

Cop riot in N.Y. park met by broad outrage

BY SUSAN LaMONT

NEW YORK — A cop riot — the most serious to occur here in many years — took place on Manhattan's Lower East Side in the early morning hours of August 7.

Sparked by a community protest against the cops' decision to enforce a 1:00 a.m. curfew at Tompkins Square Park, some 450 police went on a night-long rampage that sent at least 44 people to the hospital with injuries ranging from bruises and gashed heads to a severed finger. The injured included 13 police. Nine people were arrested on charges of riot, disorderly conduct, assault, and resisting arrest.

The park is in the middle of the Lower East Side, a poor, working-class part of the city that in recent years has become the scene of widespread gentrification. Old tenement buildings that for decades housed immigrant workers — Jewish, Ukrainian, Italian, Polish, Irish, and more recently, Puerto Rican — have become transformed into condominiums selling for hundreds of thousands of dollars. At the same time, several hundred homeless people are living in the park, having no other shelter than make-shift tents and cartons.

Artists and musicians who live in the area — some forced out of other parts of the city by skyrocketing rents — are feeling the squeeze of rising rents on the Lower East Side as well. Many college students also live in the neighborhood.

There are a number of punk-rock clubs on the Lower East Side, and the park is used by many young people to play and listen to music.

The blocks that surround Tompkins Square Park are a mixture of burned-out tenements, gutted over the years by landlords anxious to collect insurance money;



August 13 march at Tompkins Square Park in New York City's Lower East Side protests police attack on homeless and other local people in park.

little "parks" carefully cultivated and constructed by community residents to beautify empty lots; high-priced renovated buildings; and a few buildings that seem to have escaped either destruction or gentrification. Some people on the Lower East Side are "squatters," living in empty buildings because they have nowhere else to go.

A few rows of low-income, penitentiary-like public housing are being built.

On the eastern edge of the Lower East Side sit enormous public housing projects in which thousands of largely Latino working-class families live.

Several weeks before August 7, cops

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Pathfinder celebrates expansion, launches \$250,000 fund campaign

BY SUSAN LaMONT

OBERLIN, Ohio — "We're here tonight to celebrate the spread in the international scope, reach, and impact of Pathfinder, whose books and pamphlets can be read from Brooklyn to Brixton, from Montreal to Manila, from Managua to Auckland. There are now 40 Pathfinder bookshops in six countries. And in addition to publishing in English and Spanish, Pathfinder is adding two new languages — Icelandic and Swedish."

With this welcome, Deb Shnookal opened the August 10 international rally here to mark the achievements of Pathfinder and launch a \$250,000 fund to ensure its continued expansion. Pathfinder is an international publisher and distributor of books and pamphlets relating to working-class history and struggles.

For the past several years, Shnookal — who chaired the rally — has helped distribute Pathfinder books throughout the Pacific and Asia. She is currently working for the publisher's bookstore in New York.

The rally culminated five days of activities that drew more than 1,100 workers, farmers, and students from 22 countries to this small campus town outside Cleveland. Between August 6 and 11, the 34th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party took place here, along with an international educational and active workers conference.

A new book, *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*,

rolled off the presses just days before the conference began, and was a best-seller among conference participants. The book contains speeches by Sankara, the central leader of the 1983 democratic, anti-imperialist revolution in the West African country of Burkina Faso. Sankara was assassinated in a counterrevolutionary military coup last October.

Madnodje Mounoubai, a supporter of Sankara, spoke at the rally and paid tribute to Pathfinder for making the African revolutionary leader's ideas available worldwide through the new anthology.

"It is not for us to mourn Sankara, to cry," Mounoubai said. "Death is nothing new for a revolutionary — it goes with him or her every day. . . . Sankara taught us that to live without fear, to be a revolutionary, you have to accept death."

"When he became president, Sankara said, 'With the people, with the masses of workers and peasants, who cannot enjoy the fruits of their labor, everything is possible,'" Mounoubai continued.

"In 1983, when the revolution took place in Burkina Faso," he said, "some said it wasn't possible, that the country was too poor. And when Sankara was killed, those same people said, 'I told you so.'"

"But we respond, 'No, it wasn't a failure. Just ask the peasants, the women, the youth, the workers of Burkina Faso. . . . The people have tasted true revolution, and they won't go back,'" he continued.

"This new book is a great contribution,"

Mounoubai added. "We need to work now on getting it out in French, and launching it in Paris and Africa. Already, we're selling it by the case. I want to thank Pathfinder for a job well done."

David Deutschmann, director of Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia and editor of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, described the role of Pathfinder in telling the

Continued on Page 4

10-week drive to gain 10,000 new readers opens Sept. 9

BY NORTON SANDLER

OBERLIN, Ohio — From September 9 to November 19, our supporters around the world will be campaigning to win 10,000 new readers for the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazine *New International*.

While carrying out the 10-week drive, supporters of these publications are also planning to sell more than 20,000 copies of the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* — a program presented by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.

These projections were discussed by participants in the international circulation

INS waiver: big gain in Marroquín fight for residency

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK — On August 5 the Immigration and Naturalization Service granted Héctor Marroquín a waiver, opening the door for him to obtain his permanent resident visa, or green card, as it is popularly known.

This victory, coming after 11 years of INS efforts to deport Marroquín for his political views and membership in the Socialist Workers Party, gives powerful momentum to his fight for the right to live, work, and be politically active in this country.

The waiver sets aside Marroquín's conviction in 1977 for entering the United States without all the necessary papers, when he fled frame-up charges and death threats in his native Mexico.

Marroquín's application for permanent residence is based on his marriage to a U.S. citizen, Priscilla Schenk-Marroquín. His son, Andrés, is also a U.S. citizen.

Lyle Van Ravenswaay, U.S. consul general in Toronto, Canada, is the government official responsible for making the final ruling on Marroquín's application. On August 16 Van Ravenswaay told Judi Rabinowitz, one of Marroquín's attorneys, that the waiver was confirmed and an appointment would be set for Marroquín to come to Toronto within the next couple of weeks.

The INS had been under increasing political pressure to grant the waiver. Three congressmen, Mickey Leland of Texas and Ronald Dellums and Esteban Torres of California, wrote Alan Nelson, INS commissioner, "We are aware of Mr. Marroquín's tireless efforts over the last 11 years to gain legal status." The letter concluded, "We urge you to grant Mr. Marroquín a humanitarian waiver."

In addition, a public appeal on behalf of Marroquín had gained broad support. Recent signers adding their names to the appeal, included Marsha Zakowski, national vice-president, Coalition of Labor Union Women; Oscar Sanchez, national secretary-treasurer, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement; exiled South African poet Dennis Brutus; Gordon Wilson, president, Ontario Federation of Labour; and Celestino Torres, sub-district director,

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workshop held here during the August 6-11 International Educational and Active Workers Conference and Socialist Workers Party national convention. In addition to those from the United States, participants also included workers from Britain, Canada, Australia, Iceland, New Zealand, Sweden, and other countries.

The character and scope of the upcoming international effort was presented on behalf of the conference steering committee by Bill Harmon from the Revolutionary Workers League in Canada.

Harmon said to reach the 10,000 goal distributors will aim to sell 6,500 introductory or renewal subscriptions to the *Militant*.

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UN committee reaffirms support to independence for Puerto Rico

BY MIKE TABER

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Meeting in its annual session, the UN Special Committee on Decolonization adopted a resolution August 16 on Puerto Rico introduced by Cuban UN Ambassador Oscar Oramas-Oliva.

Noting that "for decades there has been a systematic practice of discrimination and official persecution directed against tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans who support independence," the resolution reaffirmed "the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence." A similar resolution introduced by Cuba was adopted at last year's meeting.

The vote on the resolution was nine in favor, two opposed, and 11 abstentions. The U.S. government, as it has done in the past, refused to participate in the debate or to cooperate with the committee.

The two-day hearings on the case of Puerto Rico included testimony by 30 petitioners that included a broad range of Puerto Rican independence activists. One fighter, however — Filiberto Ojeda Ríos — was not able to testify. A member of the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 recently released on bail after serving 32 months in prison awaiting trial on frame-up charges, Ojeda Ríos was refused permission by the U.S. District Court judge hearing the case to attend the hearings. As a condition of his bail he is unable to leave Hartford, Connecticut.

A number of speakers, however, presented a powerful condemnation of U.S. colonial rule. Richard Harvey, one of the attorneys for the Hartford 15, denounced the inhuman prison conditions to which Puerto Rican freedom fighters have been subjected. Antonio Rivera of the United Committee Against Repression called for the end of the systematic physical and psychological torture routinely employed against Puerto Rican political prisoners.

Carlos Gallisá of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party called attention to Washington's announced intention of holding talks on the situation of Puerto Rico after the U.S. presidential elections in November. Only cosmetic changes were envisioned, he warned.

Don Rojas testified on behalf of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada. Calling attention to Washington's use of Puerto Rico as a staging ground for its 1983 invasion of Grenada, Rojas stated that "the criminal invasion of Grenada precipitated a further militarization of Puerto Rico and of the entire Caribbean throughout the 1980s. The Ocean Venture exercises have continued, with the most recent one just three months ago involving some 40,000 U.S. military personnel." Such a situation could not exist, he explained, were Puerto Rico a fully inde-

pendent and sovereign nation.

Those testifying also included Juan Mari Brás of the Committee of Puerto Rico in the United Nations and Josefina Rodríguez, international secretary of the Puerto Rican National Liberation Movement.

Other speakers called attention to the U.S. military bases on Puerto Rico that make up almost 15 percent of the island's territory; the widespread environmental pollution and toxic waste discharges by U.S. companies; and the abysmal economic and social conditions that force more than half the population to rely on food stamps in order to survive. Several pro-U.S. petitioners also testified.

A number of UN delegates participated in the debate as well. Neo Mnumzana of the African National Congress of South Africa affirmed that the ANC's solidarity with Puerto Rico was "an essential condition for the advance of our own struggle," as is its solidarity with Cuba, Nicaragua, Angola, Namibia, and Palestine.

He pointed out that Washington was using some methods toward Puerto Rico that were similar to those employed by South Africa's apartheid regime. These included its portrayal of freedom fighters as terrorists and its utilization of a layer of local opportunistic forces to divide the oppressed population.

Cuban Ambassador Oramas-Oliva called for an intensification of world solidarity with Puerto Rico in the context of recent advances against colonialism in southern Africa and Western Sahara.

Panamanian ambassador Leonardo Kam spoke of Washington's "economic and political aggression" against Panama. In this regard, he called attention to the common history and interests shared by Panama and Puerto Rico.

Representatives from the Soviet Union, Nicaragua, South West Africa People's Organisation, and other countries also spoke.

The resolution adopted by the Special Committee called for keeping "the ques-



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Oscar Oramas-Oliva, Cuba's ambassador to the United Nations.

tion of Puerto Rico under continuing review." A number of speakers called for the UN General Assembly as a whole to take up this question, and to demand U.S. compliance.

Gov't to pay \$390,000 to socialists' lawyers

NEW YORK — In a significant gain for democratic rights, the U.S. government agreed to pay attorney's fees and costs to lawyers representing the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

The two organizations had won a landmark constitutional suit against the FBI and other government agencies for engaging in systematic illegal violation of their rights.

The government agreed to pay \$390,000 in attorney's fees and an additional \$25,000 for costs incurred by the lawyers in the course of the litigation.

The agreement was approved August 5 by Judge Thomas Griesa, who had presided over the case.

Earlier, the court had awarded the SWP and YSA \$264,000 in damages, plus additional costs, for the FBI's illegal use of informers, burglaries, and disruption operations against the two groups. In addition, the court issued an injunction barring the government from using illegally obtained information to victimize members of the two organizations today.

The \$415,000 in legal fees approved by the court had been agreed on by the U.S. Attorney's office and Leonard Boudin, attorney for the SWP and YSA.

Winning these fees sets an important precedent for the right of victims of government attack to obtain legal defense.

All too often defense lawyers who have volunteered to defend political activists from government attack have been vic-

timized along with their clients. In the past many lawyers representing political and union defendants have been hit with contempt-of-court rulings, fines, and jail terms.

In addition, lawyers often have had to take on such cases for little or no pay be-

cause many victims of political persecution cannot afford large legal expenses.

This award, forcing the government to pay a substantial fee to the attorneys for the SWP and YSA, will help to encourage other lawyers to come to the defense of victims of political persecution.

Protests hit Ohio ballot exclusion

BY MARTY PETTIT

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party election campaign here have launched a drive to reverse Ohio Secretary of State Sherrod Brown's August 8 ruling that their petitions fell short of the 5,000 needed to put the SWP presidential ticket on the ballot. James Warren and Kathleen Mickells are the SWP candidates for president and vice-president. Brown says that the Ohio supporters had 751 signatures too few.

"This is nothing short of robbery," said David Marshall, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from Ohio. "We signed up 11,147 people to put our candidates on the ballot. Yet the secretary of state is 'invalidating' 6,898 people and robbing all working people in Ohio of any real choice in the elections."

An initial review of petitions circulated in Cuyahoga County, where Cleveland is located, revealed that election officials had declared 3,046 signers, or 44 percent of those discarded, to be "not registered," and 563 to have "no such address in Cuyahoga County."

One election official admitted that registration cards are often left for months at registration sites such as libraries and the Urban League, only to be collected on the eve of a special election or primary.

A broad letter- and postcard-writing campaign has been initiated, with protest letters already coming from Steve Hatch, executive secretary of Local 1 of the Newspaper Guild; Harold Mitchell, president of Local 100 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Joe Bentura, 20th Congressional District coordinator of Greater Clevelanders for Jesse Jackson; Mylon Waite of the Interchurch Council of Greater Cleveland; Thomas Buckley, law professor at Cleveland State University; and Tallis George, public affairs director of radio station WCSB.

Supporters of democratic rights should write to Sherrod Brown, secretary of state, 30 E. Broad St., 14th floor, Columbus, Ohio 43266 demanding the SWP be placed on the ballot. Copies to the Ohio Socialist Workers 1988 Campaign Committee, 2521 Market Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

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—Ed Long, Jr.

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Speakers set for Curtis defense rally

BY BOB MILLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has announced an initial speakers' list for the second international defense rally for the framed-up political activist. The rally will be held at the Des Moines Convention Center on September 4.

In addition to Curtis, speakers will include Neo Mnumzana, chief representative to the United Nations of the African National Congress of South Africa; Piri Thomas, distinguished Puerto Rican author and poet; Roger Allison, director of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center; and Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born socialist who has been fighting for 11 years to win permanent residency in the United States.

Curtis was framed up on rape and burglary charges and brutally beaten by the Des Moines cops last March 4, hours after he left a meeting protesting an immigration raid at the Swift packinghouse. Curtis works at Swift and is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers union Local 431.

Curtis is accused of attempting to rape Demetria Morris, a 15-year-old Black high school student. If convicted on the rape and burglary charges, he faces a mandatory 25-year jail sentence.

The September 4 rally will demand that the charges against Curtis be dropped and that the cops who beat him be prosecuted. The defense committee is urging supporters to stay over in Des Moines and attend the trial, which is scheduled to begin on September 7 at the Polk County Courthouse.

The 29-year-old political activist is also a victim of an illegal FBI spy operation against the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES). FBI files identify Curtis as a leader of a CISPES-affiliated group in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1984.

Scores of letters and petitions signed by several thousand people have been sent to Polk County Prosecutor James Smith and the Des Moines cops demanding that the charges against Curtis be dropped and the cops who beat him be prosecuted.

Among the new endorsers of Curtis' case are Don Rojas, former press secretary to Maurice Bishop, the slain leader of the 1979-83 revolution in Grenada. Rojas is currently a leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada.

British Parliament members Eddie Loyden and Bob Clay have signed Curtis defense petitions. Ben Dupuy, editor of *Haiti Progrès*, and 11 others at that paper are among those who have given their support to Curtis.

More than 90 workers at the Swift plant and 40 at the Oscar Mayer packinghouse in Perry, Iowa, have also signed petitions.

The August 11 *Des Moines Register* headlined an article "Detroit City Council supports Des Moines activist." Staff writer Tom Alex reported that the "Detroit City Council has passed a resolution in support of a Des Moines political and labor activist who is accused of trying to rape a 15-year-old girl."

The *Register* notes that the "resolution concludes that the events leading up to Mark Curtis' arrest are 'suspicious,' and it calls for 'appropriate disciplinary action against the officers responsible for Mark Curtis' beating.'"

Des Moines Mayor John Dorian is quoted as responding, "They can pass a resolution if they want to. My opinion is the court is going to have to determine this. That's what the court system is for."

In its Sunday, August 14, edition, *The Register* ran an editorial that belittles the support Curtis is winning. Headlined "Skillful image-making," the editorial said, "At the least, Mark Curtis and his supporters have earned the admiration of some for the skillful propaganda campaign against Des Moines police and the Polk County attorney."

"Hundreds of letter-writers from across the country seem convinced the Des Moines Police Department, in concert with the FBI, conspired to frame Curtis in an attempted rape and beat him, with the Polk County Attorney's office preparing to railroad him through a kangaroo-court criminal trial."

"Even some prominent sorts, including Michigan Congressman John Conyers and actor Ed Asner have weighed in [on the side of Curtis]."

It continues, "There is no evidence of a conspiracy, beyond Curtis' allegations and the fact that he has a lengthy FBI file."

"On the merits," the editors add, "it strains credulity to believe that the police, the alleged sexual-abuse victim and her family, the county prosecutor and the courts would have conspired against Curtis because of politics — or that they could have pulled off such an elaborate scheme."

The editorial concludes, "Curtis' case is coming to trial. It would serve Ed Asner, John Conyers, and the Detroit City Council

well to come see how his allegations play in the game where rules of evidence reign."

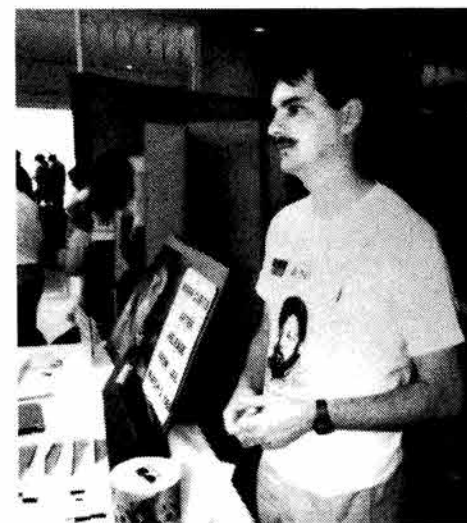
Stu Singer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, said, "The *Register* editors completely ignore the events at the Swift plant last March 4."

