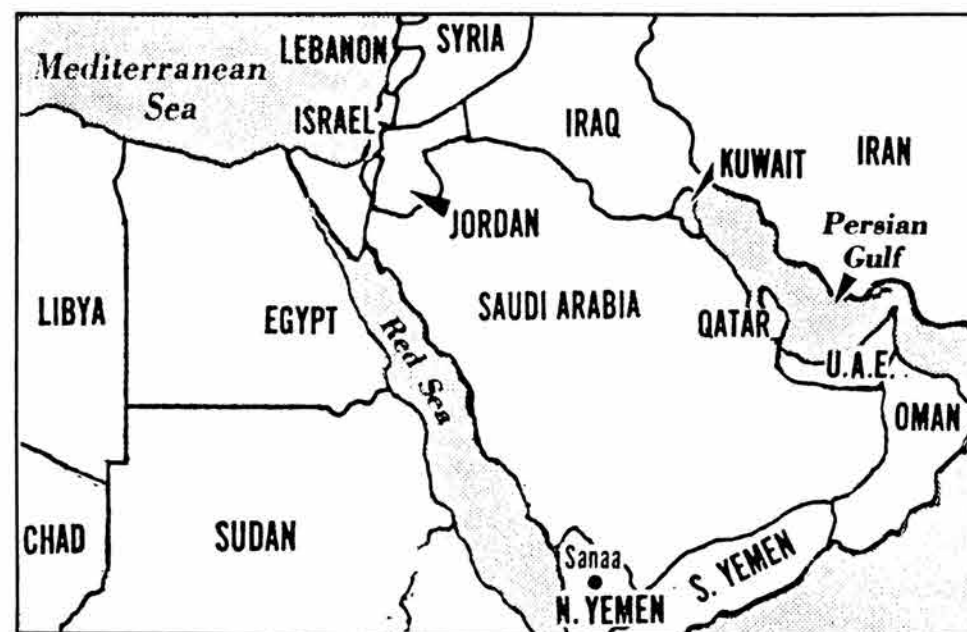
The French rulers were forced out of Algeria in 1962. The workers' and peasants' government that was established soon afterward, at the height of the Algerian revolution, was overturned by a military coup in 1965. But the deepgoing anti-imperialist consciousness among the masses obliged subsequent governments to continue to take anti-imperialist actions, including by supporting the Palestinian struggle.

The blows to imperialist domination in the region deepened the isolation of Israel. They were the framework in which the Palestinian people, although dispersed in refugee camps or as exiles in countries around the world, began to organize their fight to overturn the occupation regime in their homeland.

In 1951 Yassir Arafat and others set out to form the Palestinian Students' Union in Cairo, Egypt. Arafat had participated in the armed Palestinian resistance before 1948 against the Israeli takeover. Salah Khalaf, who joined Arafat in organizing the students' union, explained:

"Yassir Arafat and I knew what was damaging to the Palestinian cause. We were convinced, for example, that the Pal-

Continued on Page 13



The Middle East. Initials U.A.E. at right refer to United Arab Emirates.

Cuban sex education, abortion policies: advances for women

BY ELIZABETH STONE

A few months ago I visited Cuba along with six other women journalists from the United States. We were the first delegation to participate in the U.S.-Cuba Women's Exchange, which is organized by the Venceremos Brigade.

One of the most interesting — and inspiring — people we talked with in the course of our visit was Dr. Celestino Álvarez Lajonhere, head of Cuba's National Group for Sex Education.

For many years, Álvarez has been a fighter for women's rights. In the early 1960s, he left his private practice as a gynecologist to join the revolutionary government's campaign to provide maternity care and contraception to Cuban women. Since that time he has been a strong defender of Cuba's policy of providing safe, legal abortion for those women who want it.

Now he is heading up another ambitious effort — the campaign to increase the level of sex education and to lower Cuba's high rate of teenage pregnancy.

The National Group for Sex Education is working together with Cuba's mass women's organization, the Federation of Cuban Women, on this campaign. Women active in the federation help distribute literature and organize neighborhood sex education classes.

Unlike birth-control programs in many underdeveloped countries, this campaign does not have a goal of either raising or lowering the population growth rate. "The goal is to make a woman free to have a child when she wants, if she wants," Álvarez explained. "It's not a population policy."

More than a million books and pamphlets have already been published as part of the effort. One of the most popular, *Are You Thinking of Love*, is directed to young people. It was sold out the first day and had to be immediately reprinted.

Álvarez said there has been some resistance to the campaign, especially among older people. Some objected, for example, when a picture of a woman giving birth appeared in one of the books. Defending this, Álvarez said he felt that it was important to be clear and direct in sex education.

"You are familiar with books that talk in terms of the birds and the bees," he said. "We leave out the birds and the bees and try to talk about human men and women. People still have prejudices against speaking about these things, prejudices from Catholicism, from tradition, from Spanish culture. We have to overcome these prejudices."

Contraceptives widely available

Literature published by the sex education group and the Federation of Cuban Women stresses that the important decision of whether to have a baby or not should not be left to chance. To make this possible, contraceptives are made available at minimal cost to all women, regardless of age or marital status.

Young women are urged to put off having children until they have finished their education and are prepared, physically and in other ways, to have a baby. Due in part to this educational campaign, Álvarez says pregnancies in very young women, which had been rising, are now beginning to decline.

But there is still a long way to go. Many young people do not use contraceptives, despite their availability. And when they get pregnant, parents often pressure them to get married and have the baby. On the other hand, there is no public campaign, as in the United States, to make young women feel guilty for having an abortion. And the system of free health care backs up and encourages young women who make that decision.

Cuba's expanding program of placing a family doctor in every neighborhood is an important addition to this health system. Already more than 1,500 of these doctors and nurses are working in home offices in mountainous sections of the eastern provinces and other areas where there is the greatest need. These doctors are accessible to young people and others who want contraceptives or help with health problems, including unwanted pregnancies.

We asked what kinds of contraceptives are used in Cuba. Álvarez said that in the early years of the revolution he had made a mistake in pushing the diaphragm as the main contraceptive. "We were concerned about side effects of the pill, given its high estrogen content in those years. But using the diaphragm on a mass level was a mistake given the level of education and sanitation in the country. There was also the problem that many women gave birth to eight or 10 or more children in those days, making their musculature too weak for a diaphragm."

"Then, for a long time in Cuba," he continued, "the intrauterine device [IUD] was emphasized due to these problems, but now different methods of birth control are used, including the pill."

Homosexuality

We asked how homosexuality was taken up in the sex education campaign. Álvarez said one of the sex education books contains a chapter that rejects the view that homosexuality is a sickness or perversion. But he also stressed that Cuba still has a long way to go in combating prejudice and discrimination against gays.

He explained that the Cuban government has not taken a position on homosexuality. There are no laws against gay sex, but there is widespread prejudice, something Álvarez says goes against the ideas of the revolution. "Cuba is a society based on solidarity," he said. "Yet on this question solidarity is not practiced." He said he thought there should be a campaign of education by Cuban TV and other media to combat prejudices against gays.

Álvarez commented on the film *Improper Conduct*, produced in France in 1984, which presents a picture of widespread repression of gays in Cuba. He said the film portrays an exaggerated version of some real errors made by the Cuban government in the 1960s. It presents these abuses of the past as if they were still happening today, he said, and by doing this and exaggerating the problems that remain, a distorted and slanderous picture is given of the treatment of gays in Cuba.

AIDS

In response to a question on AIDS, Álvarez described the extraordinary effort being made in Cuba to prevent what has already occurred in the United States and other countries — the development of an AIDS epidemic.

Pointing out that Cuba is a country that sends many people abroad and has guests and tourists from other countries, he said AIDS infection of the Cuban population could not be avoided. At the same time, he said, "we have acted in such a way as not to create a panic in the population that exaggerates the danger."

An inexpensive test for AIDS has been developed by Cuba and is being shared with other Third World countries. Already more than a million Cubans (one out of every 10) have been tested for AIDS, including all those giving blood, those admitted to hospitals, and those returning from travel abroad. More widespread testing is planned.

Due to these precautions Álvarez said he does not think any people have been infected due to blood transfusions or from byproducts of blood.

The number of Cubans who have been diagnosed as having AIDS or carrying the antibodies is well below 200. A very small percentage of these have fallen ill with the disease.

All known AIDS carriers have been placed in a sanitarium, Álvarez said, with the double purpose of providing them with specialized medical care and preventing them from spreading the disease.

Álvarez said he thought Cuba's high rate of success in preventing carriers from becoming ill with AIDS was due in part to the medical attention they were receiving.

Other factors are the generally high level of health of the Cuban population due to free, quality medical care and the absence



Militant/George Johnson

Cuban youths. Revolutionary government's campaign of sex education seeks to reduce teenage pregnancy. Availability of contraceptives and abortion services allow women to be free to have children when they choose.

of the widespread drug addiction that exists in other countries. This along with the rapid move in Cuba toward blood testing, also explains the absence of the spread of AIDS among Cuban children either from infected mothers or through transfusions of contaminated blood.

When the policy of placing AIDS carriers in a sanitarium was questioned, Álvarez said this represented an initial reaction to the AIDS threat and would be reviewed as more was learned about AIDS and the population became more educated.

An educational campaign about AIDS is being carried out in Cuban newspapers and on TV. Some videos produced in the United States have been used. We noticed that the Cuban daily *Granma* carried a column devoted to questions and answers about AIDS and how it is transmitted. Later, when I returned, there was an article in the February 14 issue of *Granma Weekly Review*, written from New York, which was a sympathetic interview with two workers, both of whom are gay and have AIDS.

Another subject we discussed with Álvarez was the double standard for men and women of what are acceptable sexual relations. He said the double standard still exists in Cuba but that among youth much progress had been made.

At the recent congresses of the Federation of Cuban Women and the Communist

Party of Cuba, this double standard was discussed. While taking the position that a person's sex life should be something for the individual and not society to determine, both congresses condemned the existence of different standards of conduct for men than for women.

Álvarez placed the fight to raise the consciousness on this question in the broader framework of the fight for women's equality. Pointing out how the mentality of considering women to be slaves of men goes back millennia, he said these ideas have to be fought not only in men but also in women who internalize these attitudes.

He pointed to a phenomenon that has sparked a lot of discussion and debate in Cuba: at public boarding schools, some teenage girls were washing their boyfriends' clothes. All students are supposed to do their own laundry. Progress is being made, Álvarez said, but in this case, there's a step backward. "These things have to be fought with constant and deliberate education."

At the end of the discussion we gave Álvarez one of the buttons from the struggle for abortion rights in the United States. He urged us to keep up the fight. "Watch out for what the Reagan administration is trying to do to women," he told us, "including on the issue of abortion."

Wisconsin farmers, paperworkers find common ground in struggle

BY BILL SCHEER

EAU CLAIRE, Wisconsin — Farmers at the fourth annual meeting of the Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance got a chance to hear two striking paperworkers from De Pere, Wisconsin, during their two-day conference held here at the end of February. Some 50 farmers attended the WFUA gathering, whose theme was "Sowing the seed of change."

The strikers, members of United Paperworkers International Union Local 6288 at International Paper Co.'s mill in De Pere, sent their local president, Jerry Herwald, and local vice-president to the farmers' meeting.

The WFUA has been active in supporting the paperworkers before. Last summer they donated a cow to Local 6288, and more recently invited striking paperworkers from Jay, Maine, to address the WFUA board meeting.

After Herwald spoke about the issues in the paperworkers' fight against concessions, Doug Harsch, president of the farm group, thanked them for coming. "Sounds familiar, doesn't it?" he asked the farmers. "They'll work with us, and we should work with them."

Carl Kalbus, a dairy and grain farmer who attended the meeting, delivered the cow to Local 6288 last summer. Carl's wife, Helen, is a member of the paperworkers' union who works at a paper mill near the struck International Paper plant. "We couldn't make it without her job," Kalbus said. "Up until three years ago, it didn't occur to me that unions would be our allies. Now I can see that corporate business is taking over everything, and we're both up against them."

"It all started when Reagan busted the air [traffic] controllers," said another farmer, Roger Martel, who comes from western Wisconsin. "We need to get together with labor because you guys have the numbers. If we get farmers, labor, and the minorities together, then we can do something."

Alden Helms, a leader of the WFUA and a longtime farmer, explained to the conference that he first became politically involved as a youth, when he was a railroad worker and union member. "I learned then that it boils down to a fight for justice and equality for working people," Helms, who recently lost his farm, explained. "We can't give up. We have to stay involved."

'A victory for all working people'

Political activists, unionists hail final win in SWP fight against FBI

The recent successful conclusion to the Socialist Workers Party's 15-year legal case against government spying and harassment brought a wave of congratulations and statements of support hailing the historic victory for constitutional rights.

Two national news conferences were held March 17 to announce Attorney General Edwin Meese's decision not to appeal Judge Thomas Griesa's August 1986 ruling that declared it illegal for the FBI and other police outfits to use informers, disruption programs, or break-ins against political organizations and activists.

Speaking at the New York news conference were Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary; Leonard Boudin, the SWP's general counsel and attorney in the case; John Studer, executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which organized political and financial support for the case; and Christine Cowger from the national advisory committee of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

The West Coast news conference was held at the Los Angeles Press Club and featured SWP leader Larry Seigle; Frank Wilkinson of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation; Khader Hamide, one of the eight supporters of Palestinian rights being threatened with deportation; SWP vice-presidential candidate Kathleen Mickells; and PRDF representative Elizabeth Stone.