He also pointed to numerous articles in the press here recently that describe the Des Moines cops abusing prisoners, wearing Ku Klux Klan robes, unzipping their pants in public, and firing Black police cadets who denounce racist remarks by their superior officers. "If you examine these facts, it's not hard to see why a political and union activist like Mark Curtis would become the target of a cop frame-up," said Singer.

He also emphasized that files such as the FBI maintains on Curtis are made available to local police departments, increasing the possibility of political activists being victimized by the cops.

Polk County attorney Smith has refused to file charges against Keith Morris for his July 15 attack on the Pathfinder Bookstore, where the defense committee office is located. Morris kicked in the display windows, causing \$2,000 in damages. He is the father of the high school student Curtis is accused of trying to rape. Curtis was in the bookstore at the time Morris attacked and had to flee, using another entrance.

Smith claimed the cops urged him to file charges against Morris. But he refused.



Militant
Mark Curtis at defense committee table

"We didn't see any real purpose in putting this case in the criminal justice system," Smith told the *Register*.

Instead Smith referred the case to the Polk County Neighborhood Mediation Center. "It's normal to refer these types of things to mediation," Smith said.

Pathfinder Bookstore manager Jason Redrup is demanding that charges be filed against Morris. "His intent was to intimidate Mark Curtis and his campaign," Redrup said.

PLO leader condemns King Hussein's move

BY HARRY RING

Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, assailed King Hussein's decision to cut Jordan's administrative and financial ties with the Palestinian West Bank.

Arafat said he was limiting his comments on Hussein's move in order to avoid an "explosion" in the PLO's relations with Jordan.

The PLO leader charged in an August 9 interview that his organization "was not consulted, nor was it officially informed, even though it is the principal party affected by these measures."

He said the PLO intended to fill the void created by the Jordanian move and appealed to Arab regimes for financial aid. He noted that these regimes have not been meeting financial commitments to the PLO made at an Arab summit meeting in June.

Meanwhile, other PLO leaders said Hussein's move was intended to throw up a wall between Palestinians who live in Jordan and those in the West Bank.

Members of the PLO executive committee said August 13 that meetings with Hussein and Jordanian officials had broken down over the issue of the Palestinian exiles, who now constitute two-thirds of the Jordanian population.

In his July 31 declaration cutting ties with the West Bank, Hussein had emphasized that he wanted undivided allegiance from Palestinians in Jordan, suggesting that support by them to the PLO constituted "disloyalty."

"One PLO figure responded, 'This implies a fragmentation of the Palestinian people and means that the PLO only represents Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.' He noted that Hussein's declaration contradicted the established stand of Arab governments that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

Another PLO official emphasized, "Having to choose between Jordan and the PLO is something we totally reject."

The Israeli parliament, in an initial response to the Hussein move, referred the issue to a committee. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir asserted that any move to create an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank or Gaza would be met with an "iron fist."

Some of the legislators argued that with the Jordanian government's move, the West Bank should be formally annexed to Israel. Shamir replied that as far as he was concerned there was no need to annex the West Bank since Israel already owned it. "We do not annex something that belongs to us," he said.

Thomas Friedman, veteran Mideast correspondent for the *New York Times*, noted that the Hussein regime enjoys "credibility in Israeli eyes."

The Jordanian monarchy, he observed, "has a proven record of keeping its border with Israel quiet."

In Washington, Hussein's decision was seen as ending recent unsuccessful moves by Secretary of State George Shultz to broker a "peace" accord between Israel and neighboring Arab regimes. The aim of such an accord was to quell the Palestinian uprising, now in its ninth month.

However, despite the Hussein move, Washington officials reiterated their belief that the king will remain a key figure in continuing efforts to cut such a deal.

According to the August 16 *Washington Post*, these officials are convinced that Hussein "has not surrendered Jordan's ability to reemerge as a major player in negotiating the future of the West Bank."

Meanwhile, it's not yet fully determined how far Hussein will go in cutting loose from the West Bank.

Since the 1967 Israeli takeover of the area from Jordan, the Jordanian government has been permitted to carry out and partially finance various administrative functions — all within the framework of Israeli military rule. Jordan's monarchy took over the Palestinian West Bank shortly after Israel was established in 1948.

Currently, about 5,000 government workers are paid by Jordan. Another 16,000, mostly teachers, receive a low wage from Israel and a \$100-a-month bonus from Jordan. All of these Jordanian payments are now being terminated.

A \$1.3 billion development plan for the West Bank was also canceled.

Responsibility for administering public schools, which Israel left to Jordan, will apparently continue.

A PLO representative said the Hussein regime had agreed to keep open the Jordan River bridges, which are a key means of travel for West Bank residents, and would not cancel the Jordanian passports that many in the West Bank carry.

Discussing these developments, a dispatch to the August 14 *Washington Post* observed that the Jordanian role in the West Bank has "also helped the Israelis, who have reaped the security and economic benefits of controlling the territory but avoided much of the liability of taking charge of the everyday lives of 850,000 West Bank Palestinians."

"At times," the dispatch added, "Israeli and Jordanian purposes have meshed in the shared goal of keeping down the level of

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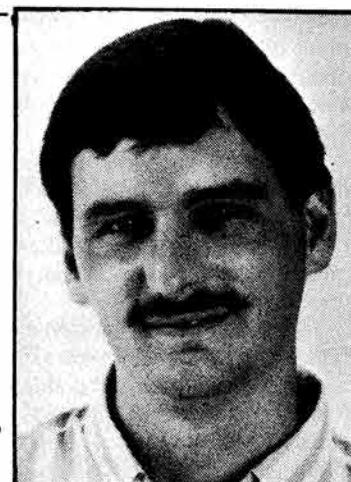
Des Moines-
Iowa

**Come to 2nd
international
defense rally for
Mark Curtis**
Political activist
framed up on rape charges
& beaten by Des Moines cops

Sunday, September 4, 2 p.m.
Des Moines Convention Center
5th and Grand

Speakers:

Neo Mnumzana chief representative to the United Nations of the African National Congress of South Africa • **Piri Thomas** Puerto Rican author and poet • **Roger Allison** director of Missouri Rural Crisis Center • **Héctor Marroquín** Mexican-born socialist fighting for permanent residence in the U.S. • **Mark Curtis**



**Coming in
our next issue**

**Fidel Castro's
July 26 speech**

Full text of speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at rally in Santiago de Cuba marking the 35th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks, which was the opening battle of the Cuban revolution.

Pathfinder rally celebrates expansion

Continued from front page

truth about the Cuban revolution since its triumph in 1959, led by Fidel Castro's July 26 Movement. Deutschmann was recently in Cuba, and attended the July 26 celebration of the revolution held in the city of Santiago de Cuba, which drew 250,000 participants.

"Pathfinder is the major publisher, outside of Cuba itself, of the speeches and writings of the leaders of the Cuban revolution," he said. "*Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* is traveling throughout the world. It is true that Che's ideas know no boundaries.

"In the coming months, Pathfinder plans to publish *The Economic Thought of Che Guevara*, *Fidel Castro Speaks About Che Guevara*, and *The Fertile Prison*, which is about the early years of the July 26 Movement," Deutschmann told the crowd.

"These books will continue Pathfinder's tradition of letting the revolutionaries speak for themselves." He also reported Pathfinder's plans to publish a collection of writings by Carlos Fonseca, the founder of Marxism in Central America and central leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua until his death in 1976; a new anthology of previously unpublished speeches by Malcolm X; and a collection of resolutions and conference proceedings from the Anti-Imperialist Or-

The 34th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party was held August 6-11 in Oberlin, Ohio, along with an International Educational and Active Workers Conference. Coverage of the week's events begins with this issue of the Militant. Further coverage will appear next week.

ganizations of the Caribbean and Central America.

"These are books for fighters," Deutschmann said, "just like Pathfinder's other new books — *FBI on Trial* and the recently reissued *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom*."

Andrés Gómez, editor of *Areíto*, also applauded Pathfinder's role in defending the Cuban revolution. *Areíto*, a Spanish-language magazine published in Miami, carries articles about the Cuban revolution and the Cuban community in the United States.

"The work of Pathfinder is all-important," Gómez said, "because it publishes the works of people in revolution."

He described how *Areíto* is distributed "house by house, restaurant by restaurant" in Miami by teams of three or four volunteers. "The magazine has gotten a good reception," Gómez said. He reported on plans for a special issue of the magazine to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, which will be in January 1989.

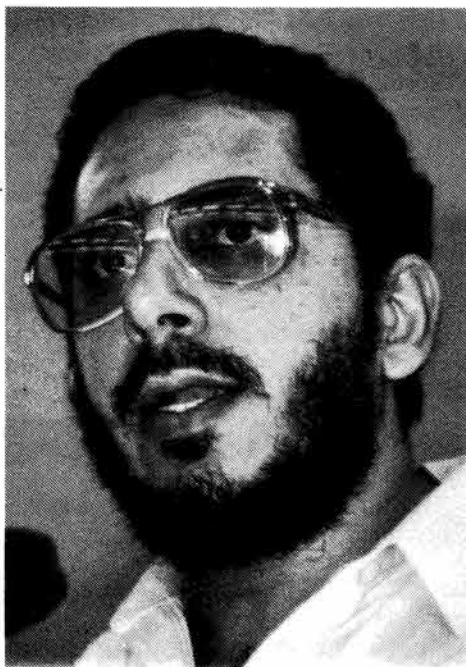
"There are very important changes taking place now in Cuba, which are termed 'rectification,'" Gómez said. "These represent a new stage in the development of revolutionary consciousness. Why is that important?"

"Because the way the Cubans build their future affects Latin America, and it affects us and the way we will be able to build our future," Gómez said. He concluded his remarks by noting the 13 years that the Cuban people have sacrificed lives and resources to help defend liberation struggles in southern Africa against attacks by the apartheid regime.

Shnookal described the expanding distribution of Pathfinder publications throughout the Philippines.

"This began four years ago, when [Ferdinand] Marcos was still in power," she explained. "Since we started, Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia has held successful public book launchings in the Philippines for *Fidel and Religion*, *Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*, and *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*. These book launchings have become major political events.

"And at the last two Manila book fairs, the Pathfinder bookstall was among the most popular. People had to queue up to



Militant photos by Arthur Hughes
Grenadian revolutionary leader Don Rojas.

get in; some would come back day after day. People would pool their resources to buy books together," she described. To satisfy the demand for its titles in the Philippines, Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia has arranged for less expensive editions of several books, including *Fidel and Religion*, to be reprinted by Philippine publishers.

She also reported on the extraordinary response to a Spanish-language edition of Nelson Mandela's speeches, *Habla Nelson Mandela*, in Nicaragua, Argentina, and Cuba, where it was one of the most popular sellers in 1987.

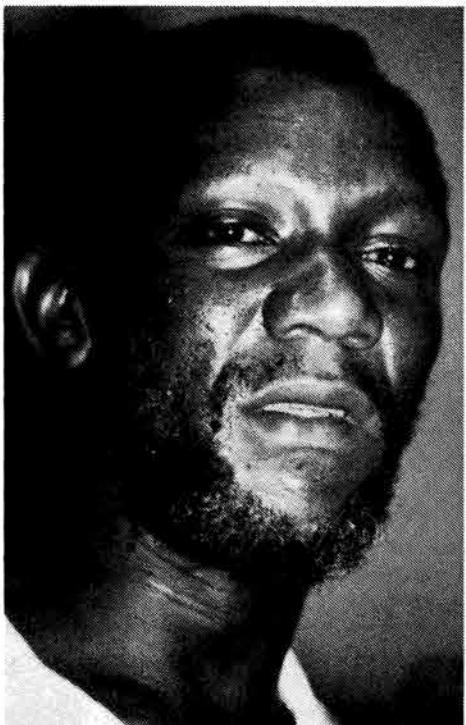
Catharina Tirsén, Pathfinder's representative in Sweden, also spoke at the Oberlin rally. She was the organizer of a successful public meeting in Stockholm earlier this year to launch *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* in that country.

"We've noticed the attraction of people from all over the world to Pathfinder," Tirsén said. "Where does this attraction come from? It comes because these books are the communist program — they tell of real battles in real life, led by real human beings trying to find a way forward.

"No one else publishes this communist continuity," Tirsén continued, referring to Pathfinder's exhaustive series on the history of the Communist International, the international revolutionary organization that grew out of the October 1917 Russian revolution. Three volumes, out of a projected 14 or 15, have appeared to date. "Some 200 people in 30 countries are helping on this project," Tirsén reported. Two volumes on the second congress of the Comintern are in Pathfinder's 1989 publishing schedule.

Tirsén also reported on plans to publish Che Guevara's speech *Socialism and Man*, along with Fidel Castro's speech on the 20th anniversary of Che's death, in Swedish.

Neo Mnumzana, chief representative to the United Nations for the African National



African National Congress leader Neo Mnumzana.

Congress of South Africa, also brought greetings to the rally. He too took special note of Pathfinder's tradition of printing revolutionary leaders' own words, not what others say about them.

"Pathfinder taught Nelson Mandela to speak Spanish," he said, referring to *Habla Nelson Mandela*. "The revolution of the Burkinabè people can never die, despite the loss of their important leader, because Pathfinder has collected Sankara's thoughts and preserved them. Sankara speaks to us from the grave.

"In 1983, after [Grenadian revolutionary leader] Maurice Bishop was assassinated, Pathfinder made sure the revolution could live and continue to speak to the people of the world" by publishing *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, the ANC leader said.

"Now Che can speak Icelandic and Swedish," Mnumzana noted. "Pathfinder is breaking down the language barrier.

"Thanks in part to Pathfinder, no authentic revolution ever fails," he concluded. "It either wins or it has its victory postponed."

Kathy Wheeler, a press operator for Photo Comp Press, the printshop that shares Pathfinder's building in New York and prints its publications, also spoke at the rally. She told the crowd about the printshop's ongoing efforts to improve quality and expand technical capacity, including being able to respond rapidly when a political opportunity requires Pathfinder to rush something into print.

Don Rojas, a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America, also addressed the Pathfinder rally. Rojas was the press secretary and personal aide to Maurice Bishop, late prime minister of Grenada. He is currently the representative in Cuba of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement.

"We celebrate Pathfinder's uniqueness as an international communist propaganda weapon — the only publishing house that makes it possible for the world's great revolutionary leaders to speak to us in their own words. For Pathfinder, publishing is a



Pathfinder editor Elizabeth Stone

revolutionary act of a profound character," Rojas said.

Rojas described first getting to know Pathfinder and the *Militant* when he served as the director of Grenada's publishing house after the 1979 revolution in that country. "Our relationship began in 1980," he said, "when the first interview with Maurice Bishop to appear in the United States was printed in the pages of the *Militant*. The *Militant*, Pathfinder, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* have covered the Grenadian revolution consistently, even after the [1983] overthrow. The truth about [Bernard] Coard's counterrevolution, the U.S. invasion, and the efforts to rebuild are told by the *Militant*," Rojas said. He noted that Pathfinder published *Maurice Bishop Speaks* just a couple of months after the overthrow.

Toward the end of the evening, the program was interrupted for a special announcement. John Studer, director of the Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee, reported that the Immigration and Naturalization Service had that day granted a waiver to Héctor Marroquín in his fight for permanent resident status in the United States. (See article on front page.)

Participants in the rally, whose enthusiasm had erupted in applause and chanting many times throughout the evening, leapt to their feet in a long, thunderous ovation. Marroquín, a Mexican-born leader of the Socialist Workers Party, has been fighting the government's efforts to deport him for more than 10 years.

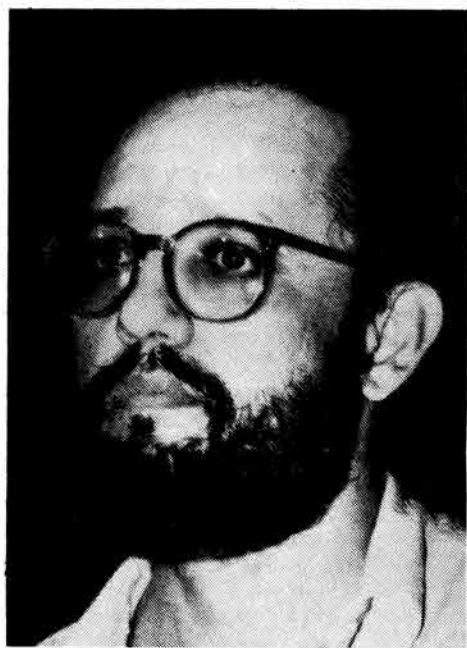
Responding to the crowd's cheers, Marroquín came up to the stage and pledged both to finish his fight for permanent residency and to use his energies to fight on behalf of Mark Curtis, a unionist who is being framed up by the Des Moines cops for his political activities and socialist views.

Elizabeth Stone, editor of the Pathfinder collection *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, was the evening's final speaker.

"Marroquín's victory," Stone said, "shows what we can do. We have to continue to expand the work of Pathfinder. We have to raise the largest fund ever — \$250,000." The fund drive will run until December 1.

"The more successful Pathfinder is in expanding the distribution of its books and pamphlets," she continued, "the more money we need."

The response to Pathfinder's appeal for funds from rally participants was immediate and generous. That night alone, \$163,000 was pledged or donated, getting the drive off to a strong start.



Areíto editor Andrés Gómez

New issue of 'Areíto' covers human rights, religion in Cuba

The third issue of *Areíto*, a magazine published by Cubans in the United States that recently began appearing again in Miami, includes an analysis of the debates on Cuba at the 44th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The U.S. government's accusations against Cuba were rejected at the March meeting of the commission in Geneva, Switzerland. *Areíto* describes the campaign of disinformation carried out by Washington and the adoption of Cuba's proposal to have a team of observers visit the country's prisons and report back to next year's meeting of the UN body.

The coverage includes an interview with Raúl Roa Kourí, Cuban vice-minister of foreign relations, by *Areíto* editor Andrés Gómez, who reported on the debates at Geneva.

The bulk of the July issue is devoted to a series of articles on the influence of Afro-Cuban religions on Cuban history and culture.

Areíto first appeared in Miami in 1974, but right-wing threats forced it to move to New York, where it was published until 1985. It returned to Miami in mid-1987.