We are reprinting some of the statements from the news conferences, as well as other messages received by the PRDF following the announcement.

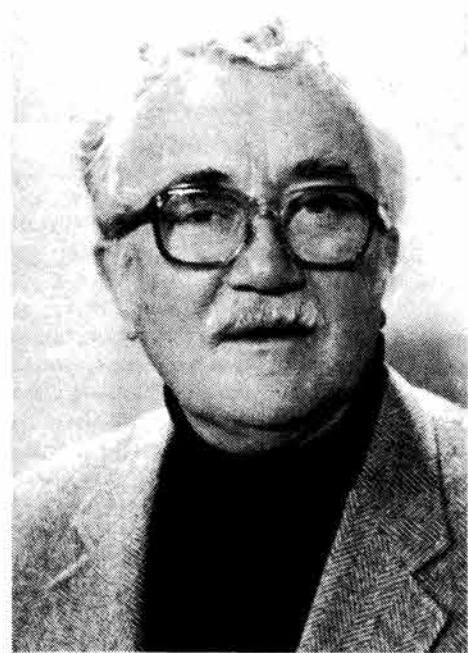
Peter Schey

National Committee for Immigrant Rights, Inc.

The administration's decision not to appeal the rulings of Judge Griesa is of great significance to the immigrant refugee community in the United States, particularly to those refugees who have fled conditions of political oppression to come to a country in which they believed democratic processes were adhered to.

The Central American refugee community, especially those opposed to U.S. policies in Central America, have been the targets of administration surveillance, spying, and intimidation.

The decision in the Socialist Workers Party case hopefully is a precedent which should send a message to the administration that domestic spying is illegal and that even Central American refugees do not shed their rights when they cross the borders into the United States.

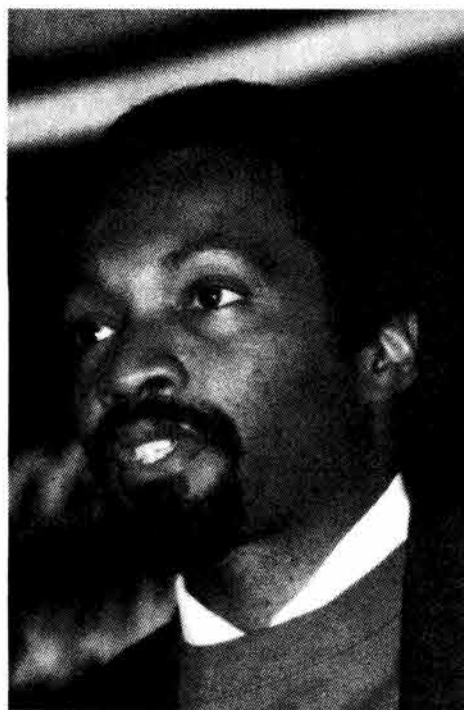


Frank Wilkinson

Frank Wilkinson

Executive director emeritus of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation.

We are all indebted to the Socialist Workers Party for their early stand against FBI spying and harassment. This tremendous victory is a victory for the Bill of Rights.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Roger Green

Roger Green

Chair, Black and Hispanic Caucus, New York State Assembly.

I congratulate the Political Rights Defense Fund for waging a 15-year struggle to protect the constitutional rights of American citizens to peaceably assemble and express dissent without being spied upon.

This victory is a clear indication that when people of good will join together in defense of our constitutional rights, it insures the benefit of all.

Jack Foley

Director, District 1, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union.

As a trade unionist, I want to express my satisfaction with the court decision in this case. The labor movement has fought long and hard for the right of free association — for the right to organize without intimidation and disruption by paid disrupters and provocateurs.

The outcome of this legal battle is a victory not only for the Socialist Workers Party, but for all working people and all who uphold democratic rights.

Fred Dube

Member, African National Congress; fighting to regain teaching position at State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he was fired for his political views.

Those among us who cherish freedom of speech, belief, and association have every right to celebrate the dropping of the appeal in a case won against the state agency's interference with the American people's right to choose their own beliefs, with whom to associate, and what to say on any issue. It is only in states such as South Africa that people are deprived of these rights.

Ed Asner

Actor.

On the day that a possibly innocent man was put to death in the state of Florida, how wonderful that the existence of justice can be found in the victory of the Political Rights Defense Fund, Leonard Boudin, and the Socialist Workers Party.

My heartiest congratulations to all.

Khader Hamide

One of the "Los Angeles 8," who are threatened with deportation for their political views.

As a Palestinian who has suffered harassment and as part of the Arab community which is constantly bothered by the FBI, I see this decision as an important one for all who are involved in political activity.

Michael and Robert Meeropol

Sons of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. The Rosenbergs were framed up and executed in 1953 on charges of giving the Soviet government the "secret" of the atomic bomb.

As 15-year supporters of the Political Rights Defense Fund, we consider the recent victory a victory for all of us.

It was the relentless pressure of the PRDF and their lawsuit, backed by a large group of supporters all over the country from across the political spectrum, that made it impossible for the U.S. government to wriggle out of this situation.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. The Reagan administration has attempted more than once to destroy the Freedom of Information Act, without which future PRDF suits would be impossible.

The FOIA puts every government official on notice that their current planning to burglarize an SWP office, to harass a civil rights leader like Martin Luther King, or to frame people like our parents will be found out sooner or later. Without the FOIA they can go back to their dirty tricks and frame-ups and secret government, and the PRDF victory would be a solitary exception to a pattern of government success.

Let's make sure that doesn't happen. Let's protect the FOIA. Let's create one, three, many PRDF victories.

Morton Sobell

Convicted with the Rosenbergs and sent to prison until 1969.

The government decided to withdraw its appeal of the Griesa decision for only one reason: it knew it would lose. And this is a clear indication that the Reagan-Meese mob is in retreat from its original agenda, which was to abrogate all of the human rights provisions of the Constitution and its amendments.

It is only by the SWP and others exercising a relentless pressure on the government that this administration was finally forced to recognize and yield to the new temper of the times.

Don White

Southwest Region, CISPES.

This major victory by the Socialist Workers Party happens in the context of a growing disgust in our country over abuses by the FBI.

Throughout the nation, from the press, the religious community, the human rights movement, and from ordinary citizens, there is an ever increasing awareness and a growing demand that the FBI stop its illegal and repulsive intrusions into the lives of activists. We are proud to associate ourselves with today's historic victory.

SWP rights victory reported in newspapers across U.S.

NEW YORK — News of the Socialist Workers Party's victory for constitutional rights was picked up in dailies around the country.

"U.S. Ends Appeal of Socialist Ruling, Decision Against FBI Left Intact in Harassment of Group" was the headline on a major article in the March 17 *Los Angeles Times*.

"The federal court ruling left intact by the [Justice] department's withdrawal declared that the FBI had 'no legitimate basis' to spy on the radical leftist group because it had no evidence that the party or its members were violating the law," the article said. The *Washington Post*, *Minneapolis Tribune*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *Louisville Courier-Journal* all carried stories based on the *Times*' coverage.

An Associated Press dispatch on the

The Socialist Workers Party showed courage and persistence in fighting back the government's attack on political rights, to widen the space for unionists, human rights workers, and political activists to do their important work.

Kathy Andrade

Educational director, Local 23-25, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The decision is a major victory for the labor movement and all who cherish constitutional freedoms. It is a new and important weapon which advances our ability to organize and act free from government interference and attack.

I know this victory will travel with me as I work in defense of the rights of workers in the garment industry, of all workers fighting for the right to live and work in this country, and work with others on behalf of freedom and justice.

Congratulations!



Militant/Lou Howort

Kathy Andrade

Cathy Dreyfuss

President-elect, Los Angeles chapter, National Lawyers Guild.

The Guild joins with the Socialist Workers Party in condemning illegal and unconstitutional government interference and infiltration of organizations conducting lawful and constitutionally protected political activity. We hope the National Lawyers Guild will be as successful in our own lawsuit against the FBI.

story was picked up by the *New York Times* and *New York Newsday*. "The Socialist Workers Party, the First Amendment and the rule of law have won," SWP general counsel Leonard Boudin was quoted as saying.

El Diario, a Spanish-language daily in Los Angeles, carried an article titled, "Two Socialist Organizations Celebrate a Judicial Ruling Against the FBI."

"Larry Seigle of the Socialist Workers Party," the article said, "thought that Judge Griesa's ruling is a victory for democracy in this country because it reclaims constitutional rights of the people and of legally constituted organizations." *La Opinion*, another Spanish-language daily in Los Angeles, also carried a story.

The *Cincinnati Enquirer* and *St. Louis Post Dispatch* also had articles about the victory in the SWP's suit.

How socialists scored victory aga

BY MARGARET JAYKO

It is hereby stipulated and agreed, by and between the undersigned, attorneys for all parties to this action, that the appeal heretofore filed by defendants-appellants Attorney General of the United States, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of Defense, Postmaster General, Secretary of the Army, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Director of Central Intelligence, Director of the Secret Service, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Director of the Office of Personnel Management, Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Secretary of State, and the United States of America be and is hereby dismissed, with prejudice and without costs or disbursements to any party.

This stipulation, signed by attorneys for the U.S. government and for the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, was filed in federal district court in New York in mid-March. It formally ended a 15-year-long court case and registered an unprecedented victory for constitutional rights. It also marked one of the greatest conquests in the SWP's 50-year history.

Next several issues of Militant will be expanded to 20 pages to include articles explaining significance of victory against FBI.

- In July 1973, the SWP and YSA filed a lawsuit in federal court charging that the two socialist organizations were longtime targets of illegal, covert federal police disruption activities.

- In the spring of 1981, after extensive pretrial discovery, the case went to trial. The trial lasted 12 weeks.

- In August 1986, federal Judge Thomas Griesa ruled in favor of the SWP and YSA, finding the FBI and other police agencies guilty.

- In August 1987, Griesa issued an injunction barring the government from using information in the 10 million pages of files obtained illegally by the FBI on the SWP and YSA.

- In January of this year, the government filed a notice that it was going to appeal Griesa's rulings.

- Two months later, right before the March 18 deadline for filing the appeal, the Justice Department threw in the towel.

Why did the government decide, at the 11th hour, not to appeal the case? What led to the socialists' victory? What lessons can working people learn from this political battle? What does this victory mean for antiwar activists, antiracist fighters, union militants, and others who are involved in progressive social struggles, both in the United States and around the world?

These important questions will be discussed in this and subsequent articles in the *Militant* over the next several weeks.

Unprecedented ruling

The ruling that the government decided not to appeal is significant in several respects.

It states that the use of FBI or other police informers to infiltrate organizations and spy on people engaged in political activity, far from being neutral information gathering, is a violation of the right to privacy and freedom of association. This is the first time ever that a federal court has made such a ruling.

It's also the first time that a federal judge has ruled that burglaries carried out by the FBI to steal or copy private papers or 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.

The court also awarded the SWP and YSA \$264,000 in damages, as well as attorneys fees.

Immigrants and communists

An important aspect of Griesa's decision is that it makes no distinction between those SWP and YSA members and supporters who are citizens and those who are not. Citizen and noncitizen alike are covered by its provisions.

Extending the Bill of Rights to encompass immigrant workers and communists is an ongoing battle.

The government has gotten away with treating communists as though they have no rights on the grounds that they are an alleged threat to "national security." They are presumed guilty simply because of their ideas. Immigrants are also treated as though they have no rights because they are

not citizens, especially the right to be political activists.

And the two questions are often connected, since immigrant workers in many cases are among the most politically active in the working class, and the communist movement seeks to win members from the superexploited layer of immigrant workers. It's because the SWP and YSA count workers born in other countries in their ranks that this important rights fight was part of their case. The Immigration and Naturalization Service was one of the defendants in the suit.

This victory will aid the decade-long fight of SWP leader Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born worker, for permanent residence status.

And by including both communists and immigrants among those whose constitutional rights are protected, the decision in the SWP case is doubly strong for every other political activist.

The task today before all those who supported this case is to take advantage of the momentum of this victory over the next several weeks to get out the word about this new weapon that gives fighters for social change more political space to carry out their activities.

The Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which won broad backing for this fight, will be holding victory meetings in cities across the country involving unionists, antiwar activists, Black and women's rights fighters, champions of the rights of immigrants, and other foes of government repression involved in struggles today.

'No comment'

One way to measure the depth of the victory won in the SWP case is by the government's stubborn refusal to answer questions from reporters who wanted to know why the government decided to drop the appeal.

This is a sign of weakness on the part of the government, of its wishing the case would simply go away. The fact that the decision not to appeal went right down to the wire suggests that there were divisions among the top cops in Washington over what to do.

Attorney General Edwin Meese and his gang don't want the people of the United States to know about this new weapon that has been won for political activity. They understand that rights only have value when they are known about, used, and defended. From the government's point of view, therefore, the less said the better.

As SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes told reporters, "We may never know the details of the arguments between the various government agencies about whether to pursue the appeal of Judge Griesa's decision. I think that people in this country

view the FBI and political rights differently than they did 15 years ago when our case was filed.

"We helped show millions of people in this country that the FBI engaged in a criminal domestic contra operation and is capable of doing so again. Judge Griesa's ruling strengthens people's confidence that the basic right to organize and speak out, free from government political police interference, can be fought for and defended successfully.

"Today's Contragate indictments, the revelations of FBI crimes against CISPES [Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador], evidence of illegal activity on the part of Attorney General Meese, growing and well-deserved skepticism generally regarding the FBI, all have helped create a context in which the government decided it could ill afford another public fight over its unconstitutional operation against the SWP."

Why case has no history

In looking at the rich political lessons of this fight, it's important to see that there is no "history" of the SWP case separate from the events in the class struggle that occurred during the life of the suit.

What enabled the SWP to file this lawsuit, to sustain the fight over a 15-year period, and then to win against one of the most formidable political police apparatuses ever put together cannot be found by analyzing the chronology of the legal ins and outs of the case.

Looked at that way, it would reduce the fight to a series of legal moves. It would mean the main lessons to be drawn for other victims of government repression and fighters for democratic liberties would be legal, not political.

But the fight for democratic rights is a political fight. Its course and outcome is determined by the broader struggle between conflicting social classes, which it, in turn, effects.

The fact that the SWP had one of the best constitutional attorneys in the country is not the reason it was able to launch the suit. Nor is it because the party had an airtight case against the government.

The reason the SWP had such a "good case" was because of its 35-year record of activity in the working-class movement. Thirty-five years of open, public activity fighting as part of the international working class to advance the toilers along the road of taking political power out of the hands of the capitalists and establishing a workers' and farmers' government in the United States that will join the worldwide struggle for socialism.

It had nothing to hide — from the cops or from the working class.

But the party's record and integrity, while decisive, wouldn't have been enough to make such an audacious move as suing the FBI and the other political police agencies successful.

At the trial of the case, SWP former national secretary Farrell Dobbs was asked why the SWP didn't file a legal challenge in 1953 when the government refused to give the party a hearing to get its name off the attorney general's list of "subversive organizations."

Dobbs responded, "As had been the case in 1948 [when the list was initiated], when we talked to lawyers about it, they said there was still no prospect of our winning a fight of that kind. I would call your attention, moreover, that in 1953 the country was reaching the height of the McCarthy era of witch-hunting and so we were unable to do anything."

It was the victory of the massive and powerful civil rights movement that dramatically expanded democratic rights, including giving Blacks the protection of the law, that laid the basis for the radicalization of the 1960s and made possible a suit of this kind.

The Vietnamese revolution and antiwar movement, the women's rights struggle, and the Watergate scandal also contributed to changing the political awareness of broad layers of the U.S. population about what the FBI really is and the importance of democratic rights.

In hindsight, however, it's clear that the SWP and YSA launched their suit just as the worldwide youth radicalization of the 1960s had peaked. It would have been very difficult for the fight against the FBI to be sustained on the basis of the momentum of those struggles alone.

It was revolutionary political events in the rest of the world in the 1970s and '80s, combined with the SWP's continued participation in the working-class movement and ability to relate correctly to these events, that allowed the party to win the broad support necessary to continue the fight and ultimately win.

Above all, the Nicaraguan revolution and its ability to defeat the U.S.-run contra war was decisive. It helped expose the scope of Washington's illegal, covert operations and spur a profound crisis in Washington.

What the fight was about

The SWP case began as a fight against FBI abuses of the past that party members knew had taken place, from the 1940s through the 1950s and '60s.

During the course of the case, the focus began to shift, however. The government fought hard to defend the legality of what had been done in the past. This was connected to the government's insistence on the growing necessity of continuing to have a free hand to spy on and disrupt anyone who the FBI claimed was a threat to "national security." The fight became a head-on confrontation over the way the government uses informers and disruption operations today, to suppress current dissent.

This culminated in the last major confrontation in the case.

On March 6, 1987, lawyers for the Justice Department and the heads of several federal agencies filed affidavits challenging Griesa's August 1986 decision and arguing against any injunction that would restrict their access to the millions of files illegally accumulated by the FBI on the SWP and YSA.

They argued that they needed these old files for their "work" today.

The case began with the SWP insisting that President Franklin Roosevelt, who initiated the cops' covert campaign against the party on "national security" grounds, was not above the law. It culminated in the victory of the judge ruling that *no president* is above the law.

Griesa rejected the claim that the executive branch of the government has the right to arbitrarily defy the Bill of Rights in carrying out "intelligence" investigations in the name of "national security."

A decision "to conduct an intelligence operation by methods which violate the Constitution and probably several federal statutes" is not within the "discretion" of the government, Griesa wrote.

Openly proclaim their views

After reviewing more than four decades of spying and disruption, Judge Griesa concluded in his August 1986 decision that "there is no evidence that any FBI informant ever reported an instance of planned or actual espionage, violence, [or] terrorism."

The Socialist Workers Party, like all genuinely communist organizations, has no special goals of its own as a party. It has no interests separate and apart from those of the international working class. It has no program or policies that it keeps secret from the working class. It's not a conspiratorial organization.

The judge ruled, in fact, that it was the FBI that acted as conspirators with hidden goals, not the SWP. It's the FBI that must conceal its true aims and methods, and that has a covert structure to carry out what it cannot openly proclaim.

It was the SWP's political program and practice, over decades, that allowed it to fight this battle effectively and do the things necessary to win it.

The award of monetary damages to the SWP and YSA is no small part of the victory won. It establishes the precedent that victims of such FBI operations are entitled to collect money damages from the government in compensation. The government

Current New International features:

Washington's Fifty-Year Domestic Contra Operation

By Larry Seigle

To order, send \$6.50 to New International, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

inst FBI

can't simply violate rights with impunity.

Moreover, Griesa awarded fees for the attorneys, who took a chance and fought for 15 years against the government on behalf of two communist organizations. The government has often brought harsh sanctions against lawyers who defend the political rights of those whose views the rulers oppose. It is important for supporters of democratic rights to resist efforts by the government to limit the right of its opponents to legal representation by seeking to avoid paying fees to attorneys who defend political rights.

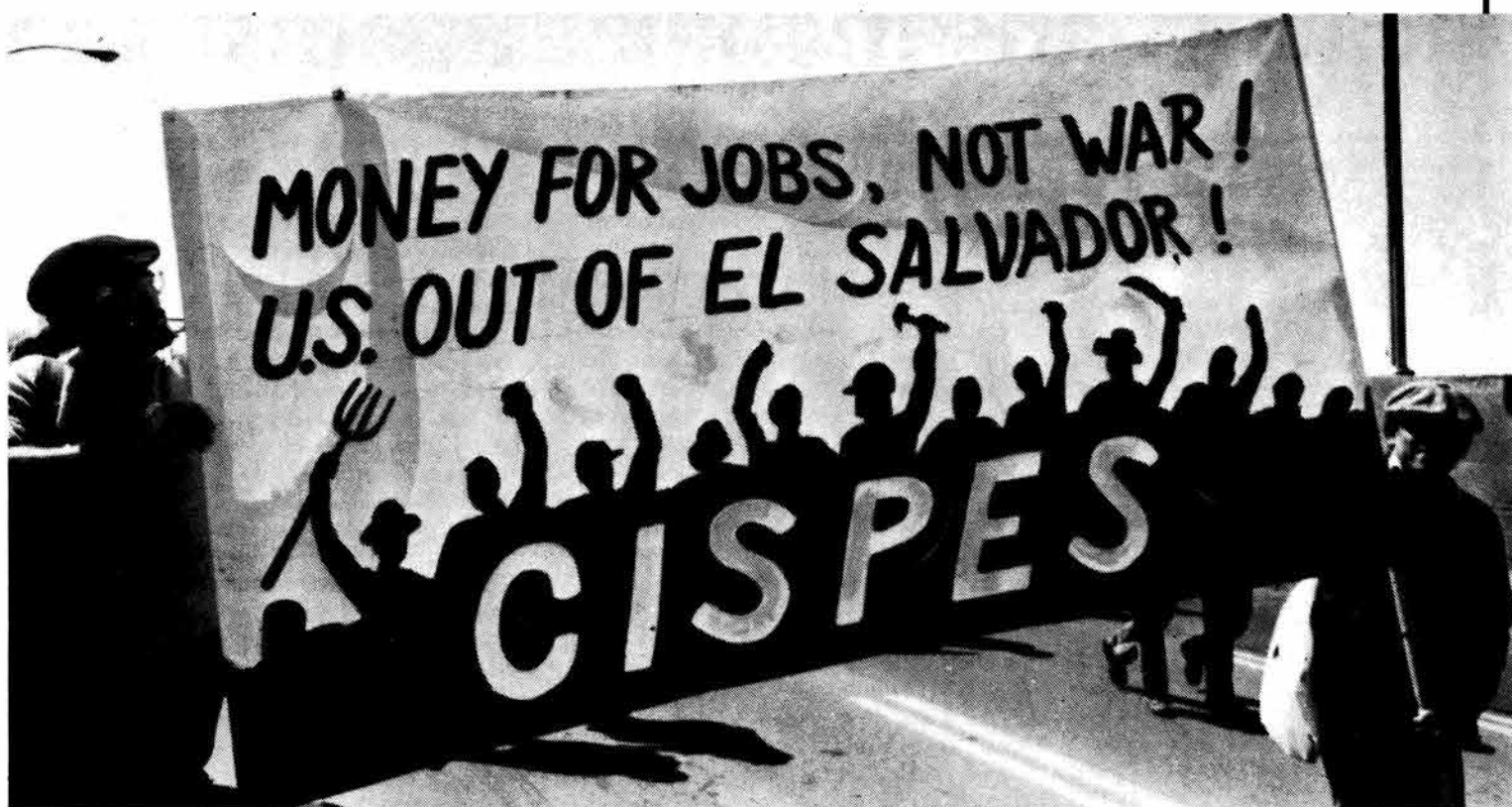
What was won in this case was not a thing — a piece of paper or a law that activists can whip out the next time a cop tries to bust them in the head or some fink shows up at their antiwar meeting.

Under capitalism, working people never ally and totally win free speech or the Bill of Rights as some eternal right. Through struggle, what can be won is some space to function in.

The goal of the government's covert, unconstitutional operations is to discourage working people from engaging in revolutionary political activity, to narrow the defense to protections of the Bill of Rights — which only exist to the degree that they are used; and to undermine working people's confidence that they can engage in political activity.

The SWP's victory did the opposite: it encouraged revolutionary political activity, increased the space for politics, broadened the de facto protection of the Bill of Rights, increased working people's confidence that they can be politically active, and made it slightly more difficult for the rulers to use their covert apparatus to prepare for war, repression, and attacks on working people.

The recent revelations that the FBI carried out an extensive covert drive to "break" the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) show what's changed in the ability of the FBI to



Militant/Lou Howort

FBI spy operation against Committee in Solidarity with People of El Salvador was weakened by fight against FBI waged by SWP and others.

act with impunity.

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.

What's striking about the CISPES operation, however, is how little time it took before it was uncovered, compared to the more than 40 years the FBI targeted the SWP.

In the documents CISPES and the Center for Constitutional Rights were able to pry out of the government, the main activity admitted to is "information gathering" by informers.

The broad and immediate outcry this sparked is one measure of how the SWP fight, among others, has helped make the use of informers an unacceptable violation

of privacy rights to broad layers of the U.S. population.

The victory in the SWP case now becomes an important tool in CISPES' ongoing fight to obtain all the spy files.

Fight to defend Mark Curtis

An illustration of the contradictions of the current political situation is that just as the SWP won this victory in its lawsuit, one of its members, Mark Curtis, became the target of a brutal cop beating and frame-up because of his political activity. (See story on front page and editorial.)

In the wake of the stock market crash last October and the coming social crisis that it announced, there will be more victimizations like that of Curtis. There will also be a defense of such victims of class justice by other working people, as there has been in Curtis' case.

Curtis, in his courage to speak out and in the breadth of his political activity, epitomizes the type of young fighter that the coming social catastrophe will produce many more of.

Putting the Curtis fight and the SWP victory against the FBI together, a picture emerges of a political situation in which more room has been opened up for working people to fight back just at the time the rulers are stepping up their attacks.

The employers, in conjunction with the government, will have to use new and rougher methods against workers and farmers. But working people won't take this lying down, as the response to the frame-up of Curtis shows. It will be a fight.

And the victory in the SWP's battle against the FBI means that working people have a new and powerful weapon in that fight.

1973: socialists file suit against Nixon, 18 other U.S. officials

The following article is reprinted from the July 27, 1973 *Militant*. It reported on the news conference that announced the filing of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance suit against government spying and disruption of the two organizations.

At the news conference, the Socialist Workers Party's attorney, Leonard Boudin, predicted that pretrial procedures in the case would take about eight months. They actually took eight years. The trial began on April 2, 1981.

The news conference also announced the formation of the Political Rights Defense Fund, which has won the support of thousands of people over the past 15 years in this ultimately successful fight against the government's political police operations.

NEW YORK, July 18 — The Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance filed suit here today in federal district court against Richard Nixon, John Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, and 15 other officials and former officials of the U.S. government.

Filed by Leonard Boudin, one of the most prominent constitutional lawyers in the country, the suit charges Nixon and 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 suit was announced at a news conference today at Boudin's office.

Plaintiffs in the suit include the party's 1972 presidential and vice-presidential candidates, Linda Jenness and Andrew Pulley, and its 1973 mayoral candidates in Atlanta, Cleveland, Detroit, New York, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Houston.

The suit asks for a court injunction to halt all government harassment, intimidation, and illegal spying on the SWP and YSA. It also seeks to have the attorney

general's list of "subversive" organizations ruled unconstitutional. The SWP was placed on this list in 1948 without a hearing. The lawsuit charges that the decision to place the party on the list was part of a conspiracy to violate the constitutional rights of the SWP.

In addition, the plaintiffs are asking for damages totaling more than \$27 million for the numerous violations of rights suffered by the SWP and YSA and by individual members of the two groups.