Other features are an interview with Guillermo Ungo, president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, as well as an interview with an opponent of the Turkey Point nuclear power plant in Florida.

Subscriptions to *Areíto* for the United States and Puerto Rico are \$12 for four issues or \$26 for 10 issues. To order, write *Areíto*, Inc., P.O. Box 44-1403, Miami, Fla. 33144.

Cop riot in N.Y.'s Tompkins Square Park stirs broad protest

Continued from front page

from the Ninth Precinct in the Lower East Side began periodically clearing Tompkins Square Park at 1:00 a.m. They were enforcing for the first time a curfew that is on the books for all New York City's parks, but which — until now — has only been enforced at Washington Square and Stuyvesant parks. Complaints by neighborhood associations about noise from the park preceded the cops' move.

A small rally to protest the curfew took place in the park July 30. Cops broke it up, injuring an unknown number of people and arresting four. The August 6-7 protest against the curfew was then called.

By 11:00 p.m. Saturday night, August 6, some 100 cops, including 11 on horseback, were massed in the three-square-block, tree-filled park. "It's time to bring a little law and order back to the park and restore it to the legitimate members of the community," Capt. Gerald McNamara, commander of the Ninth Precinct, told reporters.

A short time later, several hundred demonstrators marched into the park behind a banner that read, "Gentrification is class war, fight back." After marching around the park, most of the protesters moved back out onto the street, and by 12:30 a.m. the police had closed the park.

At 12:45 a.m., 350 more cops were called in from other parts of the city, and scores of emergency police vehicles summoned to the area. By 1:00 a.m., a low-flying police helicopter was brought into the area to scan rooftops.

Using the pretext of bottles being thrown by the protesters, the cops — headed by a contingent on horseback — charged the demonstrators at about 12:55 a.m. This began a several-hour period in which protesters and passersby alike were indiscriminately attacked and beaten by helmeted, club-wielding cops, on foot and on horseback. Some of the homeless people were also beaten.

Among those who suffered injuries were a photographer for the *New York Times*, and reporters for the *Daily News* and *Downtown* magazine. An amateur videotaper — whose film of the cop riot was shown repeatedly on television news — was also beaten.

'Kill, kill, kill'

One eyewitness described what he saw, in an account in the *New Yorker* magazine. "Police were everywhere," the article said,

"regular cops with their caps turned around, plainclothesmen with walkie-talkies, riot troops bearing Plexiglass shields, vehicles with designations ranging from 'Hazardous Materials Squad' to 'DWI Task Force,' and, just below the park's main entrance, an Emergency Service truck the size of a bus, with lamps like klieg lights aimed up and down the avenue. At one point, a detachment of mounted cops went tearing along St. Mark's [street] at full gallop.

"On First Avenue, all was chaos. Trash cans lay on their sides in the street, small groups of civilians were being chased this way and that both by mounted cops and by foot cops wielding nightsticks. The police appeared to be acting in purely random fashion, suddenly deciding to empty a particular corner or stretch of sidewalk, or, hearing an insult launched at them from the crowd, undertaking a flanking maneuver, sticks braced, as they intoned a rhythmic chant of their own: 'Kill, kill, kill.'"

Many cops had removed or hidden their badges.

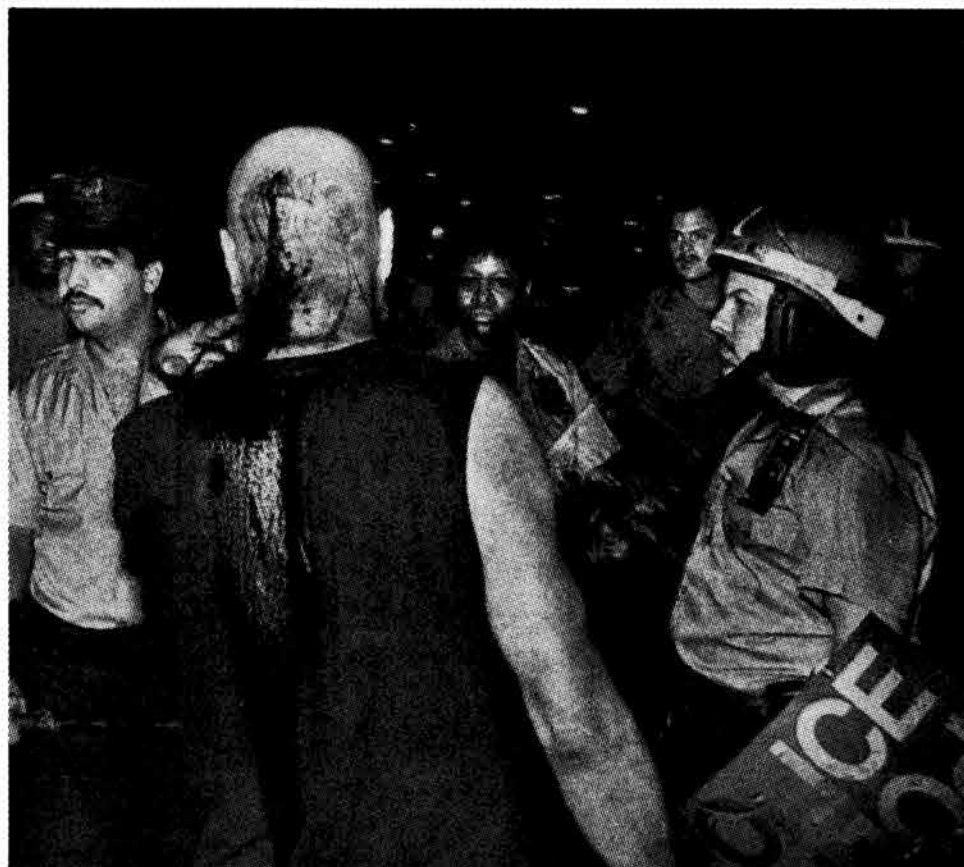
Dean Kuipers, a 24-year-old reporter for *Downtown*, was leaving the park area with Tisha Pryor, a friend who is Black. A cop behind them said, "Move along, Black nigger bitch." As Kuipers turned around, he was clubbed to the ground and beaten, his head slammed into the ground repeatedly.

The house guest of noted poet Allen Ginsburg was surrounded by six cops and beaten.

A young college student was walking in the area of the park after trying to go to a movie. He described how one mounted cop herded him around a corner. A second mounted cop came by, and "they started dragging me by my hair across the street, where a group of five police officers knocked me into the side of a parked car and then into the gutter. They beat me with their nightsticks and kicked me."

Harris Pankin, a young rock singer who lives as a squatter on the Lower East Side, was one of the demonstrators. He described being beaten about the head by a club-swinging cop. As he continued walking down the street, he was chased by three mounted police. "They pulled my hair and beat me with hands and fists," Pankin said. He kept walking. After telling two more cops to leave a woman alone, he was again set upon and beaten on the hip and in the ribs.

A young nursing student who was at a neighborhood bar with friends walked



Man bloodied in Tompkins Square Park police attack

down the street to see what was happening. She was grabbed and struck in the lower back by one cop, hit in the shoulder by another. Another told her he would break her skull if she didn't leave.

Another bystander required 44 stitches to close a three-inch gash in his forehead.

Many others told similar stories in the days that followed. By August 14, some 100 complaints of police brutality had been filed with the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Curfew lifted

Publicity about the cops' brutality stirred widespread outrage among workers, young people, and others throughout the city. On August 7, Mayor Edward Koch was forced to lift the curfew. A few days later, Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward criticized what he termed poor supervision and questionable tactical decisions by the cops at the scene. One such "questionable tactical decision" appears to have been made by the highest-ranking cop in the park, who decided at one point to return to police headquarters to use the bathroom.

A number of investigations have been launched into the August 6-7 events, including by the Manhattan district attorney, the police department, the United States Attorney, and the FBI.

Articles have also appeared in the capitalist press urging the cops to get more "crowd control" training — something the New York City police department prides itself on. The cops are also thinking of replacing their 24-26 inch wooden nightsticks with a new "side-handled baton."

Protests by Lower East Side residents against the police have also continued. On Monday evening, August 8, some 800 people — white, Black, and Latino, a majority of them young — gathered in a church near the park to hold a speak-out about what had happened.

Carrie Lobman, a young nursery school teacher who attended the meeting, said that most of those who spoke described being injured by the cops Saturday night. Many at the meeting noted that the homeless people who live in Tompkins Square Park are frequently beaten by the cops. Hostility was expressed at the meeting toward people who call the cops or cooperate with the cops, such as the Guardian Angels, Lobman noted.

Two days later, 600 community residents marched to the Ninth Precinct police station. The cops refused to meet with the demonstrators. At that point a further rally was called for Saturday, August 13.

On that day, about 500 people attended a day of protest activities that included a community clean-up of the park, a march, speeches, and music by local rock bands. Thirteen people were arrested during the course of the day and evening, on charges ranging from disorderly conduct to attempted burglary.

Social crisis

The events of August 6-7 have thrown a spotlight on the social crisis facing growing layers of working people in New York City.

Real estate speculators grow anxious

trying to fill luxury condominiums, and worry that poor and homeless people nearby may make their property less attractive. Meanwhile, more and more workers find themselves unable to afford a place to live at all.

The homeless working people in Tompkins Square Park are just a few of the tens of thousands of homeless people in the city. Nearly 30,000 are housed each night in municipal shelters and welfare hotels. Many more have no such shelter, or sleep in railway terminals, bus stations, and doorways. At the same time, there are 72,000 empty apartments in the city.

Recently released figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that 45.3 percent of New York City residents 16 years old or older are not in the labor force. For young people 16 to 19 years old, it is 77 percent.

Just a few days after the Tompkins Square Park police riot, Mayor Koch announced a new advertising campaign urging New Yorkers not to give money to people who beg. "The money you give in the street to beggars goes for booze and drugs," the mayor said, adding that many beggars are mentally ill. He went on to say that "if you want a job, a job is available. A lot of people don't want a job. They just want to sponge off society. . . . We're easy marks."

Sitting on a bench in Tompkins Square Park August 16, William Brevard, a young Black laborer, talked about what the cop riot showed. "There are deeper problems to this situation," he said. "Some people complain about the homeless, but what does it show that there are homeless people who have to come here at all?"

"What happened here is a side of America that's not being shown," he continued. "This isn't a race thing. Forget about race. You see Black and white among the homeless here. This is about the people who don't have anything — against those with money."

Ethel Lobman, Alex Winter, Michael Lux, and Yuri Kapralov contributed to this article.

ACTION PROGRAM AVAILABLE IN PAMPHLET

Pathfinder has just published "An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis" proposed by the Socialist Workers Party National Committee. With preface by James Warren, SWP candidate for president. Also includes "The Fight for a Shorter Workweek, Yesterday and Today" by Doug Jenness. The pamphlet will appear soon in Spanish.

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In Current New International:

Washington's 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation

By Larry Seigle

How government has concentrated ever more police powers into its hands to attack trade unionists, Black rights fighters, and other foes of government policies. Article describes how socialists' suit against FBI spying and disruption helped reveal and combat this undermining of Bill of Rights.

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

Integrating Caribbean into orbit of U.S. capital

The overall objective of U.S. economic policy in the Caribbean during the 1980s has been to strengthen the integration of the region's political economy into the orbit of U.S. capital and into imperialism's security zone.

Increasing emphasis was placed on the following policy elements as critical to this integration:

- International Monetary Fund-imposed structural adjustment programs on countries that ran into balance of



CARIB NOTES Don Rojas

payments difficulties (Jamaica was the classic example, but there was also the Dominican Republic and others as well);

- Developing the region as a zone of export manufacturing utilizing its cheap labor markets;
- Reversing the traditional patterns of North-South capital flows;
- Promoting "free trade," that is, opening Caribbean markets to U.S. exports where surplus commodities that cannot be sold on the glutted U.S. market at reasonable profit margins would be dumped;
- Forcing governments in the region to accept conditions attached to foreign aid that safeguarded the exploitative operations of the transnational corporations.

Stress was therefore placed on strengthening private sectors in the region and on economically supporting states that upheld the local bourgeoisie's interests (and by extension, the interests of U.S. capital) over and above those of the working people.

Governments were pressured to revise investment codes to the benefit of U.S. capital, to restructure their

tax systems, and to "deregulate" existing controls over the transnational corporations' operations. New conditions set by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) were implemented for the granting of U.S. government foreign assistance. In some cases (Grenada for example) USAID officials became directly involved in shaping fiscal and monetary policy of national governments as well as in monitoring the application of these policies.

During the 1960s and 1970s a relatively high proportion of development assistance was targeted at social welfare projects such as housing, health, and education from which poor people in the Caribbean could have benefited over time. But the political priorities in the Reagan era have been to help the Caribbean private sectors through infrastructural and industrial projects and to satisfy State Department directives that foreign aid be used "to promote economic or political stability in regions which affect U.S. interests, national security, and achievement of foreign policy objectives."

Today, even the pretense of charitable considerations plays a small part in USAID programs. "Aid is not charity, it is business," Edward Seaga, the rightist prime minister of Jamaica and a close friend of Reagan, once observed quite matter-of-factly.

The most common condition attached to aid agreements is that project purchases be made from U.S. firms, a condition which has meant that three-fourths of U.S. assistance money remains in the United States.

Furthermore, in the Reagan era imperialism shifted emphasis to bilateral financing rather than multilateral lending as a more effective means of requiring changes in regional governments' policies and preventing effective regional coordination of economic policy. Indeed, this bilateral approach is at the core of the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

In the 1980s the hitherto ignored Eastern Caribbean subregion suddenly received considerable attention from Washington, thanks to the Grenada revolution. Officials

of USAID headquarters in Barbados quite unabashedly conceded that the Maurice Bishop-led revolution in Grenada had more to do with an increase in funding to the Eastern Caribbean than aid requests from the subregion's politicians.

Since 1982, \$366 million in USAID money has flowed to 10 Eastern Caribbean nations, with postrevolutionary Grenada getting the lion's share of 45 percent of this total allocation.

In accordance with Reagan's policies, Washington chose to use its aid to encourage foreign investment and to support the already established private sectors. What was needed, according to USAID planners, was to turn the Eastern Caribbean islands into more productive export platforms for tropical produce and assembled goods to be sold on the U.S. market.

In today's Caribbean, foreign capital dominates all the leading sectors of the region's economy — banking, tourism, mining, manufacturing, petroleum, and export agriculture. The indigenous neocolonial political and economic elites shamelessly serve the needs and interests of this dictatorship of foreign monopoly capital.

Dominating transnational production in the region are U.S. corporations, which have more than 1,700 branches, subsidiaries, or affiliates, compared to 560 from other imperialist countries.

Rates of profit for the transnational corporations are high. From 1976 to 1981 the amount of investment returns leaving the Caribbean nations increased from \$585 million to \$1.3 billion. The total foreign investment income that left the Bahamas, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad in the same five-year period was four times as much as new foreign investment going into those countries.

Profits earned by the transnational corporations are either repatriated to company headquarters or reinvested in the subsidiary operations. Only rarely does the surplus generated by foreign investment enter the local capital market.

Sept. 24 rally to back Hartford 15 defendants

BY TIM CRAINE

HARTFORD, Conn. — Supporters of Puerto Rican independence activists known as the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 will mobilize for a national march and rally here September 24. The theme of the demonstration, "From Lares to Hartford, the struggle continues," links the Lares uprising against Spanish colonialism in 1868, which is celebrated each year on September 23, to the third anniversary of the arrest of the independence fighters on Aug. 30, 1985.

Fifteen Puerto Ricans and one North American are accused of conspiracy to commit a robbery and membership in or association with a Puerto Rican independence group known as "Los Macheteros." This group is described by former Attorney General Edwin Meese as the "most dangerous group of terrorists in the Western hemisphere."

In spite of the "terrorist" label, none of the accused has been charged with a single act of violence.

The demonstration comes after 18 months of pre-trial hearings before Federal District Judge Emmet Clarie. Jury selection is scheduled to begin on September 6 in the trial of seven of the accused.

The case of the other nine defendants has been placed on hold while the government appeals a ruling by the judge that disallows the use of two sets of tape recordings made

by the FBI during its extensive surveillance of the defendants.

The seven to be tried on September 6 are Juan Segarra Palmer, Luz Berríos Berríos, Carlos Ayes Suárez, Norman Ramírez Talavera, Antonio Camacho Negrón, Roberto Maldonado Rivera, and Paul Weinberg (the only North American charged in the case)."

This trial is expected to focus on charges by the government that the defendants transported money allegedly stolen during the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot. They are accused of using the money to buy toys that were given away to children on Jan. 6, 1985, which is celebrated in Puerto Rico as "Three Kings Day."

In setting the trial date, Judge Clarie ruled that jurors will be selected from the New Haven, Connecticut, area rather than from the Hartford area. In New Haven there has been little press coverage of the pre-trial hearings and the evidence of FBI misconduct that has been revealed.

Furthermore, Clarie has ordered an "anonymous" jury. The names, addresses, and occupations of the jurors will not be disclosed. They will be sequestered during their lunch breaks and driven by federal marshals to an undisclosed location at the end of each day's proceedings. This procedure, supposedly designed to "protect" jurors from "dangerous terrorists," will

contribute to the atmosphere of hysteria whipped up by the government and the media at the time of the arrests and prejudice the jury against the accused.

The prosecution has announced that it will call 400 witnesses during the course of the trial. These include many prominent lawyers, journalists, and independence activists in Puerto Rico and supporters of Puerto Rican independence in the United States. This extraordinary number of witnesses is further indication that the government's aim in this trial is to harass and intimidate the Puerto Rican independence movement.

At a news conference in New York City on August 16, the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression denounced this "latest attempt in the trial of the Puerto Rico/

Hartford 15 to intimidate and harass the Puerto Rican movement for independence."

"This witness list," said Ronald Kuby, attorney of one of the defendants, "represents an attempt by the U.S. government to force these political activists into a position where they must choose between becoming contemptible informers [for the government] or going to jail. The Puerto Rican proindependence movement has a long and honorable history of resistance to grand jury subpoenas, to trial subpoenas, and political intimidation," he continued. He said, "There is no serious allegation that any of these people knew anything about the Wells Fargo robbery, or that they were even in Connecticut during, before, or after the time of the robbery."

Haiti trade union offices shot at, looted in 2 towns

BY SUSAN LaMONT

The offices of CATH, Haiti's leading trade union organization, in the towns of St. Michel de l'Attalaye and Gros-Morne were attacked in late July, and suffered serious damage. CATH is the French-language acronym for Independent Federation of Haitian Workers.

In St. Michel de l'Attalaye, in north-central Haiti, the CATH offices were looted during the night. Materials, office equipment, and furniture were then taken to a nearby cemetery and burned.

Further north in Gros-Morne, shots were fired at the CATH office and the building defaced with graffiti. The office is near the local army garrison, but the military did nothing to stop the attack or find those responsible.

The attacks took place a few days after CATH released a statement condemning the conditions facing factory workers in Haiti and the victimization of union activists. "The system set up to suck the blood of the factory workers is getting tougher day by day," said Radio Soleil citing the CATH declaration. "Union activity is crippled in certain plants, whereas in others, the workers most involved in union activity are under attack. They are being fired in groups."

According to the radio station, the statement reported that at Haiti Fashion, "the manager mocked the workers, telling them

that the constitution has had it and the military are the only cock in the barnyard around here now. At the same factory, there are four armed men wandering around. That is why there is much anxiety among the workers there."

(On July 9 Gen. Henri Namphy announced he was getting rid of the Haitian constitution overwhelmingly approved by the people in a March 1987 referendum. Namphy headed a military coup that took direct control of the government in June 1988.)

The CATH statement also reported that a labor court judge refused to order the reinstatement of workers fired for union activity from Athletic Equipment, a subsidiary of Wilson Sporting Goods. "Many of the judges have changed their stance," CATH said, "and have come out and taken a position in favor of the employers, outright."

At another plant, workers were planning a one-hour strike in defense of seven co-workers who were fired without pay.

The statement noted an increase in "plots and underhanded dealings" against the working class, and called on workers to organize resistance.

"The path of liberation is long and difficult," CATH said. "All workers must set their heads squarely on their shoulders and hang on to their determination ... until their demands are satisfied."



Two thousand demonstrated in support of the Hartford defendants in August 1987. Trial for seven of the activists is set to begin on September 7.

Economic crisis hits Nicaragua's small farmers

BY JUDY WHITE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The economic crisis here is having a big impact on small farmers. The drain on the economy caused by the seven years of U.S.-financed war against Nicaragua and the U.S. economic blockade, coming on top of decades of imperialist domination, is being felt deeply in the rural areas of this predominantly agricultural country.

A visit to some collective farms and cooperatives on the outskirts of Managua found peasants working hard on their next crop but uncertain about their economic future.

One problem they raised comes from recent changes in government credit policy. Following the 1979 victory of the Sandinista revolution, the government greatly expanded credit available to small farmers. The banks, which were taken over by the revolutionary government, financed up to 100 percent of the costs of planting and harvesting each crop. The same held true for ranching.

This year, however, in response to the economic crisis and a growing budget deficit, the government cut the amount of credit it would provide to any farmer, big or small. Financing would be limited to 70 percent for stock raising and 80 percent for agriculture. Farmers are expected to put up the remainder from the proceeds of the previous harvest.

Moreover, in mid-June the government announced that all interest rates would be indexed according to the rate of inflation, now more than 1,000 percent a year. Previously, a flat annual interest rate had been charged, and the government lost money when farmers paid back loans with the greatly devalued currency.

In June the government also eliminated subsidies on imported agricultural supplies, drastically increasing their cost just when basic food grains were about to be planted.

"The farmers found themselves in a situation of economic, financial illiquidity," explained Francisco Gómez, president of the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) in the region around Managua. As they approached the rainy season, they suddenly didn't have enough money to buy seed, agrochemicals, and other supplies they needed, or to pay the owners of tractors who provide services to prepare the land, he said.

'Bank loans too low'

"The bank loans are very low, too low," according to Justo Morillo, president of the Arlen Siú collective farm. The farm has 11 members and 55 acres of land under cultivation. It does not have a tractor or other heavy equipment. "To plow the fields, the bank loans us 800 córdobas but we get charged 2,000 by the farmer who does it for us," he said.

Morillo also reported a problem they have with a disease affecting the corn. It would take 25 days to spray insecticide using the hand equipment they have, and by then the crop would be badly damaged. "We need to spray by air, but that costs a lot," he noted.

A cattle-raising collective farm also had problems with the new credit policy. The reduction in credits from 100 percent to 70 percent "forced us to be more careful with credit," Sebastián Araya explained. Araya is the president of the collective farm of 12 members. "We had to make a more rational use of supplies, invest more time in our work, be more efficient."

"But the change in the interest policy created chaos for the producers, especially in cattle ranching," interrupted Dolores Tablada, the financial secretary of the farm. Starting up a cattle-raising collective requires a big investment, and most supplies and equipment needed are imported, she explained.

"Before there was a guaranteed price for everything," Tablada said. But then, between the uncertainty about the prices of

imports and the changing interest rates, their collective's efforts stopped cold. "The interest under the new credit policy was simply unpayable," she said.

However, in early July, the government changed the policy again and agreed that for ranchers who breed cattle and those operating in the war zones, interest rates would not be indexed to the inflation rate.

"This removes a burden from the ranchers," commented Gómez.

UNAG proposal on interest

UNAG has proposed broader changes in the government's credit policy.

"We are in favor of differentiated interest rates on loans, according to the branch of production," Gómez said. "For example, we think that the interest charged to someone producing export crops should not be the same as the interest charged to a farmer who grows corn or beans."

Corn and beans in Nicaragua are mainly grown by small peasants using very primitive technology, whereas the capitalist farmers mainly produce export crops.

"It's not possible for the corn or bean farmer to have to pay the same interest as the export farmer, who also receives dollar incentives for his crops," Gómez continued. "So, we are in favor of there being different interest rates with the highest being paid by the farmer who makes the most profit."

Facing shrinking demand

Another aspect of the problems facing small farmers flows from the falling standard of living of all working people here. Demand for many farm products, such as chicken and eggs, has fallen sharply.

"The government says there are too many chickens being raised right now," said Rosa María Godínez Aragón. She is a leader of a cooperative of poultry farmers, and herself owns 1,300 hens and 4,500 chickens.

Small poultry farmers are being pushed to the wall because they can't sell and meet their costs of production.

To make a profit, "we have to sell the chickens when they are seven or eight weeks old," Godínez explained. By then, they have reached full size, and the farmer is just throwing money away by continuing to feed the animals. "These are already 10 weeks old and I still can't sell them," she said, pointing to some plump chickens.

And while she is able to sell the eggs her farm produces, she loses money on each dozen, Godínez added.

"Some loans were returned to the bank because our members couldn't afford to pay them back," Godínez said. The new inflation-indexed interest rate for the month of June was set at 42 percent, she explained, whereas last year, co-op members paid a flat annual rate of 12 percent.

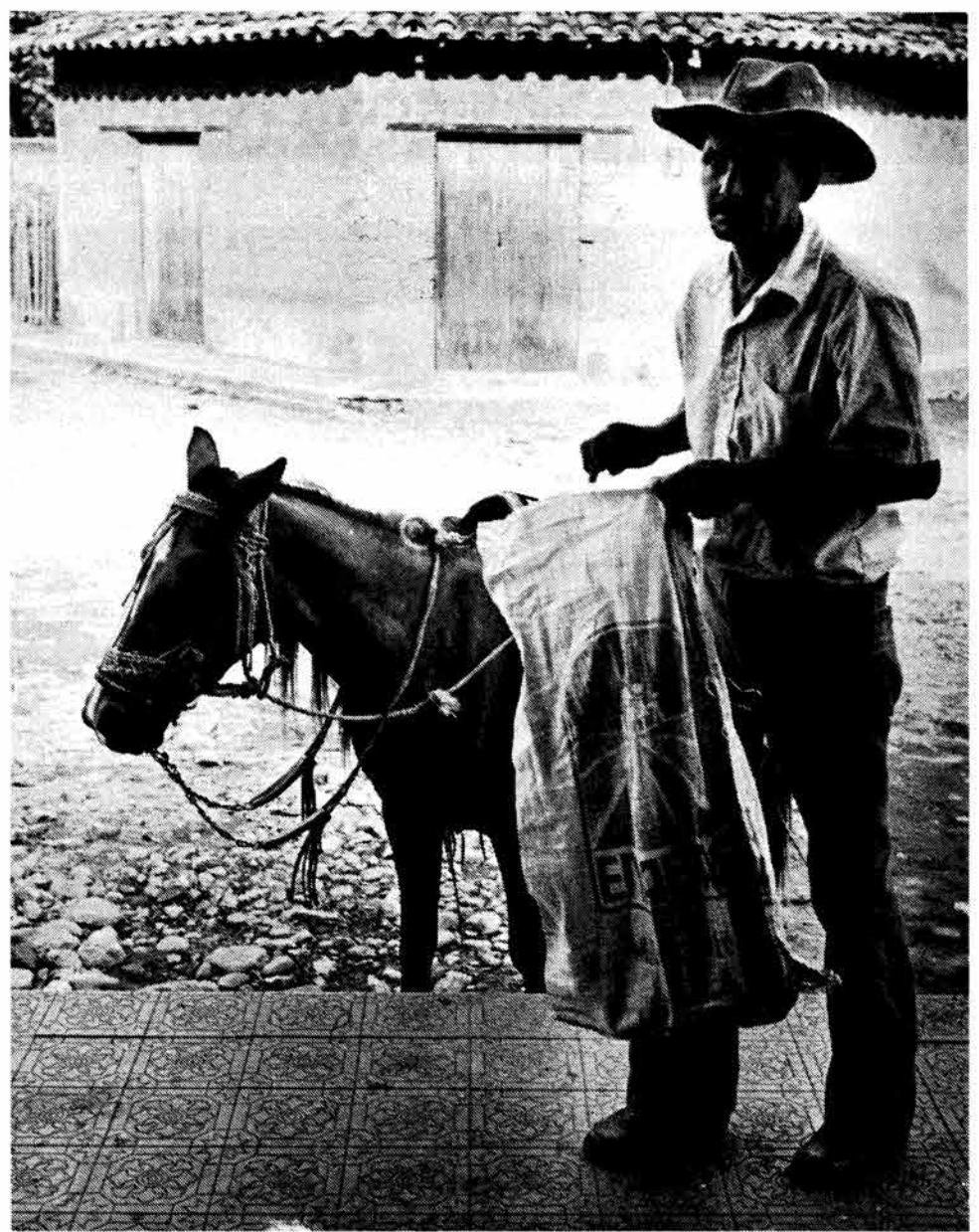
And because co-op members haven't been able to sell their poultry, they had to return two recent orders of 3,500 and 5,000 chicks to the government hatcheries, the poultry farmer reported.

Big grain crop promised

Gómez reported that goals for the season's crop of basic food grains have been overfulfilled by a projected 15 percent. In the region around Managua they had projected planting 41,520 acres and they planted 44,115. Moreover, he said, unlike the drought that has affected Nicaragua in recent years, this season has seen plentiful rains.

This is good news for the Nicaraguan people, where basic food stuffs are in very short supply. Ironically, however, the projected bumper crop of basic grains poses another problem for the small farmer.

Ramón Rostrán Mejía, the production secretary of another collective farm, put it clearly. The peasants on his farm haven't had any trouble with credit or getting the supplies they needed for their crop. Everything had been bought before the latest economic measures. They also had the land



Daymon J. Hartley

Nicaraguan peasant. Small farmers say that new measures of Nicaraguan government have created deeper hardships for farmers. Government recently cut credit, increased interest rates, and ended subsidies on imported agricultural supplies.

ready to plant. Since they have a system of irrigation, they plant three corn crops a year. They expect their yield to be up this year by about 35 percent.

"Our problem is going to be selling it," Rostrán said. "The good crop nationally is going to knock the price down." And they were counting on a high price for this crop, to be able to pay to put in the next crop — buying seed and agrochemicals at the new, higher prices.

However, despite all their problems, peasants here are not worried that they will lose their farms. They have confidence that the government and UNAG will get them out of the current difficult situation.

As the poultry farmer put it, "We depend on UNAG to help us solve our problems."

Since the revolutionary victory in 1979, the Sandinista government has given out land to tens of thousands of peasants.

Now, the economic crisis has added a new dimension to the hunger for land.

"Right now we have a big demand for

land, from workers who have been laid off," Gómez reported. Noting that even some workers who have jobs are asking for land because of their low wages, he said, "They feel that production in the countryside is really at least a way to assure being able to eat corn and beans."

The UNAG leader continued, "We feel there are three ways in which the demand for land can be met. And we must give land to those who are still asking for it."

"First, the state can turn over part of its lands to the peasant movement. We think this should be done first."

"Second would be adding more people to collective farms" that have more land than they can work.

The third way, Gómez said, would be for "those who have the most land, the big producers, to share the land with the small ones who are asking for it." He noted that some of these big farmers "are not even in the country and there are their lands — not being adequately exploited, idle."

Marroquín wins INS waiver

Continued from front page

District 39, United Steelworkers of America.

More than a dozen other prominent figures, including Congressman Dellums; Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador Director Angela Sanbrano; Darlene Kalke, director of the Center for Immigrants Rights; and Dan Kesselbrenner, director of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, had already signed the appeal.

The Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee is now asking supporters of political rights to send telegrams and letters to Van Ravenswaay at the U.S. Consulate, 360 University Ave., Toronto, Canada, M5G 1S4, urging that Marroquín be granted his green card.

To aid in mounting this final drive, Marroquín is touring the country. He is currently in Miami, attending the national convention of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union.

More than 60 delegates and observers to the OCAW convention have signed a petition urging Van Ravenswaay to "grant Héctor Marroquín his permanent residence visa" and "bring this case to a just conclusion." Among the signers are two vice-presidents of OCAW, Calvin Moore and

Robert Wages, and James Childs, director of District 4.

Marroquín has been joined at the OCAW convention by Mark Curtis, a victim of frame-up charges in Des Moines, Iowa. The trial in Curtis' case is scheduled for September 7, and he faces 25 years in jail if convicted.

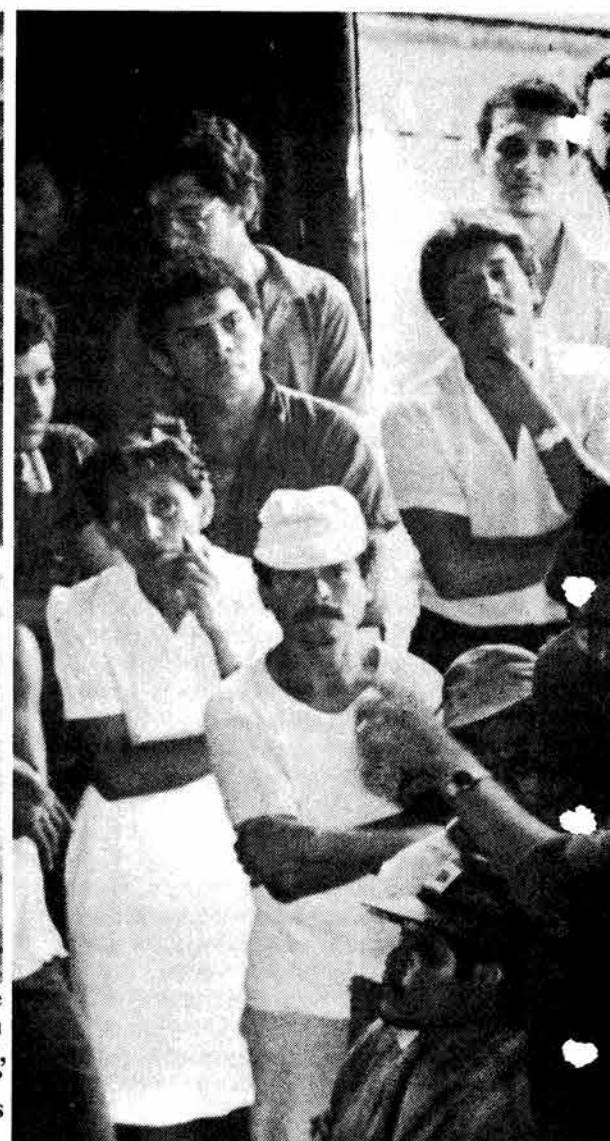
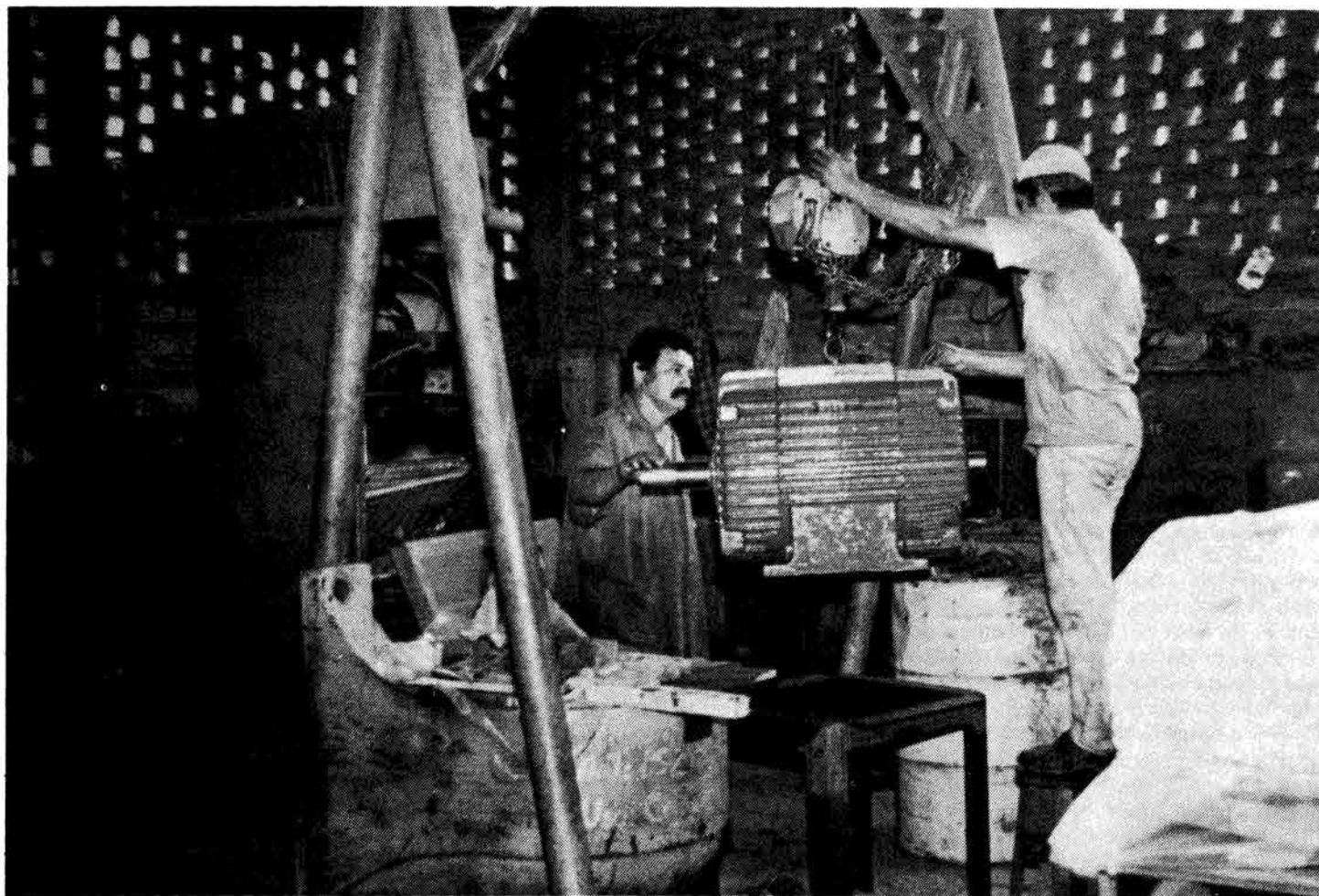
Marroquín is promoting Curtis' defense and will be one of the speakers at an international rally for Curtis to be held in Des Moines on Sunday, September 4, just before the trial. He said, "I will do everything in my power to win my green card and bring it to the Des Moines rally."