Methods not an aberration

Linda Jenness, speaking to reporters at the news conference, said, "The Watergate revelations have laid bare a network of illegal undercover police operations and government secrecy. These methods of rule are not merely an aberration that can be attributed to one party, or one wing of one party. The secret police arms of the government, some of whose practices have been exposed by Watergate, have been maintained and expanded for decades under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

"The use of repressive measures, the infringement of democratic rights, and the supersecrecy of government functioning are essential features of capitalist rule today. The growing resort to authoritarian methods of rule by the capitalist government is a threat that must be combated. That is the objective of our suit and of the political campaign we are launching."

Andrew Pulley, who is now national secretary of the YSA, said that "a victory in this case will not only be a victory for the YSA and the Socialist Workers Party, but for all those who oppose the campaign of harassment directed at dissenters. The YSA will do everything possible to gain widespread support for this case.

The suit documents instances of wiretapping, tampering with mail, job discrimination, and harassment by government agencies, including the FBI. It also cites incidents of SWP headquarters being fire-



Militant/Flax Hermes

News conference launching SWP and YSA suit against FBI. Left to right, attorney Herbert Jordan, SWP leader Andrew Pulley, attorney Leonard Boudin, and SWP leader Linda Jenness.

bombed in Los Angeles in May 1970, bombed in Houston in March 1971, and burglarized in Detroit in October 1971.

Suit charges conspiracy

The suit charges that these acts were part of a conspiracy involving federal officials. Their actions violate the First, Fourth, and Fifth amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The government officials who planned and implemented these activities are also accused of conspiring to violate the civil rights of the SWP and the YSA.

Leonard Boudin told reporters that he hoped this case will pave the way for other suits by political parties and other groups who have been victimized by Watergate-style practices. "We learned in the [Daniel] Ellsberg and [Philip] Berrigan cases," Boudin said, referring to his two most recent defense cases, "that the government takes extraordinary measures against those it views as threats to its policies.

"What is involved here," he said, "is the fight for the survival of democracy and the

electoral process, which is in serious need of protection against the very people who have been elected to office."

Boudin estimated that the pretrial procedures of questioning and obtaining statements from the defendants would take about eight months. After that a federal judge will hold a trial on the charges. In response to a reporter's question about whether or not he expected to succeed with the suit, Boudin replied: "This office never takes cases of this kind unless we believe we can win. And our record will show that we rarely lose. This case is winnable."

Judy Baumann, the national secretary of the Committee for Democratic Election Laws, announced that her committee has established the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) specifically to build support and raise money for this case. She explained that the PRDF would seek to mobilize the broadest possible civil liberties support for the case and to raise funds to cover the expenses of the suit.

Nicaraguans mobilize against U.S. threat

Continued from front page

broadcast on radio and television here March 16 and 17. He called the U.S. actions "the greatest threat we have faced in all the years of the contra war."

Ortega reported on a Sandinista military offensive that had overrun contra camps in northern Nicaragua and driven the mercenary forces back into Honduras. U.S. helicopters had flown into the combat zone for four days to supply the contras, he said, warning that the U.S. government might "use its military forces directly to save the mercenaries from the crushing defeat they are suffering. . . . Anything is possible, including a new mining of Nicaraguan ports, a naval blockade, or an air attack against specific targets within Nicaragua."

Ortega denounced U.S. charges of a Sandinista attack on Honduras, explaining that the army offensive had only "recovered part of our territory" that had been occupied by the contras. He demanded that the U.S. government "cease its open escalation of the war . . . and withdraw its troops," while stressing that "Nicaragua would continue military actions [against the contras] to defend the territorial integrity of our country and to prepare ourselves to confront U.S. forces should they dare launch open attacks against Nicaragua."

The Nicaraguan government also called for mass mobilizations here and for reinforcing civil defense preparations. Army reservists were instructed to be ready to mobilize, and draft-age men were urged to volunteer for the army.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) began a campaign to strengthen the factory- and neighborhood-based militias. This included a special appeal to women to join the militias, volunteer to serve two years in the regular army, or go to the war zones for three months as part of a volunteer army battalion made up of Managua workers.

Within hours of Ortega's first speech, workers began organizing security patrols at factories and other possible targets of U.S. attacks. Street corner rallies were held in many neighborhoods to explain the state of alert and to call for volunteers for civil defense teams, the army reserves, and the local militias.

Over the next few days, demonstrations took place in cities and towns throughout the country. These mobilizations often drew 5,000 to 20,000 people, making them among the largest held in recent years.

Steps to counter U.S. escalation

During this time, the Nicaraguan government took other immediate steps to try to head off greater U.S. intervention.

On March 16 Ortega ordered a halt to the army offensive against the mercenaries. "It appears," wrote the Sandinista daily *Barricada*, "that the Nicaraguan government sacrificed the certain possibility of striking a harder blow against the contras so as not to give any pretext to the U.S. government."

Nicaragua requested the United Nations Security Council meeting that was held, to warn of the danger of greater U.S. intervention. It requested that the UN and Organization of American States send fact-finding commissions to the Nicaraguan-Honduran border to investigate the charge that Nicaragua had invaded Honduras. On March 18 the UN announced it would send such a team, though Honduran President José Azcona said he would not allow the UN delegation to enter Honduran territory.

Ortega also stressed Nicaragua's willingness to go ahead with cease-fire talks with the contras scheduled for March 21-23. "We will seek an agreement within the framework of the Guatemala accords," he explained. This would mean "the dismantling of the armed counterrevolution," after which they could participate in peaceful political activity within the country. Until such an accord is reached, however, Nicaragua will continue military actions against the mercenaries, he said.

Nicaragua upholds democratic rights

Despite the U.S. escalation, the Sandinista government did not decree a state of emergency or impose other restrictions on democratic rights.

Opposition papers continue to publish without censorship, although with the state of alert all radio stations were required to broadcast news and commentary programs

prepared by the government 24 hours a day. After three days, the mandatory government broadcasts were reduced to three hours of news each day, and all stations resumed normal broadcasting — including their own news programs — the rest of the time.

On March 18 Ortega convened a meeting of 16 opposition parties to discuss the danger posed by the U.S. war moves. At the meeting, the opposition groups agreed to resume talks with the government on possible political reforms within Nicaragua. The talks had begun last fall, but the parties walked out last December and had rejected earlier government attempts to get the talks going again.

An important discussion on strikes took place here at a March 16 meeting of FSLN members called to discuss the state of alert. The right to strike was restored last January, and has been a focus of debate ever since some workers, led by opposition unions, walked out in February to demand higher wages.

Barricada reported the orientation on strikes presented by FSLN regional leader Carlos Carrión at the March 16 meeting.

"In the present context," *Barricada* wrote, Carrión "indicated that using strikes as a pressure tactic is really a crime. Nonetheless, he affirmed that strikes would not be prohibited, and therefore called for an intense ideological struggle and for union leaderships to be more democratic so that people would understand the

consequences of the war and successfully confront the challenges" Nicaragua faces, *Barricada* said.

Washington's decision to rush troops to Honduras came as a Nicaraguan army offensive drove contra forces out of their camps in northern Nicaragua, forcing the mercenaries to flee to Honduras.

On March 17, Lt. Col. Javier Carrión held a press conference detailing the operation. The briefing was held at the site of the former contra camps, on the southern bank of the Coco River where it is joined by the Amaka and Bocay rivers. The Coco River forms the boundary between Nicaragua and Honduras.

The Bocay-Amaka region is a remote jungle area with virtually no inhabitants. The Sandinista army has not attempted to maintain troops there, even after driving contra camps from the area in April 1987.

In recent months, the contras took advantage of this opening to move some of their base camps from Honduras to the Amaka-Bocay area. Carrión said that these camps were the principal supply, command, and rest center for much of the contra forces operating in Nicaragua.

The mercenary bases consisted of some 120 small wooden buildings, including a command post, medical center, and storage facilities for supplies received via CIA-organized airdrops. The camps were protected by extensive trenchworks and other fortifications and held more than 2,000 contras.

The Nicaraguan offensive began March 6 and involved 4,500 troops from all branches of the armed forces. It was the largest such operation ever carried out by the Sandinista army.

Infantry units were flown in by helicopter to attack the mercenaries' outer line of defense. After overrunning these positions, the Sandinista troops set up fire-support bases armed with mortars, rocket launchers, and antiaircraft guns. Backed by the artillery fire, the infantry then assaulted the main contra camps.

The heaviest fighting occurred March 11-13, and the mercenary forces were soon retreating into Honduras. On March 12, U.S. CH-47 Chinook helicopters began flying missions to supply the mercenaries and to evacuate their wounded. Carrión said the helicopters had come within range of Sandinista antiaircraft artillery, but that Nicaraguan troops had strict orders not to fire on the U.S. aircraft.

Initial casualty figures released by the Nicaraguan army reported 92 contras killed and 300 wounded, while Nicaraguan troops lost 34 killed and 68 wounded. The Sandinistas also captured a large amount of equipment and supplies left by the fleeing contras, including medicines, food, and ammunition.

Carrión stressed that Nicaraguan troops had strict orders not to enter Honduran territory, even though this meant more contras got away than otherwise would have been the case.

Frame-up of Iowa socialist denounced

Continued from front page

raid by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and Justice Department.

Sixteen Mexican and one Salvadoran worker were arrested at Swift March 1 on felony charges of using false work documents. Federal agents had searched through personnel files of Swift employees prior to the raid.

"I support these fellow workers," Curtis, who is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431 at Swift, explained. Curtis was arrested a few hours after a March 4 meeting to discuss action to defend the 17 Swift workers.

Antiwar activists made up a large part of Curtis' supporters at the press conference. Many had heard about the case from Curtis and others at a March 17 demonstration against Washington sending more than 3,000 troops to Honduras.

The files Curtis made public were discovered as part of a lawsuit against the government for illegally spying on thousands of opponents of U.S. military intervention in Central America. The lawsuit was filed by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

On the night of the frame-up, Curtis recounted, he went to a meeting along with his coworkers to protest the arrest of the Swift 17. After continuing the discussion with some people at a nearby bar, Curtis went home.

On his way to the supermarket a woman ran up to Curtis' car while he was stopped at a traffic light. She pleaded for a ride home, saying that a man was after her. After arriving at the house, she asked Curtis to wait on her porch while she looked inside, which he did. Moments later the police charged onto the porch, arrested Curtis, and charged him with attempted rape.

At the city jail the cops tried to interrogate Curtis and force him to confess to the crime. When he asked to see an attorney, one of the cops chided, "You're one of those Mexican-lovers aren't you? Just like you love those coloreds." When Curtis refused to answer questions, they beat him, breaking his cheekbone and cutting his face. He was sent to the hospital to be stitched up. He was then charged with assaulting the police. Curtis faces 25 years in jail if convicted.

After the press conference, Norm Jensen, an anti-apartheid activist, encouraged others to sign petitions and to contribute money to help promote the campaign in defense of Curtis. Forty people signed the pe-

titions, and more than \$500 was collected.

Supporters decided to launch a defense committee as Curtis had proposed. Several meat-packers, including one worker arrested in the Swift raid, requested petitions to circulate on the job. The Central America Solidarity Committee in Iowa City is sending information about the case in a 150-piece mailing.

Further defense efforts will be mapped out at a meeting at the home of Norm and Sue Jensen, 1211 46 St., in Des Moines on Sunday, March 27, at 1:00 p.m.

Following that meeting, Curtis will be speaking along with other fighters for democratic rights at a rally for the Political Rights Defense Fund at 3:00 p.m. The rally will be held at the American Friends Service Committee Home, 4211 Grand Ave. in Des Moines.

Protest messages should be sent 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.

Des Moines marchers protest arrests of 17 immigrants

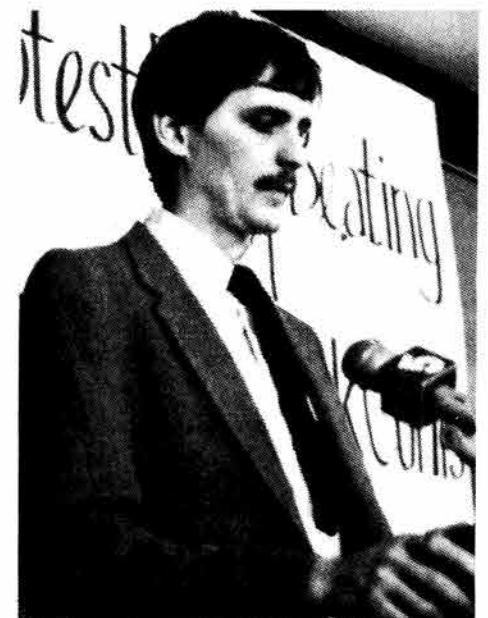
BY ELLEN WHITT

DES MOINES, Iowa — In spite of falling snow, 200 people marched through the streets here March 12 to protest the arrests of 17 immigrant workers at the Swift Independent packinghouse.

The Swift 17 face felony charges for their alleged past use of false identity cards and numbers. Immigrant workers are often forced to obtain false social security numbers and work permits.

Protesters shouted "Free the 17" and "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" The marchers included Swift workers, the families of the Swift 17, leaders and members of the Black and Latino communities, and civil rights activists, as well as students and workers from Iowa City; Omaha, Nebraska; and Austin, Minnesota. Several of the Swift 17 who have been released on bail participated in the demonstration. At least 10, however, continue to be held in jail.

At a rally following the march, Alfredo Alvarez, chair of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission, noted that the local media has refused to point out the national implications of the arrests. He explained to this reporter, "For the very first time, the



Militant/Student Singer
At Des Moines news conference, Mark Curtis, 30-year-old socialist activist, blasted cops for beating him and for frame-up charges.