"A victory in my case will be a boost to the campaign in defense of Mark Curtis. I will continue to speak out until we can win justice for him as well."

After the OCAW convention, Marroquín is scheduled to visit Atlanta; Los Angeles; Portland, Oregon; Seattle; Des Moines — and Toronto, when the appointment with Van Ravenswaay is set.

Copies of messages sent to the U.S. consul, as well as urgently needed contributions to meet the cost of Marroquín's tour and travel to the appointment in Canada, should be sent to the Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee, Box 761, Church St. Station, New York, NY 10007.

Sandinista union launches campaign



Militant photos by Larry Seigle
San Antonio sugar mill in Nicaragua. Right, workers listen to discussion at a meeting called by Sandinista Workers Federation on July 28. Two weeks earlier, Nicaraguan government nationalized mill — the largest privately owned business in the country, employing 5,000 workers at harvest time. The San Antonio was taken over because of decline in production caused by owners' prolonged neglect of enterprise. Sandinista union delegation met with workers to plan immediate steps to begin solving crisis there.

BY HARVEY McARTHUR
AND LARRY SEIGLE

CHICHIGALPA, Nicaragua — The leadership of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) has begun to tackle the challenge of winning a majority of the workers at the huge San Antonio sugar complex to support revolutionary union policies aimed at uniting the entire working class and strengthening the Nicaraguan revolution. The CST leaders believe this political battle will be decisive in mobilizing the workers to save the mill and sugar plantation, which had been run into the ground by the capitalist owners.

On July 13, the Nicaraguan government nationalized the San Antonio mill and its tens of thousands of acres of land. It was the largest capitalist business in Nicaragua, employing up to 5,000 workers during the harvest season. Production plummeted last year due to prolonged neglect of the installations and cane fields. Preparations for the next harvest, due to begin in November, were months behind schedule when the government acted.

On July 28, CST National Secretary Lucio Jiménez led a union delegation to the San Antonio complex to meet with workers and plan immediate steps to begin solving

the crisis there. The delegation included several members of the CST national executive committee, as well as union leaders and a factory director from six state-owned metal and garment factories, and three state-owned sugar mills.

Jiménez and the others arrived at midnight and stretched out on the floor of the union hall to get a couple hours' sleep. By four in the morning, they were up to start a round of meetings with mill and field hands.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) is relatively weak and isolated among San Antonio workers. Although the local union is affiliated with the CST, many workers look to the Federation of Trade Union Unity (CUS) for leadership. The CUS has close ties to the officialdom of the U.S. AFL-CIO, and functions in an alliance with anti-Sandinista parties and capitalist business associations.

Bosses backed reactionary union

The CUS has had the backing of the San Antonio bosses in its competition with the CST. Management victimized workers who supported the revolution, including by denying them promotions. And the bosses took advantage of paternalistic relations, based on relative privileges granted to sections of the work force, to promote the CUS.

One-third of the workers lived in company housing where they paid no rent, and received water and electricity free. The huge complex also has its own schools, hospital, movie theater, and baseball stadium.

San Antonio workers have been receiving a large amount of sugar in addition to their money wages. Some they use for their own consumption, but most they sell on the market, where it commands a high price. Each San Antonio worker receives 16 pounds a month, plus eight pounds more for each member of his family. In contrast, most Nicaraguan families are lucky to be able to buy a few pounds a month.

These relative privileges helped lay the basis for the San Antonio bosses and reactionary currents in the labor movement there to influence many workers.

"We have to recognize reality," Lucio Jiménez explained at an assembly of workers in the sugar-processing plant. "We are very aware that backward ideology prevails at this company. It has had 98 years of bourgeois, capitalist influence from the

Pellas family." The Pellas' are the former owners of the San Antonio business.

The CST is now organizing volunteer brigades of workers from other factories to work at the San Antonio to help prepare for the next harvest. Brigades organized by the Association of Rural Workers are also participating.

The skills and productive labor of these volunteers will be important, Jiménez believes, but their political work and the example they set will be their biggest contribution. "This is a class struggle within the working class. We have to show that the revolution is the way forward," he said to the CST leaders who accompanied him on the trip.

Jiménez also expressed his view that the fight to win the San Antonio workers to revolutionary perspectives cannot be based primarily on promises of bonuses for higher productivity. "If we rely on material incentives to raise productivity this month, what can we do to motivate the workers next month, and the month after? Material incentives have limits, but political consciousness goes on forever. It reproduces itself. With sufficient consciousness, it is possible to save the mill. Without it, the San Antonio will collapse."

Leadership challenge

The magnitude of the leadership challenge facing the revolution was manifest at the meeting the CST delegation held with workers from the processing plant. Some 200 mill hands gathered around an impromptu stage in an open area on the ground floor of the mill. Another 200 workers gathered at the back of the open area, but refused to come near the speakers' platform. Throughout the meeting, the divisions were evident between those who agreed with the CST leaders' proposals, those who vociferously disagreed, and those who had not yet made up their minds.

The assembly began with several union stewards presenting lists of tools and materials urgently needed for repair work before the next harvest. Many were simple items, such as welding rods, emery paper, files, and wrenches readily available in Nicaragua, but that the Pellas administration had not purchased.

Víctor Sevilla, president of the San Antonio local union, reported that the union is seeking wage increases for the skilled workers, and that the new state-appointed director has agreed to maintain subsidies

for the goods sold in the company commissary. These measures were greeted with a scattering of applause.

Sevilla's next point brought forth protests from some workers, however. He proposed that each worker give the union two pounds of sugar a month from their individual allotment. The union would take the sugar to peasant collective farms or cooperatives and trade it for rice and beans, which would then be distributed to the San Antonio workers. Sevilla then called for a vote on the proposal.

Most workers declined to express any opinion. Eight cautiously raised their hands in favor. One, a CUS activist, vigorously signaled his disagreement, and went up to the speakers' platform. Sevilla gave him the microphone.

"The provisions we get now aren't enough," he said. "We need that sugar at home. The government should give us more food without taking any away!" he asserted, as part of the meeting burst into cheers and applause.

Another San Antonio union leader spoke next, stressing that the proposal was aimed at getting more rice and beans for the mill workers. And, he added, the peasants didn't have any sugar and were eager to trade.

One of the visiting unionists, a worker at the Agrotex garment plant in Granada, took the floor to say they had not had any sugar for months. "Wouldn't the San Antonio workers share their sugar with us? We'll trade some of the clothing we produce for sugar," she said.

The CUS activist took the mike again. "Our problem isn't with other companies," he said. "It's with the government. The government has taken over the San Antonio, and we work for the government now. So let the government give us the sugar and other provisions we need!"

The CUS speaker again received applause, and there was no more discussion of the sugar-for-rice-and-beans proposal.

Volunteer work brigade

During the assembly, local union leader Jorge Martínez announced that 16 mill workers had agreed to form a brigade to do volunteer overtime work on the weekends to help catch up on overdue maintenance. The mill has a total of 800 workers.

The idea of the brigade was greeted with hostile comments by some of the workers at the meeting. "What about money?" one

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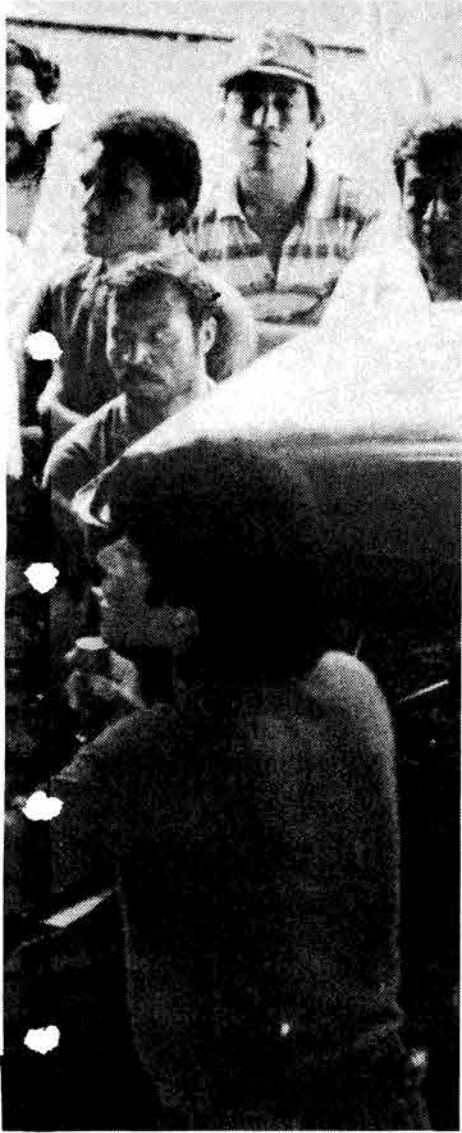
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to win over workers at big sugar mill



said to those standing near him. "No one's talking about how much money we're going to get."

"They just want us to work more for nothing," another muttered.

Lucío Jiménez then urged Martínez to read aloud the names of the volunteers and have them stand in the front where everyone could see them. Martínez did so, and added that all the local union executive board and all FSLN and Sandinista Youth members who had not signed up on the initial list would also be part of the brigade. He then called for more volunteers, and eight workers stepped forward.

Plutarco Ramos, a cane cutter with 25 years at the San Antonio, took the floor next. Ramos was recently honored as the foremost cane cutter in all of Nicaragua, winning his machete to cut 12 tons a day during the last harvest.

"We peasants and workers have struggled hard to produce," he began, "but the Pellas administration didn't do anything to keep up production. They didn't have the cane weeded properly, and didn't buy rat poison to put in the fields. And then they blame the government for their problems."

Ramos concluded with a call for everyone to work together and to join the volunteer work brigade in the mill.

Revolutionary workers get support

Lucío Jiménez then took the microphone to close the assembly. The meeting quieted down as nearly everyone paid close attention.

"There are two positions held by workers here," he pointed out. "There are workers who want to resolve the problems from a class point of view, that is, by offering their efforts and their sacrifices. They want to unite their efforts with those of the rest of the working class."

"Then there are those who don't want to join in the sacrifices others are making. They don't want to make a contribution so we can move forward."

Jiménez demonstratively called the members of the volunteer brigade to the front again. "The revolutionary position has been reaffirmed in this assembly," he said. "These are *compañeros* who are going to take charge of advancing not only this sugar mill, but of advancing the interests of the revolution."

Starting the next weekend, the CST leader continued, workers from other factories would be coming to help plant cane and repair the San Antonio's machinery.

Some would come for a few days, others to stay for several weeks.

These workers are not coming to get an extra sugar quota, Jiménez stressed. "You'll see on Sunday that there are other workers who, without any material interest, are joining unconditionally in the great efforts of the revolution to advance the sugar harvest."

Jiménez then spoke directly to the brigade members standing in front of the meeting. He made it clear to everyone that the CST nationally will aid and collaborate fully with those San Antonio workers who are ready to begin the fight of bringing revolutionary consciousness and initiatives into the union there. The CST "will help you transform the reality here," he said, including in the struggle against the "backward ideology" held by many mill workers. "In this fight, you will have the support of the Nicaraguan working class, including the support of the most advanced work brigades in the country."

At this point, a majority of the workers who were standing near the speakers' platform suddenly turned their backs to Jiménez and walked away. Some muttered angrily under their breath, and others yelled "No, no!" as they left.

This group joined the workers who had been standing in the back from the beginning of the assembly. They quickly formed a line at the mill's exit. It was then almost lunchtime, and they demanded to be let out, chanting "Open the gate," and effectively ended the meeting.

'Make revolutionary decisions'

Earlier that day, before dawn, the CST delegation had gone into the cane fields to meet with 200 field hands. These workers were also divided in their response to the CST perspective.

Union representatives from the field crews raised two demands: they needed more rubber boots for working in the muddy fields, and they wanted lower production norms for weeding the cane.

Local union president Víctor Sevilla announced that the new administration would make special efforts to buy the boots. As for the norms, he reported that the company agreed the fields were badly overgrown. Weeding will now be classified as "heavy" or "super heavy," depending on the field. This meant the workers would be expected to cover less ground per day, he said.

In addition, union representatives and field foremen were now authorized to adjust the norm on the spot, depending on their judgement of the condition of each field.

A union leader from the state-owned Germán Pomares sugar mill spoke next. That mill had also been badly run down by its capitalist owners, he said, and the workers had to work very hard over the years since it was nationalized to keep it operating. Through their efforts, however, they have maintained production and made some improvements in their living conditions.

Today, he said, most of the workers at the Germán Pomares exceed their production norms and work each day from dawn until two or three in the afternoon. He urged the San Antonio workers to make similar efforts.

This speech was greeted with derisive laughter by a few of the San Antonio workers. Their work day now ends at 10 or 11 in the morning. "They should lower your norm!" one yelled to the Germán Pomares representative.

No volunteer work brigades have been organized among the field hands, though the union representatives said they will do so.

Lucío Jiménez urged the workers to pitch in to save the next harvest. "You should know that the people of Nicaragua support the nationalization, and are ready to give all the help necessary."

"I don't think it would be good news for the Nicaraguan people to hear that the work norms are being reduced here," he continued. "It could be good news, however, if we adjust the norms to meet the conditions of the fields, but then a brigade of workers arises that is ready to make ex-

traordinary efforts to raise production."

Workers from the Germán Pomares and other mills are preparing to send brigades to work in the fields, he said. The Association of Rural Workers already has a volunteer brigade working at the San Antonio. Jiménez urged the workers to share experiences and engage in a fraternal competition with these brigades to see who can produce the most.

He also took up the role expected of the union leaders at the San Antonio. "We're going to ask them to come here to the fields with you to make revolutionary decisions on the spot about the amount and quality of work to do. And we need to make revolutionary decisions, because it is possible to make nonrevolutionary decisions about the amount of work to do."

The "enemies of the revolution" hope the workers will prove unable to run the San Antonio complex, Jiménez said. "The decision is now in our hands as to whether or not we meet the production plan." It is up to the working class to "demonstrate that, with our labor, we can build a better future for the coming generations."

Garage workers make commitments

The most positive response the CST delegation got that day came from several hundred workers at the vehicle repair garages. They maintain hundreds of trucks, tractors, trailers, and harvesters.

Workers reported the garages are way behind schedule in preparing for the November harvest. Only 10 out of 229 cane trailers have been repaired, they said. They are short of everything from welding rods to electrical tape.

Visiting unionists from several metal-working plants immediately volunteered to send supplies and skilled workers to help out. Miguel Pérez, secretary general of the union at the EMEMSA trailer factory near Managua, said they could repair 50 units in their plant, and also send a full-time brigade to work in the San Antonio garage.

These pledges were greeted with applause by most of the workers at the meeting.

Orlando Blanco, a veteran electrician, announced that 22 garage workers had just organized a brigade to do volunteer labor. The meeting applauded when the newly appointed director of the repair facilities announced that he too was joining the brigade. Blanco then called for more volunteers, and eight workers stepped forward.

Enrique Gómez took the floor next. He is supervisor of the agricultural machinery division, and has worked at the company for 28 years.

"I think the government should have

taken over the business two years ago," he said. "Now, the cane fields are a disaster, some haven't even been planted at all and the irrigation canals are collapsing. We'll be lucky if we can match last year's output."

"The Pellas family had it good here, but the workers had nothing," he continued. "Now we're at a new stage. We should think of the future and all work together to keep the mill working."

Gómez then proposed that the workers donate two pounds of their monthly sugar allotment to a special fund. This sugar would be given to the workers from other companies that come to the San Antonio to help out, he said.

With this gesture, "we'll show that we're honest workers, that we're really willing to work," Gómez said. This proposal was put to a vote, and a majority applauded and raised their hands in favor.

Like Gómez, many of the administrators and technical staff have stayed at their posts since the San Antonio was nationalized. The government is encouraging them to keep their jobs, and has promised to maintain the salaries and benefits they received under the Pellas management.

The CST supports this policy. The union seeks to collaborate with all the technicians willing to help produce. "We must give them our backing, and treat them like one of us," said Lucío Jiménez.

CST leadership promises help

At the end of the day, Jiménez checked with the other union leaders on the delegation to review their commitments.

The EMEMSA representative promised to bring 60 workers that weekend to plant cane, as well as organize a long-term trailer-repair brigade. Workers from the IMEP metal-working plant will come the following weekend to do field work, and IMEP will send welders and other skilled metal workers in a brigade. The Germán Pomares sugar mill is organizing a team of experienced field workers. And a representative of the Nicaraguan Women's Association (AMNLAE) from Chichigalpa promised 15 women to work in the fields on weekends.

Jiménez pledged he and other national leaders of the CST will be back every two weeks to see how things are going.