U.S. attorney and Immigration and Naturalization Service are backdating prosecution for the falsification of documents. If immigrant workers at one time or another used false documents, they may be subject to prosecution. It doesn't matter if they applied for amnesty or are eligible for amnesty. This goes completely against the intent of the 'amnesty program.'"

Other speakers included Norma Jackson, executive director of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission; Mary Campos and Lando Valadez, leaders of the Hispanic community; Mike Murillo, Polk County affirmative action chair of the Democratic Party; and Ila Placencia, national Midwest vice-president of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

The protesters also heard statements of solidarity from the United Electrical Workers and from Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born member of the Socialist Workers Party who has fought for more than 10 years for the right to live and work in the United States.

Ellen Whitt is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431 at the Swift Independent packinghouse.

N. Carolina Indians' protest of racism gains wide support

BY SHERRIE LOVE

LUMBERTON, N.C. — When two Tuscarora Indians took over the offices of the *Robesonian* newspaper here in Robeson County in early February, it made news around the country.

Eddie Hatcher, 30, and Timothy Jacobs, 19, held the newspaper's offices for almost 11 hours on February 1. They were protesting the racist treatment of Native Americans and Blacks at the hands of Robeson County officials, and the rampant corruption of the county's court system, district attorney's office, and sheriff's department.

Robeson County was listed as the second most economically distressed county in North Carolina in 1987. It has one of the highest unemployment rates and lowest per capita income levels. One-quarter of all residents live below the poverty level. The state of North Carolina as a whole ranks 49th in the nation in average industrial wage.

Garment and textile are the dominant industries in this mostly rural area. Wages of \$4.50 an hour are considered good. Little, if any, of the local industry is union organized.

Many county residents are forced to eke out a meager existence farming vegetables and tobacco on small plots.

Charges of corruption within the county government are widespread, including allegations of drug trafficking by the sheriff's department. Over the last few years the department has refused to investigate seven murders of Native Americans and Blacks. County District Attorney Joe Freeman Britt has sent more people to death row than any other prosecutor in the United States.

These conditions hit Blacks and Native Americans especially hard.

Robeson County's population is 25 percent Black, 35 percent Native American, and 40 percent white. The bosses and big landowners who run the county have maintained their political control by fostering racism, which has kept working people divided.

Racist murder by cop

Anger over all these conditions came to a head following the November 1986 shooting of Jimmy Earl Cummings, a Lumbee Indian, by sheriff's deputy Kevin Stone, son of the county sheriff. A coroner's jury ruled the death was "by accident and/or in self-defense."

In response, a coalition of Blacks, Indians, and whites came together for the first time. Hundreds of residents attended meetings in small towns throughout Robeson County to protest unequal enforcement of the law. More than 1,000 marched here in Lumberton last April demanding justice in the Cummings case and an end to racism and corruption in Robeson County.

North Carolina's governor was forced to appoint a special commission to look into the situation. After months of stalling, the

commission reported it had found no evidence of corruption or systematic racism and no evidence of wrongful death in the Cummings case.

It was in this context that Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs staged the armed takeover of the county's newspaper offices.

Hatcher had recently visited John Hunt, a Native American being held in Robeson County jail. Shortly after, an arrest warrant was issued for Hatcher. Hatcher explained that he began to fear for his life when deputy Kevin Stone began hanging around his house. For days Hatcher hid with friends, while the sheriff's department conducted a manhunt.

Takeover of newspaper offices

On the morning of February 1 Hatcher and Jacobs walked into the newspaper offices armed with two shotguns, determined to let the world know what was happening in Robeson County.

During the standoff with police that day, Hatcher released a statement to the press that said, "Corruption in county government here has gone too far for peaceful means to resolve what's going on. And this is why we are doing what we are doing. . . . We had to do this to try to bring something in here that would help all the people of this county. It ain't just the Indians and Blacks, the whites are suffering too, under a corrupt level of government."

Hatcher and Jacobs demanded the release of John Hunt, a governor's investigation into the Robeson County government, an investigation of the death of a young Black man while he was being held in the county jail, and that criminal charges be brought against the sheriff.

After the governor agreed to most of their demands, Hatcher and Jacobs surrendered to police. They were taken by FBI agents to the federal prison in Butner, three hours away. Both have been charged with hostage-taking and weapons violations. If convicted, they face possible life imprisonment and fines of \$1.75 million.

Robeson Justice Committee

There is widespread support for Hatcher and Jacobs, especially in the Black and Native American communities. Supporters have set up the Robeson Justice Committee, which has launched a campaign to get 50,000 signatures on a petition demanding that the government drop all charges against Hatcher and Jacobs. The committee has called on supporters to wear white ribbons as a sign of solidarity with the two men.

By February 4 over \$4,500 had been raised to put up bond for John Hunt. At a speak-out in mid-February attended by 150 people, Connie Brayboy, president of the Robeson Justice Committee, announced that over \$30,000 had been raised for the defense of Hatcher and Jacobs. She stated that the committee had received more than 500 letters of support from across the coun-

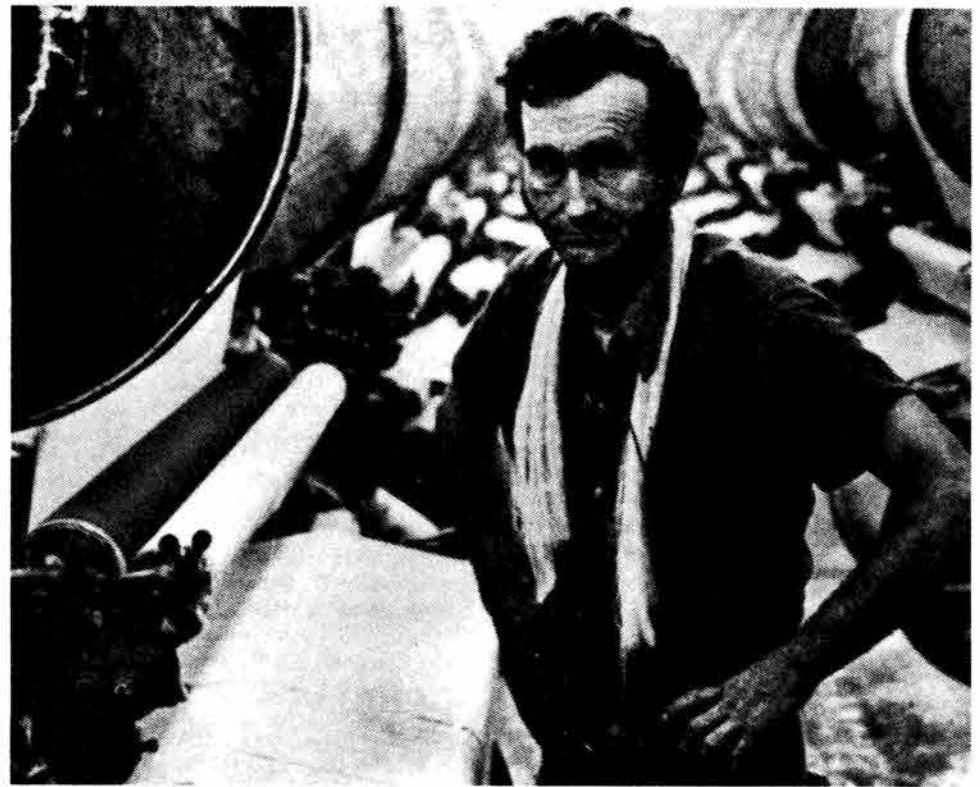
Singing and clapping continued throughout the event, despite attempts by campus police to stop them.

Outside, dozens of protest signs expressed students' opposition to having the Klan on their campus.

Students from nearby Haskell Indian Junior College, representing the Haskell Intertribal Council, led several chants. "We come here because we support equal rights," explained Terry Tribble, leader of the Haskell contingent. "We just heard about the Klan invitation today or there would have been more of us."

For a week before the event students passed out red ribbons to protest the Klan invitation, explained Rodney Robertson. He is one of 800 Black students at the university, whose total enrollment is 27,000.

"This protest is bringing a lot of consciousness to students about the true nature of the KKK," he said.



Carolina textile worker. Textile and garment are the main industries in the largely rural Robeson County, North Carolina. Black, Indian, and white workers and others are protesting racism, corruption, cop brutality, and poverty, spurred by Tuscarora Indians' Feb. 1 takeover of newspaper offices.

try and internationally.

The American Indian Movement has announced it will be making this case a national priority for the organization.

Thelma Clark, Hatcher's mother, also spoke at the meeting. She accused officials at the federal prison in Butner of subjecting both Hatcher and Jacobs to psychological

torture in an effort to break them. She said that they had both been denied their mail, access to newspapers, television and radio, and held in solitary confinement.

Donations and messages of support can be sent to the Robeson Three Defense Fund, c/o Carolina Indian Voice, P.O. Box 1088, Pembroke, N.C. 28372.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Protest in Hungary biggest since 1956

An estimated 10,000 people marched in Budapest, Hungary, on March 15. It was the largest protest since the anti-Stalinist uprising in that country in 1956. Some protesters carried signs calling for "real reforms." Others called for "press freedom" and "freedom of assembly."

Four leading dissidents in the country had been arrested in the early morning. They were Miklos Haraszti and Ottillia Solt, both sociologists; Gabor Demszky, an editor; and Tamas Molnar, an author.

Since 1973, dissidents have organized unofficial marches on March 15. This is the anniversary of Hungary's revolt against Austrian rule in 1848. An official progovernment celebration is also organized by the KISZ, the Communist Party's youth organization.

In October 1956 a massive protest of students and workers against bureaucratic rule was fired on by Hungarian police. The resistance of the workers and students won substantial sections of the army to their side. Soviet troops who had been called in to assist the Hungarian government to suppress the uprising were driven out of Budapest.

A new government was set up on Oct. 23, 1956, headed by Communist Party reformer Imre Nagy. Workers' councils were established in many areas throughout the country. The Nagy regime was forced to break all ties with Moscow.

On November 3-4, reinforced regiments and Soviet tanks entered the city, crushing the antibureaucratic revolt in blood.

U.S. bases in Europe face more difficulties

After a setback earlier this year to Washington's efforts to maintain F16s in Spain, U.S. officials began a new round of negotiations on the status of U.S. military bases in Greece. At stake is whether the U.S. government will reach a new agreement with Greece to keep four U.S. military bases in that country when the current five-year agreement expires Dec. 31, 1988.

If no accord is signed by then, Washington would have 17 months to dismantle its military, communications, logis-

tics, and intelligence facilities in Greece.

Congress has also reduced foreign economic and military aid to U.S. allies this year. This move was aimed at forcing governments in capitalist Europe to play a larger role in, and bear a greater share of, the cost of defending imperialist interests. But it has also placed strains on treaties affecting U.S. military bases in several countries.

The aid reductions led the Portuguese government to link reopening negotiations on an agreement that permits Washington to use a military base in the Azores to increased economic and military aid to Portugal.

On January 15, Spain signed a new agreement with Washington that required the removal of 72 of the F16 fighter-bombers at the Torrejon air base near Madrid.

Grenada court hears appeals of Coard trial

The appeal hearing of Bernard Coard and 16 other Grenadians, convicted last year by the U.S.-imposed court system, began early this month. The trial judge announced that one of the defendants, former army captain Cecil Prime, might be set free. Three of the defendants were sentenced to 45 years imprisonment; the other 14 were sentenced to death. These harsh sentences not only targeted these individuals. They were aimed at intimidating anyone who struggles against U.S. domination of the Caribbean.

Judge J. Haynes said the sentence imposed on Prime might not be upheld. The judge gave no explanation for his opinion but stressed that the appeal proceedings are "not being held to avenge anyone's death."

On Oct. 13, 1983, Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, along with his supporters in the ruling New Jewel Movement, overthrew the popularly supported People's Revolutionary Government headed by Bishop. On October 19 a march of thousands of Grenadians freed Bishop, who had been placed under house arrest.

Soldiers loyal to Coard fired on the march, killing a number of people and wounding others. Following the attack Bishop and several of his cabinet members were taken away and executed.

The coup paved the way for the U.S. invasion of the island six days later.

4,500 oppose U. of Kan. KKK visit

BY GREG NELSON

LAWRENCE, Kan. — A "free speech" forum for two members of the Ku Klux Klan at the University of Kansas turned into an anti-Klan rally here March 7 when 4,500 students and their supporters mobilized to condemn the Klan and protest the invitation by the university.

Responding to a call for protest by an ad-hoc committee called Students and Community Against Oppression and Racism, 2,000 students filled Hoch Auditorium where the Klan members were to speak. Some 2,500 more protested outside.

The platform for the Klan was provided by a student organization, Slightly Older Americans for Freedom.

When the forum began, a group of Blacks stood up and began singing "We Shall Overcome." The rest of the audience immediately responded with a standing ovation that lasted more than 30 minutes.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

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

ARIZONA

Phoenix

The Myth of the Happy Japanese Worker: How Big Business Uses It Against Us. Speaker: Ken Honda, Socialist Workers Party. Video: *The Japan They Don't Talk About*. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 26, 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

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.

Welcome Dr. Guillermo Ungo, President of El Salvador's Revolutionary Democratic Front. Wed., March 30, 7:30 p.m. First Congregational Church (Post and Mason). For more information call Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (415) 648-8222 or Essio (415) 821-4235.

Benefit to Support Miguel Marmol's USA Tour. Video: *La Casa Llena de Humo*, and speaker. Sat., April 9, 7:30 p.m. Good Samaritan Church, 1294 Potrero Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: MASPS (Broad Movement in Solidarity With the Salvadoran People). For more information call (415) 621-7048.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

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

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.

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mation call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

IOWA

Des Moines

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.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

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. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA

Austin

U.S. Troops Out of Honduras Now. No Aid to U.S.-Run Contra War! Speaker: Craig Honts, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers Local 2125. Sat., March 26, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

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.

Rally and Dance for Democratic Rights. Speakers: Ann Mari Buitrago, representative of Center for Constitutional Rights; Héctor Marroquín, Political Rights Defense Fund; Lynn Hinkel, United Auto Workers Local 879; Vernon Bellecourt, American Indian Movement; William Taylor, president Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union Local 7-507; Anne Winkler, former director Central America Resource Center; Nikki LaSorella, Women Against Military Madness; Alberto Girón, Guatemalan refugee; representative of Progressive Student Organization. Sat., April 9. Rally, 7 p.m.; dance, 9 p.m. United Auto Workers 879 Hall, 2191 Ford Parkway. Sponsors: PRDF, Twin Cities Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Minnesota Clergy and Laity Concerned, Progressive Student Organization, Walker Community Church Sanctuary Committee, Minnesota Library Association; others. Donation: \$5. For more information call (612) 645-1674.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

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

U.S. Out of Panama! Speakers: Joel Gajardo, Chilean professor of theology; Doug Lee-Regier, Nebraskans for Peace; George Chalmers, Socialist Workers Party and member United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 271. Sat., March 26, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

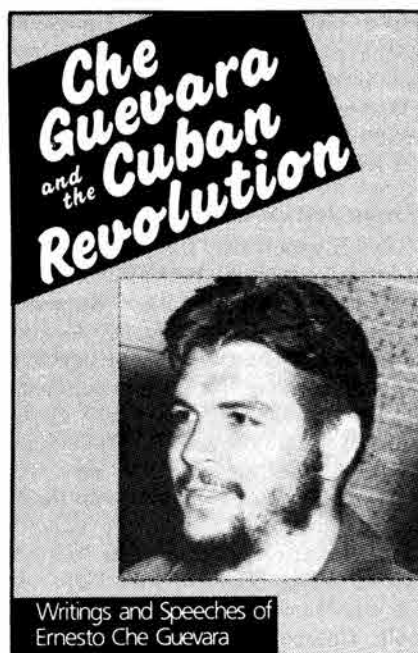
Sucre Noir. A film in Creole about Haitian sugar workers in the Dominican Republic. Plus music performed by *Ayizan*. Sun., April 17, 5 p.m. Clara Barton High School (between Classon and President streets). Donation: \$10. For more information call (718) 434-3940.

Manhattan

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.

"The Revolution Is the Birth of Light." Art in the New Nicaragua. Speakers: Carlos Montenegro, award-winning Nicaraguan painter; Mike Alewitz, Pathfinder Mural Project director; Dore Ashton, art critic. Translation to Spanish. Thurs., April 7, 7:30 p.m. New School for Social Research, 65 5th Ave., 1st floor study lounge. Sponsors: Ventana/Cultural Workers in Solidarity with Nicaragua; New School Union of Political Science Students; New School Committee Against U.S. Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean; Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (212) 226-8445.



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Canada

The Worldwide Fight for Black Rights Today

Hear James Warren

Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president

Toronto

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

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

The Fight Against Racism: a Look at Robeson County. A representative of the Robeson 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 Robeson County. Sun., March 27, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

No to Nuclear and Biological Weapons! Speakers: Mike Saperstein, Utah Peace Test; Steve Erickson, Downwinders; Judy Stranahan, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 3rd C.D. Sat., March 26, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

U.S. Out of Honduras! Speakers: Ellie Beth Brady, Socialist Workers candidate for secretary of state; others. Sat., March 26, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

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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.

With time off for bad behavior? — Two of the Israeli soldiers who were filmed by CBS beating and kicking two bound



Harry Ring

Palestinian youth in the head and chest, were convicted and sentenced. One got 21 days, the other 10.

Stamp for peace — "Trade for

Peace," in Madison, Wisconsin, is selling Nicaraguan stamps to collectors here in defiance of the U.S. embargo and in protest against the contra war. This is reported — approvingly — by *Linn's Stamp News*, which wants to know why the government "should dictate whether or not we can collect the stamps of certain countries."

Touché — In its report on the embargoed Nicaraguan stamps, *Linn's* recalls that Vice-president Bush once pointed to Nicaragua's Karl Marx commemorative stamp as proof of its communism. No reporter asked Bush, *Linn's* observes, about the Marx commemorative

stamp issued by West Germany, or the George Washington stamp issued by Nicaragua.

Now what about the cop — A Boston judge threw out charges against Jose Hernandez, a Roxbury teenager accused of pointing a gun at a cop seconds before the youth was shot. The judge acted after it was established that a) no gun was found, and b) Hernandez was shot in the back.

The caring system — Eric Carter of St. Louis, who was cited last year for saving two children from a fire, spent seven weeks in jail on charges of fraudulent use of a

credit card before the cops checked his fingerprints and agreed it was a case of mistaken identity. They checked the prints after Carter made enough noise to attract a judge's attention. The cops said somebody goofed.

Nice work — We don't know if Britain's Queen Elizabeth commented on Margaret Thatcher's proposition to slash upper bracket income taxes, but according to *Money* magazine, her highness is the nation's richest person, with a stash estimated at \$4.87 billion.

L.A. Mechamite — John Lynch, a frothing right-winger

who got elected Los Angeles County tax appraiser, has drawn the spotlight as a local version of Arizona's Governor Mecham. Currently, he's pushing a proposition to strip churches of tax-exempt status if they provide sanctuary to undocumented refugees.

Thought he was back home — A South African diplomat was busted in South Burlington, Vermont, and charged with assault. Leaving a radio station where he was interviewed, he hit a protester and a cop with his car and then split. He was caught about a quarter of a mile away.

Palestine and the Arabs' struggle for liberation

Continued from Page 5

estinians could expect nothing from the Arab regimes, for the most part corrupt or tied to imperialism, and that they were wrong to bank on any of the political parties in the region. We believed that *the Palestinians could rely only on themselves*" (emphasis in original).

Eventually, Arafat and several associates shifted to Kuwait, where a strong Palestinian community allowed more freedom of action.

Khaled al-Hassan, another leader of this grouping, described how the movement spread:

"We discovered that wherever there was a concentration of Palestinians at that time, between '58 and '62, there was a Palestinian movement." Groups were being formed in Germany, Austria, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, Syria, and the Gaza Strip.

In Kuwait, Arafat and his cothinkers published a magazine, *Our Palestine*, that became the center of a unification of exiled fighters.

In 1962 these groups held a conference in Kuwait that founded Fatah (an Arabic acronym for Palestinian liberation movement) around recognition of the common goal of liberating Palestine, armed struggle to attain this goal, and reliance on Palestinian self-organization.

Palestine Liberation Organization

In 1964, the Nasser regime organized a conference in Cairo of 13 Arab heads of state to discuss the Palestine issue.

Previous gatherings of Arab governments had called only for "application of the United Nations resolutions" that accepted the legitimacy of the state of Israel, while calling on the regime to readmit Palestinians and take other steps.

The official report on this meeting, however, stated, "The necessary decisions were taken . . . in the field of organizing the Palestinian people, enabling them to play their role in the liberation of their country and their self-determination."

The meeting resulted in the formation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) headed by Ahmed Shukairy, a Palestinian who strongly backed Nasser. Despite misgivings about the PLO's lack of independence from the Egyptian and other governments, Fatah participated in the PLO's founding conference.

At the end of 1964, Fatah launched its first commando operations in Israel. Thirty-nine armed actions were carried out in one year.

Fatah's armed actions and its single-minded fight for the liberation of Palestine inspired the Palestinian masses and won wide support.

Meanwhile, the Israeli rulers were preparing new blows. The expansion of the country's capitalist economy required broader markets and more cheap labor. The rise of Palestinian resistance, with strong bases of support along the Israeli border (especially in the West Bank and Gaza), presented a growing danger.

1967 war

Far from imposing compliant regimes in the Arab world, as the Israeli capitalist rulers and their imperialist backers had hoped, the 1948 war and the 1956 Suez invasion

had deepened anti-imperialist unrest throughout the region. Even the most reactionary Arab governments had been forced to give some backing to the Palestinian struggle and to boycott Israel economically and diplomatically.

The Israeli rulers prepared a blow that they hoped would simultaneously topple governments that had taken strong anti-imperialist stands, such as those in Egypt and Syria; crush the Palestinian struggle once and for all; and provide the Israeli capitalists with expanded markets and a huge pool of superexploited labor.

Confident of Washington's strong backing, the Israeli military launched massive bombings and invasions of Syria, Jordan, and Egypt on June 5, 1967. The surprise attack succeeded in virtually wiping out the

air forces of those countries in the first hours of the war. Over the next six days, Israeli troops then moved, despite often bitter resistance, to seize the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, East Jerusalem and the West Bank of the Jordan River from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria.

More than 200,000 Palestinian refugees fled the West Bank. Tens of thousands fled the Gaza Strip as well.

Not repeat of 1948

But the Israeli invaders avoided the kind of indiscriminate massacres that had provoked the flight of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes in 1948. Humanitarian sentiments had nothing to do with this.

The Israeli rulers' goal was not only to capture those parts of historic Palestine that had not been seized by Israel in 1948, but to capture the Palestinian population of these territories as well.

The newly-occupied territories were not seized primarily to provide plundered land for new waves of Jewish settlers. The Israeli capitalist rulers instead began a process of stripping the Palestinians of their land and tools, in order to force growing numbers of them into a superexploited layer of the working class in Israel. The new territories also provided a large captive market for goods made in Israel.

The next article in this series will take up the events leading from the June 1967 war to the current uprising of Palestinians in Israel.

'Troops out,' say protests in 200 cities

Continued from front page

ington's violations of his country's sovereignty.

Chants of "U.S. hands off Nicaragua" were interspersed with calls for "hands off" Honduras and Panama.

On March 21 an antiwar march of 1,000 in Minneapolis was attacked by the police, who claimed that no rally permit had been obtained. The cops arrested more than 50 demonstrators and a few suffered injuries.

Despite the arrests, the march proceeded through the downtown area and ended in a combination rally and mass meeting that called for another protest March 26.

More than 750 people throughout the country were arrested in the course of protests, reported Ken Butigan of the Washington, D.C., office of Pledge of Resistance. The overwhelming majority were participants in planned acts of civil disobedience protesting the U.S.-run war.

About 500 people participated in an antiwar action in Chicago, held March 17 during the morning rush hour.

At the noon hour in Seattle on March 18 a caravan of 30 cars circled the Federal Building. The cars carried placards that included the demand "No contra aid." Later that afternoon more than 400 people marched from the Federal Building to the Honduran consulate.

"Bring the troops home now," chanted the marchers. Others chanted, "Hey, hey, Uncle Sam, we remember Vietnam."

That day in Portland, Oregon, 500 people rallied. One of the speakers was the mother of a 20-year-old who had been sent to Honduras with the 82nd Airborne Division. "I want my son home," she stated.

More than 500 people picketed outside Fort Ord, the California base where the 7th Infantry Division has been stationed. Part of this infantry has been deployed to Honduras. Some wives of soldiers joined the picket line.

The Veterans Peace Action Team and the Bill Motto Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5888 have been leafleting Fort Ord GI's, their family members, and others at the base every day. Many of the soldiers waved, smiled, or gave other indications of support as they drove into the base.

"We fought in Vietnam," said the leaflet distributed by the Veterans Peace Action Team. "We don't want you to fight in Central America."



Militant/Carole Lesnick

March 17 "troops out" protest in Los Angeles. Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Kathleen Mickells took part in the action.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

March 31, 1978

Hundreds of thousands of Arab refugees were fleeing Israeli bombs and high explosive shells in Lebanon. The toll of Arab dead — 90 percent of them civilians — was near the 1,200 mark, and showed no sign of stopping.

Israeli troops — acting in "self-defense," according to the Zionist regime — had occupied virtually all of Lebanon south of the Litani River.

Meanwhile in Washington, President James Carter rolled out the red carpet and ordered an honor guard for Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. By greeting Begin, Carter gave his official seal of approval to the butchery in Lebanon.



Bit by bit the colossal structure of falsehoods Stalin fashioned to slander and get rid of his political opponents in the mass purges of 1936-38 is being torn to pieces by his successors.

On March 23 the Soviet press revealed that Stalin personally ordered the execution of the Red Army's high command and their families on the basis of a Nazi trick.

According to an article in the weekly *Ogonek*, Hitler, taking advantage of the vast scope of Stalin's blood purges, decided to create further havoc in the Soviet defense establishment. The Gestapo, acting on his instructions, planted a forged intelligence report that was transmitted by President Benes of Czechoslovakia to Moscow. This purported to show that the Red Army chiefs were plotting to overthrow Stalin.

Stalin utilized this provocation for his own ends. On June 11, 1937, Marshal Mikhail Tukhachevsky, guiding genius of the general staff, and seven other ranking generals were tried in secret court martial, summarily declared guilty, and shot.

Digging into hitherto secret archives, the author of the *Ogonek* article found that Stalin had instructed the special court, made up of the country's most prominent generals and marshals, to pronounce the death sentence. Later he had six of these nine military judges shot.

Stalin also demanded "the physical elimination" of Tukhachevsky's mother, sister, and two brothers. His wife, three other sisters, and daughter were given long terms in concentration camps where they presumably died.