The nationalization of the San Antonio company "has aroused great hopes among the Nicaraguan people," he said. "We'll show that we are capable of taking charge not only of the San Antonio, but of all of Nicaragua."

"We'll show that we are capable of overcoming the underdevelopment and poverty we suffer. Nicaragua will be an example for all of Latin America."

Pathfinder at the Managua Book Fair



Militant Judy White

Habla Nelson Mandela, Pathfinder's Spanish-language collection of speeches by the imprisoned anti-apartheid leader, was the best-seller at the Pathfinder's table during the Managua Book Fair in July. Pamphlets on women's rights and a Spanish-language pamphlet with speeches by Malcolm X also sold well.

Angola, Cuba, S. Africa set cease-fire

BY SAM MANUEL

The governments of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa have agreed to a cease-fire in the fighting between their troops in Angola and Namibia. A South African newspaper *The Citizen* also reported that a senior defense ministry official in Pretoria confirmed its troops in southern Angola were withdrawing south towards the Namibian border.

A group of representatives of the three countries and the U.S. government, which will oversee the cease-fire, met near the Angola-Namibian border August 15.

The cease-fire is part of an agreement reached during discussions between representatives of the four governments held in Geneva, Switzerland, the first week of August. The steps agreed upon in Geneva represent a significant advance in the ongoing

this year in the strategic battle for the southeastern Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale. Angolan, Cuban, and South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) troops have followed through on this victory, sweeping South African and UNITA forces from much of the area they occupied in southern Angola.

The Geneva meeting was the latest in a series of talks between the four governments, which began in May. They are scheduled to meet again during the week of August 22. A representative of the Soviet government participated in two of the previous meetings and was in Geneva but did not attend the negotiations.

SWAPO, which has led a 22-year political and armed campaign against South African occupation of Namibia has said that it would halt combat operations September 1 if South Africa observed the cease-fire. A UNITA spokesman in Washington declared that the contra group would continue fighting, saying, "It would be most unwise for us to stop fighting just because of a joint statement."

Neither SWAPO nor UNITA have been participants in the negotiations and are not signers of the latest set of agreements.

The Angolan and Cuban governments have proposed four points on which a political settlement of the war could be reached. They are withdrawal of South African troops from Angola, recognition of Angolan sovereignty, independence for Namibia and withdrawal of South African troops from that country, and an end to U.S. and South African aid to UNITA.

According to news summaries of the Geneva agreement, South African troops are to be withdrawn from Angola by September 1. At that time Angola and Cuba would present a timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola. If all parties agree on the timetable, implementation of a United Nations plan for Namibian independence would begin on November 1.

On Feb. 1, 1989, South Africa would complete the withdrawal of an estimated 50,000 troops from Namibia. The apartheid regime would be allowed to keep 1,500 troops at two bases in southern Namibia. The status of the 24,000-strong South-West Africa Territorial Force, made up of Black soldiers from Namibia trained by the South African military remains unresolved.

A 7,500-member UN force would be sent to Namibia February 1, remaining



Cuban internationalist volunteers played important role in driving South African occupation troops out of much of southern Angola, thus weakening apartheid regime's grip on Namibia.



negotiations aimed at reaching an agreement to end the U.S.-South African sponsored war against the people of Angola and to achieve the independence of South Africa-ruled Namibia.

Thousands of South African troops invaded Angola in 1975 along with units of the Angolan counterrevolutionary group called the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The invasion was defeated with the aid of thousands of Cuban internationalist troops who have remained in Angola ever since in order to defend the country.

Cuito Cuanavale

South African and UNITA troops suffered a crushing defeat at the end of March

until elections in early June. The elections would establish a national constituent assembly that would draw up and adopt a constitution for an independent Namibia.

Timetable for Cuban withdrawal

In announcing the agreement, South African government officials stressed that its implementation was dependent on agreement on a timetable for withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. They have demanded that Cuban troops be withdrawn before the June 1989 elections. Angola and Cuba have said the withdrawal of Cuban troops could be completed in four years.

The South African-appointed administrator in Namibia, Louis Pienaar, has proposed that segregated local elections in which the vote of whites would be decisive take place before the UN-supervised elections next June. Pienaar has also opposed a draft constitution drawn up by the apartheid-sanctioned interim administration that provides for a one-person, one-vote system. Nearly 90 percent of Namibia's popu-

lation of 1.1 million is Black.

In addition to backing the South African government's demand for a quick withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, Chester Crocker, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs has insisted that the Angolan government negotiate with UNITA. The Angolan contra group has received \$30 million in military and other aid from Washington over the last two years. Crocker said that the U.S. government would continue sending arms to UNITA as long as the Angolan government received military supplies from the Soviet Union.

Manuel Pedro Pacavira, Angola's representative to the UN, rejected negotiating with UNITA and called Crocker's remarks "an interference in the internal affairs of Angola." The Angolan government does grant clemency to members of UNITA who lay down their weapons and several past leaders of the contra group hold positions in the Angolan government.

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Hundreds protest killing of disabled Black by Toronto cops

BY MAGGIE TROWE

TORONTO, Canada — Hundreds of angry people marched here in sweltering heat August 13 to protest the police killing of Lester Donaldson.

Donaldson, a 44-year-old Jamaica-born Black man, had been disabled after being shot by Toronto cops last April. He walked with a cane and needed help going up and down the stairs of his boarding house.

He was sitting on his bed August 9 when four cops entered his room. Constable David Deviney shot Donaldson in the chest and abdomen at short range. Donaldson died in the hospital that night. The police claimed he had a knife.

Myrtle Donaldson, Donaldson's widow, told the August 13 rally that police had visited their home two days before the killing, looking for her husband. They said they were responding to a complaint that he had left lights on in the apartment building. "He was a frightened man," she said of her late husband.

On the night of his death, she went out on an errand. When she returned, police cars, SWAT teams, and ambulances surrounded the building. One police officer told her, "Lester's got a knife, and this time we're not fooling around."

The protest march was built on two

days' notice. The participants gathered at the victim's home and marched through working-class neighborhoods, where many Blacks live, to Division 13 Police Headquarters. Hundreds joined the march as it proceeded. The marchers chanted, "Murder, murder, murder," and "Two, four, six, eight, Canada is a racist state." Many motorists called out or honked their car horns in support.

Civil rights lawyer Charles Roach said, "We aren't going to let Lester's blood flow in vain. We are not going to stop until Deviney is dismissed, until murder charges have been laid, and until there's an independent investigation and an independent prosecution."

Herman Stewart, Toronto president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, also participated in the rally.

Bob Rae, leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, condemned the shooting after meeting with Myrtle Donaldson on the day before the rally.

Ontario Attorney General Ian Scott refused to convoke a civilian investigation, turning the matter over instead to the Ontario provincial police.

Political legacy of Thomas Sankara, leader of the Burkina revolution

Preface to a book of his speeches



Militant/Pat Hunt

President Thomas Sankara (standing) of West African country of Burkina Faso.

Reprinted below is the preface to Pathfinder's just-released collection **Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87**. It is copyright 1988 by Pathfinder and reprinted by permission.

BY DOUG COOPER

On Oct. 15, 1987, Thomas Sankara, the 37-year-old president of the West African country of Burkina Faso, was assassinated in a counterrevolutionary military coup by troops loyal to Capt. Blaise Compaoré. Twelve of Sankara's aides were also murdered. The revolutionary government established four years earlier on Aug. 4, 1983, was destroyed.

This book's purpose is to make Sankara's political legacy available in English for the first time; his ideas can now be read and studied. It is a contribution to all those in Africa and around the world who, inspired by Sankara's example, need to know the revolutionary course he fought and died for.

Exposed to political ideas

In 1970 Thomas Sankara, at age 20, left what was then Upper Volta to attend military school in Madagascar. While in training there to become an officer in Upper Volta's armed forces, he began to be exposed to political ideas and developments from around the world. He was living in Madagascar in May 1972 when tens of thousands of students and workers took to the streets of the capital city and toppled that country's government.

Sankara subsequently spent time in France where he came into contact with a variety of left-wing political views.

After returning to Upper Volta, Sankara became well-known following the December 1974 outbreak of a border war with neighboring Mali. Sankara was praised by the press as a hero for his role in the fighting, although he himself later characterized the war as "useless and unjust."

In early 1983, Sankara was appointed prime minister in the recently formed military government headed by President Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo. Sankara used his post

to issue strong anti-imperialist statements and to urge the people of Upper Volta to organize themselves to defend their rights against both domestic and foreign monied interests. Along with other radical-minded junior officers, Sankara came into increasing conflict with proimperialist forces in the government. On May 17, 1983, he was deposed as prime minister and placed under arrest by these elements.

Within days, thousands of young people took to the streets demanding Sankara's freedom. Some of his supporters made their way to Pô, near the southern border with Ghana, where they received military training from rebel troops under the command of Capt. Blaise Compaoré.

On August 4, these forces acted to end the military stalemate with the Ouédraogo regime. Two hundred and fifty soldiers marched on the capital city of Ouagadougou and, in collaboration with other opponents of the regime, freed Sankara from house arrest and overthrew Ouédraogo. Sankara became president of the new National Council of the Revolution. Thousands poured into the streets in celebration the next morning.

Most of the world took little note of what happened in Upper Volta that August 4. Even to those who did, it appeared to be just another in the series of military coups in that country over the previous 17 years. Thomas Sankara was virtually unknown outside West Africa.

As the political course of the new government under Sankara's leadership became known during its first year, however, revolutionary-minded people throughout the world started to follow what was happening there. It was clear that a deep-going revolution was unfolding in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Scars of imperialist domination

A French colony until official independence in 1960, Upper Volta bore the scars of modern imperialist domination imposed on precapitalist forms of exploitation. The infant mortality rate in 1981 was 208 for every 1,000 live births — the highest in the world; 92 percent of the population, and 98

percent in the countryside, were illiterate in a country with some 60 different ethnic, tribal, and language groups; the average yearly income was \$150; there was one doctor for every 50,000 people.

At the time of the revolution, 90 percent of Upper Volta's 7 million people lived and toiled in the countryside. In addition to paying a government head tax dating from colonial days, peasants performed compulsory labor for village chiefs. Only 10 percent used draft animals for plowing, while the rest used only the most basic hand tools for agriculture.

With the continual southward advance of the Sahara desert — a product of imperialist-imposed patterns of agriculture and trade — drought and famine had plagued the country since at least 1970.

To provide water for their families, peasant women made daily round-trips on foot of as much as 10 miles to reach the nearest well. Many still faced age-old forms of oppression such as forced marriages, the bride price, and female circumcision.

In the few fertile areas near rivers, thousands were still losing their sight from onchocerciasis, or river blindness, by middle age. This disease, caused by worms spread by black flies that breed in fast-moving water, forced thousands off arable land.

Upper Volta had a minuscule modern working class, made up of some 20,000 factory workers employed mostly in small-scale handicraft production and manufacturing. Even modest-sized modern industrial plants were practically nonexistent with the exceptions of some cotton and textile mills, a bicycle assembly factory, a sugar mill, a soap factory, and a handful of other light manufacturing.

Construction, public works, and transportation employed another 10,000 people. There were around 40,000 civil servants, teachers, and other workers as well.

Deep-going revolution

The democratic and anti-imperialist revolution inherited a legacy of misery, exploitation, and oppression. The new revolutionary government led by Sankara faced tremendous problems, but the road to resolving them had been opened. Committees for the Defense of the Revolution mobilized the population for massive immunization campaigns; irrigation projects; defense; school and road building; and literacy drives in the three main indigenous languages. Organizations of youth, women, and elders were initiated.

The prices peasants received for basic food crops were increased and reforestation projects were begun. The head tax was abolished and compulsory labor performed for village chiefs was outlawed. The land was nationalized to guarantee peasants access to the soil and to the products of their labor. Basic health-care services were made available to millions for the first time, and infant mortality fell dramatically, to 145 for every 1,000 live births by 1985. River blindness was effectively brought under control by 1987 through cooperation with a United Nations-sponsored program.

The tasks posed by Burkina Faso's backward class structure made the character of

its revolution different from many other democratic, anti-imperialist revolutions. At the same time, it faced a fundamental challenge common to all revolutions today: drawing the working people into political activity in their own interests. Sankara sought to lead the Burkinabè masses toward becoming the initiators of social and political change, not the objects of a government bureaucracy and officer caste alien to their lives and concerns. Despite the difficulties, real progress was made.

Sankara explained on Aug. 4, 1987, at the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the revolution, that "for the new society, we must have a new people, a people that has its own identity, knows what it wants and how to assert itself, and understands what will be necessary to reach the goals it has set for itself. Our people, after four years of revolution, are the embryo of this new people. The unprecedented decline of passive resignation among our people is a tangible sign of this. The Burkinabè people as a whole believe a better future is possible."

"We must assimilate the main lesson of this experience," Sankara said. "The democratic and popular revolution needs a convinced people, not a conquered people — a people that is truly convinced, not submissive and passively enduring its destiny."

Internationalism

Readers can judge for themselves in these pages how Sankara practiced internationalism, an internationalism completely intertwined with his commitment to defend the interests of the Burkinabè toilers.

He fought for Nicaragua's right to live in peace; for breaking all ties to the apartheid regime in South Africa; for united action to repudiate the Third World debt owed to imperialist governments and banks; for concrete aid to national liberation movements from the African National Congress of South Africa and the Polisario Front of the Western Sahara, to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front of New Caledonia. He defended the links forged between Burkina Faso and neighboring Ghana, which, like Burkina, had been the target of hostility and attack by Washington, London, Paris, and the International Monetary Fund.

Sankara publicly expressed his deep admiration for the Cuban revolution and its communist leadership and visited Cuba twice during the four years of the revolution.

In 1984 the Cuban government presented Sankara with the José Martí Order. "Our revolution reserves it for very specific cases," explained Armando Hart, a member of the Cuban Communist Party Political Bureau, in his speech at the ceremony. "It is a token of well-deserved recognition for those who have rendered outstanding service to the cause of their people, to international relations between our countries; to dignity and honor; or to the struggle against imperialism, colonial and neocolonial domination, and for genuine national liberation. You, Comrade Thomas Sankara, combine all these qualities."

Sankara electrified those who heard him

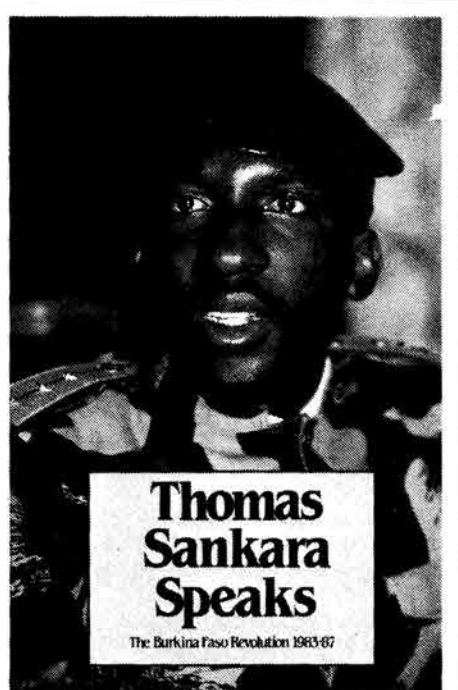
Continued on Page 13

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Thomas Sankara Speaks

The Burkina Faso Revolution, 1983-87

272 pp., plus 32 pp. of photos. \$9.95. Please include 75¢ for postage. Order from: Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014 • 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England • P.O. Box 153, Glebe, Sydney, NSW 2037, Australia • 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400, Toronto, Ont. M5V 1S8, Canada.



—THE GREAT SOCIETY—

Probably get it — Joe Adams pleaded guilty in Florida to violating the Neutrality Act by recruiting mercenaries for the Contras.



Harry Ring

The judge sentenced him to one day's probation and a \$50 fine. Adams said he would ask Reagan for a pardon.

But not to worry — "Many U.S. municipalities, squeezed by the growing shortage of landfill

capacity, have looked to incineration as the alternative solution. Mass burning of this kind, however, leaves ash residue equivalent to about 30 percent of the original waste volume. The residue, unfortunately, is sometimes so heavily contaminated with metals and dioxins that it qualifies as hazardous waste." — News item.

Making do — Vernard Gaudet, head of a Canadian brokerage house that went bust, asked the court receiver for \$6,718 a week to support his family. Which is minimal, considering the upkeep on a \$3 million Toronto home, a ski chalet, an island cottage, and a Florida condo. Plus four big-ticket gas guzzlers.

Also, it's mostly not true —

Three Labour members of the British Parliament moved that for the sake of plain English, members be permitted to refer to one another by name, not the obligatory "honorable" this and that.

Holy matrimony — Increasingly, brides-to-be are asked to sign prenuptial contracts, especially by older, richer grooms. Contract clauses may include waiver of marital property rights, inheritance rights, limits on child support in the event of divorce and, occasionally, agreement not to bear children.

Breaks his heart — "We're very sorry and bereaved that this is happening to our environment." — Jules Melnick, a Long Island swimming-pool dealer confirming that

with the medical debris and sewage washing up on the beaches, business is great.

Suggestion — Concerned about a relative handful of assaults on staff people at unemployment benefit offices, the British government favors making the waiting lines shorter and explaining benefits more clearly. Also, counters should be made harder to climb over. One idea that apparently didn't occur to them is to provide some jobs.

The Healthy Society — "You wear red high heels and you can make men bark. At the sight of them, men become befuddled, confused. Even if all you do is wear high heels at home, it makes for a better marriage." — Mimi

Pond, author of *Shoes Never Lie*.

Really? — "When top government officials seek jobs outside, it's name recognition, contacts, influence, and power that count with employers. Skills or knowledge aren't vital, says Paul R. Ray & Co., executive search firm." — *Wall Street Journal*.

Our Way of Life — A study was made of 233 whistleblowers — government workers who exposed fraud, corruption, and other crimes by higher-ups in the Pentagon, State Department, etc. Ninety percent of them lost their jobs or were demoted; 27 percent faced lawsuits; 26 percent faced psychiatric or medical referral; 17 percent lost their homes.

—CALENDAR—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Jordan's King Hussein: A Friend of Palestinians? Speakers: Tom Barton, Socialist Workers Party; representative of General Union of Palestine Students. Sat., Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

Nicaragua Today: Report Back and Slide-show of the Alabama Peace Tour. Panel of tour participants. Sat., Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Rally for Héctor Marroquín. Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, Mexican-born socialist fighting for permanent residence in the United States; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. ILGWU Hall, 675 S Park View. Sponsor: Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Picket for Puerto Rico/Hartford 15. Free Puerto Rico. Release the Hartford 15. Stop FBI Repression Against the Puerto Rican independence movement! Picket Tues., Aug. 30, 12 noon to 2 p.m., Federal Court, 312 N Spring St. Sponsor: Casa Puerto Rico. For more information call (213) 380-8749.

San Francisco

El Salvador: Eyewitness Report of the Developing Revolution. Speaker: Steven Fuchs, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 5th C.D., just returned from El Salvador. Program includes slide presentation. Sat., Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

Informe 1987 and Las Perspectivas de Victoria. Festival of videos on the current situation in El Salvador. Fri., Aug. 26, 7 p.m. Casa El Salvador, 347 Dolores St., Suite 206. Donation: \$3. For more information call (415) 553-8925.

Chicano Moratorium Day Commemoration. Speakers, food, music, books. Sat., Aug. 27, noon to 6 p.m. Dolores Park (18th and Dolores). Sponsor: Bay Area Chicano Moratorium Coalition. For more information call (415) 276-5016.

Concert for Peace With Sovereignty and Independence in El Salvador. Benefit for Salvadoran Association of Cultural Workers. Featuring Sumpul Atonal, Supay, and Kamanchaka.

Sat., Aug. 27, 7 p.m. York Theater, 2789 24th St. Donation: \$8. Sponsor: La Casa de la Cultura Salvadoreña. For more information call (415) 864-8339.

Fidel and Cuba: Two Documentaries. Bay Area premiere of Saul Landau's *The Uncompromising Revolution*. Landau travels through Cuba with Fidel, interviewing women, professionals, and workers about how their lives have changed with the revolution. Sun., Aug. 28, at 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., and 7 p.m. Also Landau's 1974 short *Cuba and Fidel* at 2 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. Speech and reception for Landau at 4 p.m. in York lobby. York Theater, 2789 24th St. For more information call (415) 824-3635.

Korea Today: Is Korea an Economic Miracle? Slideshow and talk by Minn Chung. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT

Hartford

Rally to Support Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War. Commemorate the third anniversary of the arrest of the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15. Speakers: Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Juan Segarra Palmer, Humberto Pagan, Oscar Collazo, and Lucy Santana. Will include cultural event. Sun., Aug. 28., 12 noon to 5:30 p.m. Betances Park.

IOWA

Des Moines

New Stage in the Liberation Struggle in Southern Africa. Speakers: Marian Carr, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431; others. Sat., Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

The Cuban Revolution. Speaker to be announced. Sat., Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Rally to Support Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War. Demand an end to political grand juries and commemorate the third anniversary of the arrest of the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15. Sun., Aug. 28, 5-7 p.m. Metropolitan Correctional Center, 150 Park Row. For more information call Puerto Rican Com-

mittee Against Repression, (212) 927-9065 and 795-0379, or (718) 972-7361.

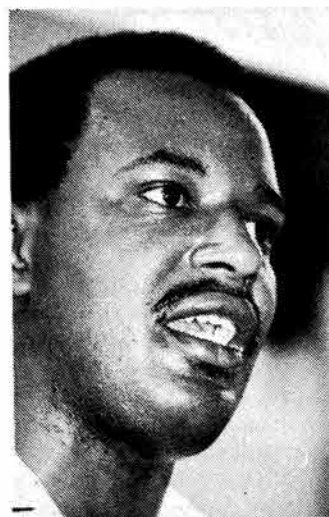
WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

The Drought and the Farm Crisis. Speaker:

Carl Kalbus, dairy farmer, member Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance; Jesse Smith, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists. Sat., Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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

Drive to win 10,000 readers opens Sept. 9

Continued from front page

tant, 1,750 subscriptions to *PM*, and 1,750 copies of *New International*.

Harmon explained the importance of communist organizations basing their public activity around the regular use of a weekly newspaper. The *Militant*, he said, as a weekly English-language communist paper, plays that role.

"Working-class political life has a weekly rhythm," he said, "that's determined by how the capitalists organize production. A weekly paper is necessary to respond to political developments in a timely way, as well as being crucial to establishing weekly sales at the gates of the mines, mills, and factories."

For these reasons, revolutionaries in a number of countries have been using the *Militant* as the organizer of their weekly activities. Harmon said this has even been the case in Sweden, Iceland, and Quebec where English is not the first language.

Perspectiva Mundial, Harmon continued, "is an invaluable Spanish-language supplement to the *Militant*." *PM* translates articles from the *Militant* and from *New International* so that they are available to the growing number of Spanish-speaking working people in the United States, Canada, Britain, and other countries.

New International and its French-language counterpart *Nouvelle Internationale*, he added, carry articles on and speeches by revolutionary leaders such as Fidel Castro that go into greater depth than space considerations in the *Militant* allow.

He said the magazine is directed at the same working-class fighters who are interested in the *Militant* and *PM*. The totality of what's contained in the six issues of *New International* that have appeared so far, Harmon stressed, are a powerful introduction to what communists have to say about the major questions facing working people around the world.

'International success'

He said that the coming drive should build on the gains of the drive that ended in June, which he described as an "international success."

More than 1,200 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *PM* and single copies of *New International* were sold outside the borders of the United States.

On any given Saturday, Harmon said, distributors in more than 45 cities around the world set up tables featuring the *Militant*, *PM*, and *New International*, and revolutionary books and pamphlets from the Pathfinder publishing house.

During the coming drive, Harmon said, distributors are planning to make a big push on selling subscriptions and individual copies of *New International* to their coworkers in the industrial unions. Thousands of unionists can also be convinced to buy a copy of the Action Program. That's because the proposals contained in it tap the growing awareness worldwide that a severe economic depression lies ahead.

"Workers want to discuss the crash, the coming depression, and the way forward. It's exactly this kind of discussion we want to have and that we need to have in order to sell subscriptions to our publications," he said.

Harmon pointed to the experience in New York in July when more than 2,000 copies of the Action Program were sold to working people who signed petitions to put the Socialist Workers Party candidates on the ballot.

PLO leader assails Hussein's move

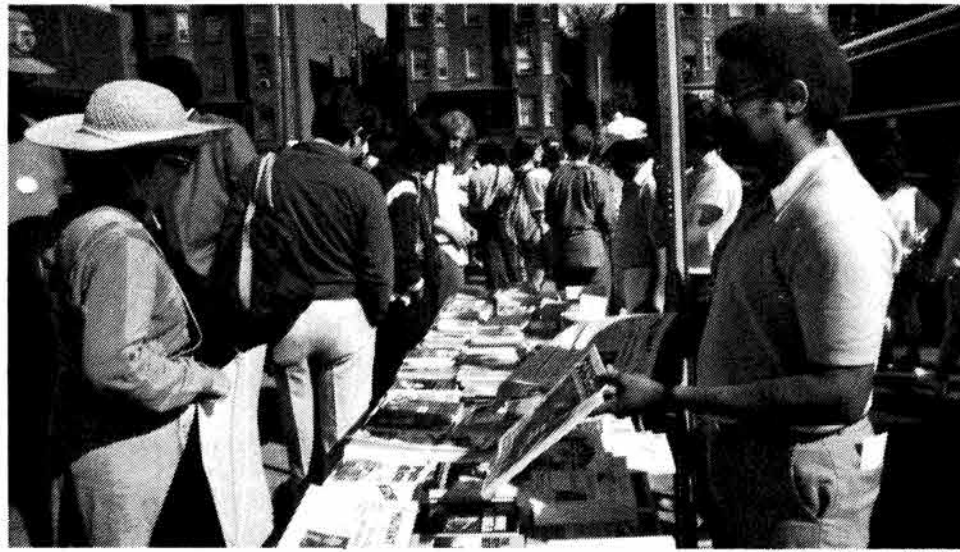
Continued from Page 3
PLO influence."

The biggest benefit Israeli capitalists and landowners have reaped from the Gaza Strip and West Bank has been the massive integration of working people from both areas into the Israeli economy.

In both Gaza and the West Bank, during the past two decades the Israeli regime has forced tens of thousands of Palestinians off the land and, at the same time, thwarted industrial development.

This drove the Palestinians to become a big, important pool of cheap labor for the Israeli rulers.

In Gaza, 65 percent of the work force is compelled to commute daily across the



Distributors in 45 cities around the world set up tables each week featuring the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, and Pathfinder books.

Harmon noted that many subscriptions sold during the last drive are about to expire. He stressed the importance of distributors in every country organizing a big effort to contact these readers and to have discussions with them about the periodicals. Through that process, many can be convinced to take out long-term subscriptions. And over time, he said, some will be drawn closer to the communist movement.

Harmon noted that during the last drive many supporters fielded successful regional teams that sold at factories, on campus, and in working-class communities outside

the locations where team members live.

He pointed to Britain where teams sold *Militant* and *PM* subscriptions and copies of *New International* to those who came out to welcome the freedom march for imprisoned South African revolutionary leader Nelson Mandela as it passed by. The march went 600 miles from Glasgow to London.

Harmon encouraged everyone to set up tables with the periodicals and Pathfinder literature on campuses that will be opening soon in a number of countries.

The National Committee of the Young

Sankara and Burkina Faso revolution

Continued from Page 11

speak in Harlem in October 1984 while visiting New York City to address the United Nations. On Nov. 8, 1986, he spoke on behalf of 180 international delegations gathered in Managua, Nicaragua, to a rally of 200,000 people commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Sandinista National Liberation Front and the 10th anniversary of the death in combat of its principal founder, Carlos Fonseca.

'We are all Sankara'

Millions of African youth identified with Sankara's implacable opposition to both moral and material corruption, his willingness to speak out and concretely defend the most oppressed, and his confidence and revolutionary optimism. He quickly became known from Accra to Harare to Cuba's Isle of Youth.

Thousands of youth demonstrated this sense of identification on the morning after Sankara's assassination, and for many days thereafter, when they gathered at the site of the shallow graves in which his body and those of his murdered supporters had been hurriedly dumped. Many placed handwritten notes on Sankara's grave with messages such as, "We are all Sankara," and "Sankara, cowardly murdered by traitors."

One week before his murder, Sankara spoke to a gathering in Ouagadougou commemorating the 20th anniversary of the assassination of one of this century's great communist leaders, Cuban revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara. "Fearless youth," Sankara said, "youth thirsty for dignity, thirsty for courage, thirsty for ideas and for the vitality that he symbolizes in Africa—

sought out Che Guevara to drink from the source, the life-giving source that Che's revolutionary heritage represented to the world." Thomas Sankara himself learned from that heritage and his ideas have added to it.

"If you kill Sankara, tomorrow there will be 20 more Sankaras," he defiantly predicted in the face of threats against the revolution in October 1983. For all those thirsty for revolutionary ideas, this book is a contribution to that tomorrow.

* * *

The contents of this book span the period from March 1983 to October 1987. Over three-quarters of the pieces are published here for the first time in English. All the speeches and interviews have been newly translated except "Nicaragua Must Be Supported by All of Us," Sankara's speech in Managua, Nicaragua, on Nov. 8, 1986, which was translated by the Managua Bureau of the socialist newsweekly the *Militant* and the monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*.

The titles under which speeches and in-

terviews appear were chosen by the editor. A small number of footnotes have been added to the end of several pieces as an aid to readers. In addition, readers will find a chronology of events and a glossary of individuals and terms.

Samantha Anderson translated and edited the book. Its publication would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance of Burkinabè and other Africans living in New York, Montreal, and Paris. They provided many items for the book and helped with difficult aspects of the transcription of tapes and the translation.

Pathfinder gratefully acknowledges the many photographs provided by the José Martí Foreign Languages Publishing House of Havana, Cuba, and Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia of Sydney, Australia; *Barricada*, the daily newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua; David Gakunzi, editor of the Paris magazine, *Coumbite*; Margaret Novicki, editor of *Africa Report* in New York; and Ernest Harsch, who also provided several of the speeches included in the book.

July 1988

his drive to crush the Black freedom struggle.

The Kennedy administration's claimed concern for justice, human rights, and racial equality was again exposed as a fraud when the United States stubbornly refused to support a motion in the United Nations by 32 African nations to impose sanctions against the murderous Verwoerd regime in South Africa.

In an August 3 speech that truly dripped with hypocrisy, Adlai Stevenson, U.S. delegate to the UN, claimed that sanctions against the South African government would be "both bad law and bad policy."

A question, please. If it's bad to impose sanctions on a dictatorial regime of racist repression, why is it good to impose sanctions on a government that has eliminated dictatorship, uprooted race discrimination, and promoted the welfare of the common people? That's exactly what the United States has done in the case of tiny Cuba.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢
Aug. 11, 1978

On July 29 the Rhodesian government launched the biggest attack in eight months on base camps used by Zimbabwean freedom fighters in Mozambique. A spokesperson for the Mozambique government said 12 people were killed and 110 wounded in the raids.

The week before, Rhodesian troops attacked Zambia. They kidnapped six schoolteachers and a number of villagers in an area where Patriotic Front guerrilla forces are active.

These acts of racist terror make a mockery of Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith's claim that his regime is moving toward Black majority rule.

Smith bases this claim on the inclusion of Bishop Abel Muzorewa and some other Black figures in his cabinet, along with his promise to hold national elections December 3-6.

But as the recent raids show, Smith is using Muzorewa's presence in the government as a smokescreen while continuing

his drive to crush the Black freedom struggle.

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interests of the Working People
Aug. 19, 1963 Price 10¢

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Image-making and the truth

Responding to the international defense effort in support of Mark Curtis, the *Des Moines Register* editors recently accused backers of the framed-up political and union activist of promoting a "skillful propaganda campaign against the Des Moines police and the Polk County attorney." The *Register* editors claim the campaign is designed to "create an image rather than expose the truth."

But they have things turned upside down. Since Mark Curtis was arrested, framed up, and beaten in police custody last March, Polk County prosecutor James Smith and the Des Moines cops have been working overtime to cover up their tracks. It is they who have tried to create an "image" of Curtis as a rapist and as someone who got injured by cops only after violently attacking them.

The day after the arrest — and on numerous occasions since — the *Register* has carried articles rehashing the police and prosecution's version of the events. This includes repeatedly stating that Curtis was "caught with his pants down" in the house of the alleged rape victim. So much for the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

If Curtis' supporters had waited for his trial to deliver justice, this is the only image of Curtis that would have stood.

Instead working people around the world have been instrumental in publicizing the facts about his case. They have explained his record as a political activist, including telling the truth about the political work Curtis was in-

volved in at the time of his arrest.

The *Register* editorial ignores Curtis' role in protesting the immigration cop arrest of a Salvadoran-born and 16 Mexican-born coworkers at the Swift/Monfort packing-house in Des Moines on March 1. It ignores the fact that Curtis attended a meeting in support of these victimized immigrant workers a few hours before his own arrest.

The editors make only passing reference to the fact that Curtis' name shows up prominently in illegal FBI spy files on the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador — as if this had no bearing on his becoming a cop frame-up target.

The editorial also ignores a series of recent revelations about the Des Moines cops dressing up in Klan robes, making racist slurs to police cadets, and sexually abusing female officers. This comes on top of the well-known reputation the police in that city have of beating those brought in for questioning. Curtis' fractured cheekbone doesn't even warrant a mention by the *Register* editors.

Supporters of Curtis are mobilizing to attend the September 4 international defense rally in Des Moines. The defense committee is urging as many people as possible to stay over and attend his trial, which begins September 7.

They are stepping up the campaign to flood prosecutor Smith with messages from around the world demanding that the charges against Curtis be dropped and that the cops who beat him be prosecuted.

Funds are also urgently needed. The defense committee has raised nearly \$55,000 on Curtis' behalf but another \$15,000 is needed before the start of the trial.

Nicaragua aid, not contra aid!

Washington has no intention of letting up its economic, political, and military aggression against Nicaragua. That's the meaning of the Senate Democrats' August 10 vote to give the contra mercenaries \$27 million.

The Senate plan includes provisions for a subsequent vote on rearming the contras, contingent on a request from the president certifying that Managua had caused "an emergency situation in Central America" that was having "a critical impact on peace and stability of that region."

The White House, Republican congressional leadership, and contra officials all opposed the Democrats' plan because it doesn't include outright military aid. The House of Representatives is supposed to vote on the package in September.

The Senate's approval of the aid bill is not designed to resurrect the contras as a fighting force. Defeated and demoralized, contra soldiers have withdrawn to neighboring Honduras where they depend on U.S. handouts of food, clothing, and medicine.

Further evidence of their disintegration as a fighting force came in mid-August, with reports that a couple thousand members of their clandestine support network have been ordered by the mercenary leaders to withdraw from Nicaragua into Honduras. The contra commanders say they are unable to feed or defend their supporters. As one diplomat in Honduras commented, "Once they withdraw their civilian supporters, they are very hard to replace."

If the U.S. senators don't believe the contras have a fighting chance, why vote to give them \$27 million?

Because, from the point of view of the U.S. ruling class, the Nicaraguan workers and peasants have committed a grievous sin. In 1979 they overthrew a U.S.-backed dictatorship, established a government of workers and farmers, and set out on the road of building a new Nicaragua, which is not under the heel of Washington, Wall Street, and the Pentagon. This sets a "bad example" — from the point of view of the U.S. rulers — for all those peoples struggling for national sovereignty.

For more than five years, the CIA funded, organized, and led the contra bands in a brutal war against the people of Nicaragua. But the Sandinista People's Army proved to be stronger than the U.S.-run mercenaries. The contras were forced earlier this year to sign a cease-fire with the Nicaraguan government.

Washington, however, will not give up its efforts to starve, isolate, terrorize, and beat Nicaragua's working people into submission. Keeping the contras alive is part of this pressure campaign.

The majority of workers and farmers in the United States and around the world oppose the contras and everything they stand for. We should all join hands to demand no aid to the contras, and that our governments provide plenty of sorely needed food, machinery, medical supplies, and other aid to the Nicaraguan government.

Out of sight, out of mind

On the east side of Tompkins Square Park in lower Manhattan — the site of a brutal cop riot August 6-7 — sits a beautiful old building called the Christadora House. Built in 1928 as an artists' settlement, it was used as a city office building for years. Community groups used to hold meetings there. Now, it houses luxury condominiums selling for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Across the street in the park, several hundred homeless people are living in makeshift tents. They are part of New York's "surplus population": the growing legions of workers who have become unemployed and homeless, and are forced to live on the streets.