Fight frame-up of Mark Curtis!

A nationwide defense effort is needed on behalf of Mark Curtis, a political activist in Des Moines who has been beaten and framed up by police there.

The attack on Curtis is an example of what the employing class has in store for more and more young working people as the economic conditions in this country worsen, the social crisis deepens, and Washington increasingly uses its military might to crush just struggles around the world.

The employers and their government will not stop at using brute force and outrageous frame-ups to target those who dare to exercise their constitutional right to publicly speak out and organize in defense of working people and against the rulers' war and repression.

The goal in victimizing Curtis is to make every antiwar activist, every antiracist fighter, every militant unionist, think twice before they publicly say and act on what they believe in.

Justice for Mark Curtis would be a blow to cop brutality and frame-ups and would encourage political activists to use their rights to fight war, racism, and exploitation.

In 1984, Mark Curtis was a leader of the Committee in Solidarity with Central America in Birmingham, Alabama. Like thousands of other youths, Curtis, a union member, helped organize and participated in protest activities against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Secret FBI files recently released on the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) reveal that the FBI investigated Curtis as part of its massive, unconstitutional spy operation against CISPES and all those associated with it.

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." Curtis' name was on the national cop computers from then on.

Curtis later moved to New York, where he worked in the national office of the Young Socialist Alliance. He became the YSA's national chairperson.

In 1986, he moved to Des Moines, Iowa, along with other workers from around the country, to set up a new branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

Curtis got a job at the Swift packinghouse in Des Moines and joined Local 431 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

Packinghouse workers across the United States are fac-

ing savage attacks on working conditions and wages by their employers, and Des Moines is no exception.

The company put Curtis on indefinite suspension for leaving the assembly line to see a nurse for a work-related back injury. Waging a fight together with coworkers, Curtis won his job back through the union.

On March 1, Immigration and Naturalization Service cops, along with other federal agents, raided Swift and arrested 16 Mexican and one Salvadoran worker on felony charges of using false documents.

This attack sparked anger among other Swift workers and in the Latino community in Des Moines. Curtis, who speaks Spanish, has emerged as a leading participant in the fight to defend these workers.

And he's been involved in recent protests in the Des Moines suburb of Clive against racist police practices.

Curtis, a longtime member of the SWP, is also the director of the weekly Militant Labor Forum in Des Moines.

When the cops were beating Curtis at the station house, it wasn't because they thought he was a rapist, which is what they have charged him with, or because they care about defending women against violence. It's because of who Curtis is — an outspoken fighter against war and for Black rights, immigrant rights, and workers' rights.

To the cops, his crime is that he's a "Mexican-lover" and speaks Spanish.

It's this record, it's because he's part of the international working-class resistance to the rulers' offensive, that he was framed up on phony rape charges.

The attack on Curtis is a probe by the employing class to see how much they can get away with in using federal police operations to deal blows to the unions and to those who fight against war and racism.

It's the same issue that's involved in the federal frame-up of four Kentucky coal miners who were given harsh sentences last month after being convicted on trumped-up charges in the death of a scab during a strike.

To counter these attempts to intimidate and imprison those who fight for their rights, every individual and organization should get out the word about the frame-up of Curtis, raise funds for the defense, and send messages to the Des Moines police chief demanding that the charges be dropped and those responsible for the beating prosecuted.

Justice for Mark Curtis!

Is U.S. debt the same as Third World debt?

BY DOUG JENNESS

Kathleen Mickells, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president, told me that when she was in Salt Lake City recently, she explained to a reporter during a radio interview that she favors an entire reordering of the economic relations between the imperialist countries and the semicolonial world.

One immediate measure she proposed was to cancel the debt and back interest owed by Third World countries to bankers in New York, Tokyo, London, Paris, and other financial centers. The interviewer asked her, she recounted, "But doesn't the United States have a bigger

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

debt than any Third World country? Do you favor canceling that, too?"

Most everyone senses that there's a big difference between the U.S. federal debt and the debts owed by countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. But it's often difficult to put your finger on what the difference is.

One misconception is that "debt" is a specific thing, like a stone or a log. And that if you've identified and defined one, you've pretty well categorized them all. But "debt" is a social relationship between people, and its character is different depending on the circumstances.

For example, when a worker lends a coworker \$25, he or she does it to help out. No interest is charged or paid, and normally nothing is expected in return except repayment as soon as possible. The lender has no stake in continuing the debt.

It's quite otherwise, however, with banks. They are in business to create and increase debts. Collecting interest on debts is the source of their income. Until they go bad, debts are a bank's wealth.

The big banks thrive on the debts of the oppressed countries and, in fact, attempt to get these borrowers hooked so that they are obligated to keep the interest payments flowing in.

The debts are owed in U.S. dollars and in order for debtor countries to pay the interest on them, dollars must be earned through selling exports. But the semicolonial countries enter a market where the imperialist countries dominate and impose unequal trade relations — through quotas, tariffs, price-rigging, and monopoly control of transportation. Moreover, revenues that could be used by Third World countries for industrial development and expanding home markets are shipped off to fill the coffers of foreign bankers. Under these conditions more loans have to be obtained in order to get dollars to keep making payments on the interest. It becomes a vicious circle — a debt trap.

In order to get additional loans, however, the imperialist bankers insist that the Third World governments slash social expenditures, impose higher taxes, and drive down wages.

The social relation behind these debts is clearly exploitative.

The U.S. foreign debt of \$400 billion is very different. This debt has mounted in recent years as U.S. government expenditures have sharply risen. In order to head off a steep rise in inflation, the government has obtained revenues by selling bonds, which are bought by investors in this country and abroad. This, and trade deficits, have sharply increased the total U.S. debt owed to foreign investors.

But the debts to big Japanese, German, and other investors are relatively small compared to the U.S. capitalists' total assets. The total owed is only 10 percent of the U.S. gross national product (compared to 84 percent for Mexico). Moreover, it is offset by the massive assets flowing into this country from the debt-burdened semicolonial countries. These debts also have little impact on U.S. export earnings. And interest on the debts can be paid in U.S. dollars, the U.S. government's own currency, the dominant currency in the world today.

Due to their dominant military and economic position, the oppressor governments are able to impose and maintain exploitative relations with the Third World countries.

But Japanese and German capitalists don't have that same relationship to their U.S. debtor. The U.S. still remains the dominant military power in the capitalist world. It has the largest market, and the dollar is still the dominant currency. And it's excluded for the foreseeable future that any other capitalist power is going to be able to assume this role.

The demand to cancel the foreign debts of the Third World countries is part of a perspective to unify working people of the oppressor and oppressed countries to fight for measures that can provide immediate relief and that will help lead to a struggle to overturn the system of capitalist exploitation. The demand to cancel the U.S. debt doesn't have the same content at all.

Hands off the PLO mission!

At the very moment when the U.S.-armed Israeli government is escalating its mass terror tactics against the Palestinian people, the U.S. Justice Department has gone into federal court to force the closing of the United Nations observer mission of the Palestine Liberation Organization on the frame-up charge that it is "terrorist."

Meeting in a special session March 23, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted overwhelmingly to oppose the U.S. government move. In a 148-to-2 vote, only the U.S. and Israeli representatives voted no.

Closing the PLO's UN office is in blatant violation of a U.S. agreement with the United Nations that it will not interfere with the functioning of that body or its affiliates.

The Justice Department filed its suit in federal court March 22 after the PLO mission refused to accept the illegal shutdown order.

Attorney General Edwin Meese contends U.S. law obliges the Justice Department to padlock the PLO.

The PLO has retained former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark in its fight against the court move.

UN officials, however, have resisted challenging the federal court move, arguing that doing so would set a precedent giving U.S. courts jurisdiction over Washington's pact with the UN.

The issue was taken to the World Court for an advisory opinion, which is expected in April.

The move to shut down the PLO mission comes on the heels of the closing of the Washington office of the Palestine Information Office.

The timing of the U.S. moves is not accidental. It comes at a moment when growing numbers of people, here and worldwide, are taking a new look at the just fight for Palestinian liberation.

Like the Israelis who are barring TV cameras from the scenes of their brutal troop actions, Washington apparently feels it can shore up crumbling support for Israel by muzzling the truth.

The reactionary move to shut down the PLO mission, and the Palestine Information Office, warrants the strongest condemnation.

Iraq's cyanide massacre

"No wounds, no blood, no traces of explosions can be found on the bodies — scores of men, women, children, livestock, and pet animals. . . .

"Death seemingly caught them almost unaware in the midst of their household chores. They had just the strength, some of them, to make it to the doorways of their homes, only to collapse there or a few feet beyond. Here a mother seems to clasp her children in a last embrace, there an old man shields an infant from he cannot have known what."

This nightmarish scene, reported in the March 22 issue of the British daily *Guardian*, took place in Halabjeh, Iraq, formerly a city of 100,000 people.

The city, which was recently occupied by Iranian forces in the course of the Iraq-Iran war, was the target of a cyanide and mustard gas attack carried out by the Iraqi government of President Saddam Hussein.

According to Iranians in the town, thousands were killed or injured — virtually all civilian residents.

The "crime" of the inhabitants, apparently, was to remain in the city when Iraqi troops withdrew and Iranian forces moved in.

Halabjeh was a Kurdish city. To advance its war effort, the Iranian government has aided Iraqi Kurds who are fighting the oppression and discrimination practiced against them by the Iraqi government. The Hussein regime has responded to the growth of the Kurdish struggle by destroying scores of Kurdish villages.

A United Nations team confirmed in 1984 that the Iraqi military was using poisonous mustard and nerve gases in the war with Iran.

The cyanide gas was sprayed over Halabjeh by Mirage jets supplied to the Iraqi regime by the French government. British, U.S., and West German firms have been implicated at various times in providing the Iraqi regime with the components for chemical weapons.

The U.S. government and its allies have gathered an armada in the Persian Gulf in an effort to head off the defeat of Hussein's regime in the war.

The grisly massacre in Halabjeh is on their hands as well. The U.S. armada should be withdrawn from the gulf and arms shipments to the Hussein regime should be ended now.

GE attacks on unions pose need for jobs fight

BY RUSSELL DAVIS

Delegates to the General Electric Conference Board of the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) met mid-February in Florida. Representing IUE members in GE plants across the country, the delegates heard reports on upcoming negotiations with GE and on recent developments at several GE locations.

The IUE represents 50,000 of the 75,000 organized GE workers, whose 14 unions negotiate together in the

UNION TALK

Coordinated Bargaining Committee. The unions' contracts with GE expire June 26.

Since 1981 GE has laid off more than 100,000 workers and closed dozens of factories across the country. Especially hard hit have been the big IUE-organized plants in Louisville, Kentucky; Schenectady, New York; Pittsfield, Massachusetts; and Lynn, Massachusetts. At the Lynn plant, GE is in the process of laying off 3,000 out of 8,500 workers.

On January 1 GE instituted a wage cut of \$2 an hour at its nonunion plants, where wages have been pegged to those at GE's unionized plants. The company announced it was closing the Cicero, Illinois, refrigerator plant, throwing 1,200 members of the Sheet Metal Workers' union out of work, and building a new, nonunion plant in

Alabama. At GE's Louisville plant, the company is demanding speed-up and pay cuts. At the aircraft engine plant in Evendale, Ohio, some 7,000 unionists have been on strike since February 16 against the company's unilateral implementation of sweeping job combinations.

The most serious attack, however, was GE's announcement that without major concessions, including a \$2-an-hour wage cut, it would close or sharply cut back production at seven unionized plants in its Motor Division. GE threatened to ship work to Mexico, where its workers are paid \$1 an hour.

At the GE Conference Board, IUE President William Bywater announced that the IUE had come to an agreement with GE to cut wages by \$1.20 an hour over three years at six of the IUE-organized Motor Division plants. A separate contract covering these plants was signed, effectively taking them out of the national contract pattern. In return GE says it won't close these plants unless "business is bad."

The IUE agreement was attacked by the United Electrical Workers (UE), which organizes 15,000 GE workers. Bywater responded by defending the IUE's actions as the only way to save jobs, and threatened to end coordinated bargaining with the UE. The concessions pact was approved by IUE members in the Motor Division by a two-to-one margin.

The unions will be going into negotiations with GE under attack and in disarray. The giant corporation is very accomplished at playing workers off against each other.

The IUE leadership unfortunately falls in with the company's "divide and conquer" strategy by also promoting an "us versus them" attitude with its strident anti-imports rhetoric. And the IUE's agreement to concessions as a way to "save jobs" undermines efforts to organize nonunion plants where workers are trying to fight wage cuts.

As the economic crisis gets worse, more GE workers will see that there isn't any "GE" solution to problems of takebacks, layoffs, and plant closings.

Instead of agreeing to more concessions to "save the jobs" of fewer and fewer workers, the IUE and other unions should unite around a campaign to fight for jobs for all. The unions should lead the fight for a shorter workweek and a massive public works program that could create jobs for millions of workers and help unify the entire working class.

The unions also need to promote solidarity within the working class as a whole by championing affirmative action programs, which are needed to help overcome the special oppression faced by Black, Latino, and women workers.

We also need to understand that U.S. workers and workers in Mexico, Taiwan, and other semicolonial countries are part of the same international working class, with common interests and a common enemy — not competitors.

Russell Davis is a member of IUE Local 201 at GE's Lynn, Massachusetts, plant.

LETTERS

Confederate flag

More than 70 people participated in a "Black Summit" recently in Montgomery, Alabama, as part of an ongoing effort to demand the removal of the Confederate flag, a symbol of slavery and racial oppression, from the capitol. The meeting was initiated by the state National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

It was called following several recent protests in which Blacks have demanded the flag be removed.

On February 2 State Rep. Thomas Reed and 13 other Black legislators were arrested on trespassing charges when they tried to climb a fence around the capitol building to remove the flag.

While large numbers of supporters, as well as a handful of Klansmen, watched, the legislators were taken away by state troopers to the Montgomery County jail. If found guilty, they could be fined \$500 and sentenced to three months in jail.

Alabama Gov. Guy Hunt has the authority to have the flag removed but has refused to do so, citing its "historical significance."

At the state legislature's opening session, Rep. Alvin Holmes asked members to vote to remove the flag. The house voted to send the matter to the House Rules Committee, where the request is expected to die.

Joan Levitt
David Alvarez
Montgomery, Alabama

Solidarity

In our March meeting of the Marion-Polk-Yamhill Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO) we voted unanimously to send the striking pulp and paperworkers in Jay, Maine, \$100 and a message of support.

Several delegates in the building trades unions could easily relate to International Paper's tactic of using barbed wire and armed guards to keep workers, press, and public from gaining access to the plant.

Similar police-state tactics are used here in Oregon now by most of the paper mills to keep union business agents off corporation property. Nonunion contractors are given preference on bids and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration turns a blind eye to the numerous safety violations of nonunion contractors in these mills.

But with solidarity from Gardiner, Oregon, to Jay, Maine — with pulp and paperworkers, construction workers, and all workers — we will win!

Dave Worthington
Painters Union Local 724
Salem, Oregon

'Cry freedom'

The movie *Cry Freedom* recently ran for several weeks in Baltimore. The film had a big impact on me as it brought to life part of the history of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Afterwards, I read *Baltimore Sun* film critic Stephen Hunter's review, which appeared February 19. I wondered whether a debate would open up similar to the big discussion that took place about *The Color Purple*.

Hunter attacks the movie — presumably from the left.

He says, "By any fair measure it's a pretty mediocre movie. Slow, pompous, gratingly didactic, condescending, and insufficiently attentive to the very people whose cause it embraces, it seems to represent the worst of white liberalism."

He continues, "In a movie about a country in which people of color are subject to routine political suppression to the point of death, it asks us to care about a white man [Donald Woods] who loses his swimming pool."

Hunter certainly did not learn anything about politics from the movie.

Black Consciousness movement activists such as Dr. Rampele detected in Woods a potential ally. Hunter did not appreciate the importance of this and the skill with which Steve Biko and others helped to make Woods into a genuine ally.

Director Richard Attenborough said himself that he wanted to tell the story through Woods' eyes. "We don't want to preach to the converted. We want to preach to the convertable."

In my opinion, the story deserves telling anywhere to any audience. I don't agree with the idea that a "Western white" audience has to have a white hero to identify with, but the strength of the story is that it shows the broadening appeal of the anti-apartheid movement and the growing isolation of the South African government both inside and outside South Africa.

Rachele Fruit
Baltimore, Maryland



Clarity

I treasure your paper as a source for international news and political commentary, and so I am concerned when your language is vague and unclear.

My example is the article "Behind U.S. drive against Panama" in the March 4 *Militant*. Susan LaMont used such vague terms as "toeing the line" and "upped the ante," which, I'm sorry to say, have meanings that are unclear to me. I honestly don't know what they mean.

Colleen Wilder
San Francisco, California

Nicaragua land reform

A March 3 meeting in Manchester, England, called by the Central America Solidarity Campaign was addressed by Andy Welford, who described himself as a struggling British tenant farmer. Welford explained the history of the peasants' fight for land in Nicaragua both before and after the 1979 revolution. And he talked about the policies on land redistribution and agricultural development carried out by the government of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

His view was that major successes had been scored in meeting the needs of the Nicaraguan people, while much still remained to be won.

Welford explained that "aid" to the underdeveloped countries doesn't solve the problem of world hunger, but in fact increases the divisions between rich and poor on the land. The way it is distributed, aid from the advanced capitalist countries encourages the production of cash export crops rather than crops for local consumption.

A lively discussion ensued, and several people referred to recent articles in the *Militant* reporting on the land reform in Nicaragua.

When asked what lessons the experiences of farmers in Nicaragua held for small farmers in Britain and the United States, Welford said that as far as he could see, no serious land reform in favor of the poorest rural population was possible without a revolution.

Helen Flynn
Manchester, England

Paperworkers

A rally at my union hall in solidarity with striking paperworkers in Jay, Maine, ended with a thunderous chant of, "Scabs out, union in!"

I'm a ground service worker with Eastern Airlines and a member of International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 1726 at Logan International Airport in Boston.

Our local has been doing support work for United Paper-

workers International Union Local 14 on strike in Jay.

When a Local 14 strikers' caravan came to Boston, we hosted a dinner and rally for them at our hall. Many members of the Machinists' union attended, as well as brothers and sisters from the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA) and the Transport Workers Union at American Airlines.

Brad Bell from the IFFA gave a very moving speech linking the bitter struggle of TWA flight attendants with that of the paperworkers.

Bob Turcotte, vice-president of my local, linked Eastern's drive to bust the unions there with International Paper's antiunion drive.

Clayton Putnam of the Jay local stressed the need for increased solidarity and promised the Machinists and other air transport unions to send a delegation of paperworkers to help staff picket lines that may occur soon at Logan airport.

M.J. Pucci
Lynn, Massachusetts

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.

Palestinians face mass arrests

Thousands put in prison camps as Israelis step up repression

BY HARRY RING

Lashing out desperately to crush the Palestinian uprising, the Israeli government has undertaken a series of harsh new repressive measures and launched a massive new wave of arrests.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Israeli parliament March 22 that 3,000 Palestinians are now incarcerated, many of them held under administrative detention.

Those jailed in this way are held without charges or trial for up to six months. The six-month term can be renewed at will.

Previously, such arbitrary jailings were subject to judicial review. This has now been scrapped. Also scrapped is the proviso that administrative arrest can only be ordered by the commanding general in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Local commanders can now order such arrests.

With the jails overflowing, hundreds of Palestinians are now being held in several prison camps surrounded by barbed wire. Those imprisoned include union officials, journalists, and lawyers.

Meanwhile, a new cannon was unveiled that shoots gravel at demonstrators.

And, in the West Bank city of Ramallah, troops dumped gravel on protesters from a helicopter, and then opened fire with live ammunition.

In the Gaza Strip, the entire population is now under a nighttime curfew, with only Jewish residents excepted.

Authorities said this would stymie distribution of clandestine leaflets and the digging of tank traps.

A ban has been imposed on travel by Palestinians between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Authorities said this was designed to prevent "agitators" from coordinating pro-



Women in Ramallah on West Bank being attacked by Israeli soldiers. Israeli government is trying to cut off communication between West Bank and Gaza Strip.

test actions in the two areas of military rule.

The ban will hit Gaza farmers and businessmen who ship citrus fruit through the West Bank for marketing in neighboring Jordan.

Earlier, all gasoline supplies to the West Bank were halted.

Then overseas phone lines to Gaza and the West Bank were cut off. It was reported that cutting off electricity to some areas was also being considered.

Produce markets were ordered shut in several areas in a blow aimed at consumers, vendors, and farmers.

Defense Minister Rabin said such economic punishment was aimed at influencing "the silent majority" to help curb "extremists."

On March 19 the Palestine youth movement, Shabibeh, was declared illegal. Officials branded it a front for Fatah, the principal group in the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Shabibeh is reported to be a broadly based community movement, with its main support in the West Bank and Gaza refugee camps, but active among unionists and on campuses as well.

The Shabibeh committees engage in community services, organize sports competitions, and promote cultural activity.

Israeli security cops estimate there are 200 committees on the West Bank alone. Palestinians have told reporters there are twice that many.

In addition to the new crackdown, Israeli troops have continued beating and shooting Palestinian protesters.

On March 20 the army suffered its first casualty. In the West Bank town of Bethlehem, an Israeli soldier was shot dead, reportedly by a Palestinian. An army official called it "murder."

Meanwhile, the Associated Press reported a day earlier that according to United Nations figures, 102 Palestinians had been killed, mostly by gunfire and beatings.

Yet the Palestinians continued to deal blows to their oppressors.

A sharp blow to Israeli rule was struck when a majority of the 800 to 1,000 Palestinians serving in Israel's West Bank and Gaza police forces quit their jobs.

This was followed by resignations of tax collectors.

The Israelis fear this may spread further among the 18,000 Palestinians employed by the military administration in Gaza and the West Bank.

The assistant police commander in Gaza told Israel Radio that they were trying to stem the wave of resignations, but "without great success."

Deeply concerned by the development, Israeli officials had earlier tried to repress information about the extent of the resignations.

The power of the protest is apparently creating fissures within the Israeli ruling structure. This was indicated when the chief of staff of the armed forces, Gen. Dan Shomron, called for a settlement with the Palestinians.

He told the Israeli daily *Davar* that the army "cannot endure this situation forever. The matter has to be solved."

Meanwhile, authorities braced for the next big protest. Clandestine leaflets have been circulated calling for an outpouring of protesters March 30, Land Day. Marches and campus sit-ins were called for.

Land Day, held every year, protests the Israeli theft of Palestinian land.

Montreal protest hits murder of Black

BY CAROLE CARON

MONTREAL — On March 19, some 1,000 people demonstrated here to demand justice for Anthony Griffin, a 19-year-old Black youth murdered in November by Allan Gosset, a Montreal Urban Community Policeman.

"We won't forget Anthony Griffin!" "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" "Freedom yes! Racism no!" chanted the demonstrators.

Gloria Augustus, Griffin's mother,

marched at the head of the demonstration. The march was organized by the Black Community Council of Quebec (BCCQ) and the Committee Against Systematic Oppression (CASO). Many other organizations supported the march.

Unprecedented for this kind of demonstration was the fact that dozens of people came from Toronto, Windsor, and Halifax, in Canada and from New York to protest against racist police brutality.

One hundred people made the six-hour

trip from Toronto on the two "Anthony Griffin Freedom Ride" buses organized by the Anthony Griffin Committee for Justice.

The committee had distributed thousands of leaflets to build the demonstration in Toronto. A number of high school and university students as well as members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) made the trip.

Leaders of the anti-apartheid movement and of the Albert Johnson Committee also participated. Albert Johnson, a Black man, was murdered by Toronto policemen in 1979.

Throughout the trip a lively discussion took place on perspectives for the fight against racism. Several Blacks took the microphone to recount their own experiences with racism and police brutality in Canada. Presidents of two USWA locals and other union militants from Toronto participated in the demonstration as the result of discussions in their unions.

In Montreal ACTWU Local 242 supported the demonstration. Leaflets for the march were handed out at several plant gates.

The demonstration reflected the anger felt by Blacks throughout Canada when Constable Gosset was acquitted on February 24. At his trial the judge forbade any mention of the fact that Gosset had previously been found guilty of racist violence. He virtually appealed to the all-white jury to acquit Gosset.

This was the third demonstration to take place in Montreal since Griffin's death. The first forced the Quebec government to charge Gosset with involuntary manslaughter, while the second has forced a government appeal of the acquittal verdict.

Warren joins antiracist protest

BY SUSAN BERMAN

MONTREAL — "James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president of the United States, explained as he got off the airplane that he had come to Montreal to support the actions of the Black Community in Montreal and defend racial equality," the March 20 Montreal daily *La Presse* reported.

Warren's admission to the country was a victory because on September 19 last year the Canadian immigration authorities, in cahoots with U.S. customs and immigration officials, had barred his entry. He was subjected to racist and political harassment, including a strip search. He was readmitted five days later after broad protests, but subsequently Canadian officials said this was an "error."

In addition to participating in the March 19 antiracist demonstration, Warren spoke at the Forum Lutte Ouvriere on the worldwide struggle for Black rights.

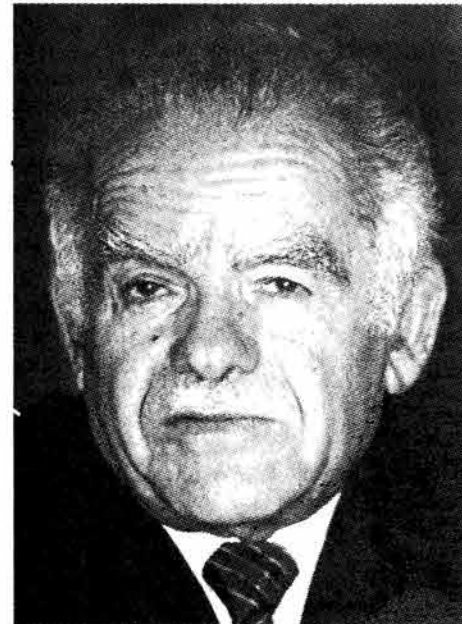
"Cop murders aren't new. Racist op-

pression isn't new. What's new is the unity and determined action to respond to these murders," Warren explained. He said that this was true not just in Canada but in all of the major imperialist countries.

One thing fueling this response is the changing composition of the working class in these countries. The capitalist economic crisis has pushed increasing numbers of workers and farmers from oppressed countries to move to the imperialist centers.

Warren explained that demonstrations like the one in Montreal are part of this layer of working people who are saying, "We are here. And we're here to stay. We refuse to be treated as second-class citizens. We refuse to be shot down in the streets without us doing something. Whether we speak English, French, or Spanish, we're here to stay."

Warren continued, "These workers bring a powerful addition to the working class, to the fight."



During recent visit, U.S. officials assured Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of continued military and political backing, despite "differences" over Mideast.