Some earn a little money by selling used clothing or other objects retrieved from the garbage. Panhandling is the only alternative for others.

For the landlords who have made millions "gentrifying" buildings like the Christadora House in more and more areas of the city, and for the well-heeled residents who occupy them, the homeless are indeed a problem — in terms of real-estate values and investments.

Hence the moves by the administration of Mayor Edward Koch and the police to push New York's surplus population out of sight.

Last fall, Koch announced a program to round up homeless people deemed mentally ill and put them away. He was unprepared for the resistance he met from Joyce Brown, the first homeless person picked up. She successfully fought the mayor's move.

Enforcing a 1:00 a.m. curfew in selected parks is another way of "cleaning up" the city. That was the issue

that sparked the August 6 protest by Lower East Side residents who opposed the cops' move to close Tompkins Square Park at night.

Koch recently announced a campaign urging New Yorkers to stop giving money to panhandlers.

He has even said he is going to crack down on the unemployed workers, including many young ones, who try to earn a little money by wiping motorists' windshields when they stop at traffic lights.

In July, the Labor Department announced that unemployment in the United States stood at 5.2 percent. In New York State, the figure was given as 3.5 percent. This is hailed in Washington and on Wall Street as proof that the capitalist system is working fine. Yet a few weeks later, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that nearly one-half — 45.3 percent — of New York City residents 16 years old or older were either not working or had given up looking for a job.

The discrepancy in these figures is accounted for by the hundreds of thousands of surplus workers who aren't even counted anymore when it comes to calculating the level of unemployment. Like pushing the homeless farther away from the rich, like encouraging people to ignore workers who beg, the idea here is "out of sight, out of mind."

The problem — for the capitalists and their politicians — is the growing resistance of workers to this kind of treatment. The protest against the curfew at Tompkins Square Park and the cop riot it sparked indicates the increasingly explosive nature of the economic and social crisis.

Grafting elm trees and planting pear trees

BY DOUG JENNESS

Che Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban revolution, explained that one of the necessary steps in the transition between capitalism and socialism is to give work a new status. The role of voluntary work in this process, he said, can help point the way to working people reaching their full human condition as producers without being compelled by physical necessity to sell themselves as commodities.

Guevara affirmed that when work is not conducted simply to meet individual needs but for the benefit of society as a whole, each human being will begin to understand their full stature as human beings through the work accomplished. In his 1965 article "Socialism and Man in

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Cuba," published in the Pathfinder pamphlet of the same name, he stated, "Work no longer entails surrendering a part of his being in the form of labor power sold, which no longer belongs to him, but represents an emanation of himself, a contribution to the common life in which he is reflected, the fulfillment of his social duty."

Over time, the revolutionary leader explained, this can help create new men and women that are less tainted by capitalist society and more representative of the coming communist society.

Guevara noted that in culture and art it is easier to see the division between spiritual and material needs than it is in production. While man "dies every day during the eight or more hours in which he functions as a commodity, he comes to life afterward in his spiritual creations," he wrote.

But this remains generally ineffective in overcoming alienation in capitalist society. "It is nothing more than an attempt to escape," Guevara noted. The norms, education, and structures of the capitalist rulers, he wrote, demand "a kind of art that the artist has to be educated in. Rebels are subdued by the machine, and only exceptional talents may create their own work. The rest become shamefaced hirelings or are crushed."

Meaningless anguish or vulgar amusement become safety valves for anxiety and art as a weapon of social protest is combated. "Those who play by the rules of the game are showered with honors — such honors as a monkey might get for performing pirouettes," Guevara pointed out. "The condition is that you not try to escape from the invisible cage."

In societies where the capitalist rulers have been overthrown and expropriated, Guevara noted two problems that have arisen in regard to the role of artists and the transition to socialism.

One is lack of daring to break from the conventional methods of the past. Here he cites socialist realism, which arose in the Soviet Union under the rule of the bureaucratic caste headed by Joseph Stalin. What is sought here, Guevara stated, "is simplification, something everyone can understand, something functionaries understand. True artistic inquiry ends, and the problem of general culture is reduced to taking some things from the socialist present and some from the dead (therefore, not dangerous) past. Thus socialist realism arises upon the foundations of the art of the last century."

In the early years of the Cuban revolution, Guevara said, "the error of mechanical realism has not appeared, but rather its opposite." He said that rejecting realism and the ideas of the 19th century, artists tended to adapt to the decadence of art in 20th century capitalist society. Neither socialist realism nor the ideas of "our own decadent and morbid century" can point the way forward to the men and women of the 21st century, he stressed.

The problem "with many of our artists and intellectuals," Guevara said, "lies in their original sin: they are not truly revolutionaries. We can try to graft the elm tree so that it will bear pears, but at the same time we must plant pear trees."

The Marxist leader predicted that new generations will come forward that will be free of this original sin and "sing the song of the new man in the true voice of the people." He said the possibilities for this will increase to the extent that the field of culture and opportunities for expression are broadened.

The struggle to advance toward communist society, just as much as overturning capitalist rule, requires a revolutionary understanding, a conscious political orientation. A vanguard working-class party, whose members are educated in communism, Guevara emphasized, is necessary for this job. It is only by joining this party that artists, like workers, can truly become part of the fight for a new world order where the vestiges of class society are eradicated forever.

The only guarantee we have of producing pears is to plant pear trees.

How the media helps reinforce ruling class ideas

Inventing Reality: The Politics of the Mass Media by Michael Parenti. 258 pp. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986. \$16.95 hardcover.

BY MORRIS STARKSKY

After you read *Inventing Reality* chances are that you will never again watch television news or read a daily newspaper in the same way. *Inventing Reality* is a critical evaluation of the U.S. news media. It is a valuable contribution because it is not written in technical jargon, is concrete, and provides a wealth of information.

After a brief sketch of the essential features of capitalism, Parenti tells us that the main function of the

IN REVIEW

press is "to continually recreate a view of reality supportive of existing social and economic class power." This function is served by distorting the news so as to favor "management over labor . . . private enterprise over socialism . . . anti-communism and arms race militarism over disarmament, U.S. dominance of the Third World over revolutionary change."

Parenti explains that 10 corporations control the three major television and radio networks, 34 subsidiary television stations, 201 cable TV systems, 62 radio stations, and 20 record companies. They also control 59 papers and magazines, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Los Angeles Times*; 41 book publishers; and various motion picture companies such as Columbia Pictures and Twentieth Century Fox.

Three-quarters of the major stockholders of CBS, NBC, and ABC are banks, such as Chase Manhattan, Morgan Guaranty Trust, Citibank, and the Bank of

America. Most daily newspapers are owned by chains such as Newhouse, Knight-Ridder, and Gannett. Those that aren't owned by chains rely on the wire services and the big-circulation papers for syndicated columnists and for national and international coverage.

The media is big business and linked to big business through boards of directors and advertisers. It is in the political interest of big business to set the limits on public discourse. Even if they don't always mold public opinion, they do create what Parenti calls "opinion visibility," giving legitimacy to certain views and casting aspersions on others.

Parenti explains that the media owners do not control the news directly on a day-to-day basis. Editors, by and large, share the world view of the owners because of their background, education, and training. Reporters, eager to avoid fighting with editors and concerned about their careers, soon learn the art of self-censorship.

Since the media serves to advance the interests of their corporate owners who indirectly (and sometimes directly) dictate the politics of the press, the idea that the big-business media are objective is a myth.

Inventing Reality is best when Parenti compares the performance of the media against its own claims of independence, balance, and neutrality.

In a chapter called "Doing the Third World," Parenti contrasts news coverage of the 1984 elections in Nicaragua to those held that year in El Salvador. The media reported a democratic election in El Salvador and a "communist" sham election in Nicaragua. The overwhelming popular support for the Sandinista government was proof that the fix was in, while the heavy voter turnout in El Salvador was evidence of a "free election." The media, however, did not report that voting in El Salvador was compulsory and that there was no secret ballot in practice.

In a chapter titled "Soviet Terrorists, Bulgarian Pope

Killers, and Other Big Lies," Parenti shows how the government makes up sensational charges that are given broad coverage by the media. Yet, when the government's story gradually falls apart, the belated refutations receive only scant coverage. "The truth," Parenti tells us, "never catches up with the lie."

The power of the capitalist media to invent reality is limited in several ways. "Sometimes extraordinary events play on the public's discontent, galvanizing a kind of protest that not even the most skilled media propagandist, the smoothest education, or the slickest political leader can mollify."

The Vietnam War was just this kind of event. Parenti tells us that after first downplaying the war and the protests against it, the media began to take both quite seriously. Since they couldn't stop the mass protests and they couldn't ignore them, the media set out to discredit and contain the antiwar movement. The angle was to make the antiwar movement the issue rather than the war.

Although the media has tried to create a negative view of the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, it was unable to whip up support for the U.S. contra war against Nicaragua.

One reason that the truth sometimes comes out of the otherwise controlled media is that the control is not "formal, overt, and ubiquitous, but informal, covert, and implicit." Sometimes stories get into the media because the editors cannot see their "troublesome implications and unintended spin-offs."

Serious divisions in the ruling class are sometimes reflected in the news media. By and large such divisions are tactical, but they may open the door for public debate on the policy question underlying the tactical debate.

Inventing Reality is a valuable contribution to our understanding of how the ideas of the ruling class become the ruling ideas. It is a shame that the book is not available in a paperback edition.

LETTERS

Grenada

I am very pleased with your coverage of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement conference in the July 10 issue of the *Militant*, "Grenada fighters meet, hit attacks on rights," and in other articles.

R.O.
Austin, Texas

Medical appeal

For more than six months, the Israeli occupation authorities have been committing brutal, often barbaric, acts in the occupied territories of Palestine against the indigenous Arab population, whose only sin is a national uprising to confirm their rejection of the Israeli occupation and its unjust measures. These acts include torture, imprisonment, arrest, confiscation of land, demolition of houses, deportation from home and country, bone-breaking, and the killing of hundreds with bullets and poisonous gas.

Israeli occupation authorities are also imposing repeated sieges on vast areas, including refugee camps, which were declared military areas, thus transforming the West Bank and Gaza into large detention camps. Here the Israeli authorities exercise terror and torture, in breach of the Geneva Conventions and the Charter of Human Rights.

Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories are shedding blood and suffering hunger unto death. They are besieged in their homes for days on end, and a prohibitive media ban is imposed around them, in addition to the military siege, in order to hide the brutal practices perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities.

We, medical doctors in various fields, see in those barbaric acts an impending threat to the lofty ideals of medical, human, and academic establishments throughout the world. Acquiescence in such crimes threatens the very ideals that your people and the peoples of the world struggle to attain and preserve.

We appeal to you and to all doctors of the world to expose the inhuman Israeli practices against people who have struggled for many decades to bring an end to occupation. You can respond by

sending fact-finding committees, medical missions, medications, and other materials, as well as moral support, so that this injustice may be stopped and peace may prevail in the Middle East and around the world.

M. Abbadi, M.D.
President of Jordan Medical Association
Jordan Physicians for the Support of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories
Amman, Jordan

Latin America

Cover more in depth on the situation of the left in the larger Latin American countries — Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico.

W.H.
Pittsford, New York

Science and logic

I'm an adamant fighter for civil and equal rights for every human being, and I do believe the United States has a multitude of faults and problems, as does this whole planet.

This is why I wish to cancel my subscription — because I don't wish to be mistaken for one who endorses any utopian belief, as socialism does. Marxism is simply another "religious" ideal (without spirituality), with a lot of wishful but hopeless promises.

Capitalism isn't mankind's greatest blessing, but is no scapegoat. If one needs a scapegoat, it's homo sapiens. The only path from greed and racial and class injustice is through the study and pursuit of pure science and logic.

Sherman Paul Lundy
Mission, Kansas

For 18 years

Please renew my subscription for one year. I've been a reader and fan of the *Militant* for 18 years and look forward to each week's copy.

Michael Priddy
San Francisco, California

Rape in Sri Lanka

As Indian feminists, it was with agony and shame that we read about the Indian Peace Keeping Force rapes in Sri Lanka, reported by Amnesty International.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv

Gandhi has sent Indian soldiers to Sri Lanka supposedly to ensure peace, but they have behaved in the true tradition of all occupying armies. Instead of trying to brush this under the carpet, as India's External Affairs Ministry is doing, the prime minister should conduct an inquiry into these incidents and punish the guilty. Nothing else will teach the army to behave themselves.

We register our strong protest at the inaction of the Gandhi government and its complete indifference.

We plan to apologize to the Tamil women of Sri Lanka on behalf of the women of India. We realize that we are powerless to do more than that. But at least our soldiers should know that their behavior has created a poor impression of their alleged goodwill mission in Sri Lanka, especially among women's groups all over Asia.

Women's Centre
Bombay, India

Oliver North

Shouting "When Ollie lies, justice dies" and "Throw the thug in jail," 500 people marched in Portland July 21 to protest the appearance of Oliver North.

North is under indictment for his role in the Iran-contra arms deal. He was in Portland for a \$1,000-a-plate fundraiser.

Before the dinner, North addressed a crowd of supporters who paid \$12.50 a head to hear swipes at the Soviet Union and an appeal for "family values."

While North spoke, the demonstrators at the rally across the street heard from speakers who had been victims of the policies of the U.S. government.

Lawrence Martin Jenco, a Catholic priest, spoke of his experience as a hostage in Lebanon. He blamed the U.S. government for the increasing violence in the Middle East.

He was followed by John Linder, brother of Benjamin Linder, the young engineer murdered by the contras in Nicaragua in 1987. Linder told the crowd: "If Oliver North were on trial for the crimes he had really carried out, he would be on trial for murder. But that



"It's very rare . . . his insurance covers everything."

won't happen because they are not just Oliver North's crimes. As he testified, the crimes went all the way to the top. He was part of an administration that conspired to carry out an illegal war against the people of Nicaragua."

K.C. Ellis
Portland, Oregon

Paperworkers

Twenty-five members of Paperworkers' Local 1787 from Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, brought their strike support caravan to Louisville, Kentucky, the week of July 24. They were in town building support for their strike and the other locals on strike or locked out by International Paper Co.

After having traveled to Michigan and Ohio and covering Pennsylvania, this was the caravan's first trip to Kentucky.

They're getting good support. Bobby Curtis, president of the Kentucky AFL-CIO, is going to send out a mass mailing to get Kentucky labor behind the paperworkers. Caravan members said the building trades, International Association of Machinists, and Sheetmetal Workers have expressed support and given money.

The Lock Haven unionists are going on plant-gate collections.

The caravan is also in town building the boycott of the PNC Financial Corp., based in Pittsburgh, because the International Paper executive vice-president is on its board of directors. Citizens Fidelity of Kentucky, based in Louisville, is a subsidiary of PNC.

Bronson Rozier
Louisville, Kentucky

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.

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Estimates of drought damage rise

Federal farm relief package offers too little, too late

BY DOUG JENNESS

According to a report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on August 11 the grain harvest in the United States may be 31 percent less than last year as a result of the drought that has struck much of the country. This is a sharp increase over the 24 percent loss predicted by the Agriculture Department a month earlier. The forecast was based on field conditions as of August 1.

On the same day the crop report was released, President Ronald Reagan signed into law a \$3.9 billion package to aid drought-stricken farmers. This is "the largest disaster relief measure in history," the president declared. "This bill isn't as good as rain," he said addressing farmers, "but it will tide you over until normal weather" returns.

Agriculture Department officials say the current drought may be the most costly in U.S. history. The loss in corn, at current prices, amounts to nearly \$7.4 billion. For soybeans, the loss totals \$3.7 billion. Billions of dollars have also been lost in spring wheat, vegetables, fruits, hay, livestock, and other farm products.

The corn harvest, which has suffered the greatest loss in total volume, is expected to be 37 percent below last year's level. Other crops suffering big losses compared to last year's harvest are soybeans, 23 percent; durum wheat used in pasta products, 41 percent; spring wheat used in baked goods, 53 percent; oats and barley, 45 percent each; and hay, 12 percent.

Soil and wind erosion

Among the worst hit are farmers in the northern Great Plains, where many areas have become virtual dust bowls. Soil loss and wind erosion has damaged 11.9 million acres across the Great Plains, well more than twice the annual average.

Throughout the country, farmers in 2,200 counties in 43 states have been adversely affected. According to a report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, more than 40 percent of the country is considered to have suffered from severe or extreme drought this summer.

The drought has also laid waste to Canada's farm belt, particularly an area of southern Saskatchewan and Alberta that borders on Montana. Hot winds accompanying the lack of rain have stripped the top soil creating huge dust storms. The prairie grain crop is expected to be two-thirds its level last year, and hundreds of cattle ranchers are sending some of their finest animals to premature slaughter for lack of feed.

Hundreds of thousands of farmers across North America, already facing depression-like conditions, are now threatened with losses so great as a result of the drought that they will be forced out of farming.

Weeks of haggling

After weeks of haggling over proposals to provide government assistance to farmers, Congress came up with the drought-relief measures that Reagan signed. The Senate approved the package August 8 by an 92-0 vote and the House of Representatives adopted the legislation the next day in an overwhelming 383 to 18 vote.

Department of Agriculture officials said farmers would not start getting benefits for at least 60 days after Reagan signed them into law — that is not until sometime in October.

While the total for the aid program sounds impressive, the benefits to working farmers are actually pretty skimpy.

Farmers who have lost less than 35 percent of their crop will not receive damage payments. For a good many farmers who operate on very tight margins, however,



"The drought was killin' my corn, then the acid rain came and put it out of its misery."

the loss of 35 percent of their crops will ruin them. The only relief for farmers in this category is that if they received income-support payments in advance from the government, they will not have to return them.

Farmers who have lost between 35 and 75 percent of their crops, will be reimbursed for two-thirds of the damage in subsidies, grants, and direct payments up to

\$100,000. Those with more than 75 percent damage will be compensated for 90 percent of their damage. The amount of compensation will depend on the value of the loss as determined by representatives of the Department of Agriculture.

Farmers receiving disaster benefits on 35 to 100 percent of their crops are required to repay advance income-support or "deficiency" price-support payments they

Farm workers demand unemployment pay

BY KATHIE FITZGERALD

TOLEDO, Ohio — The fields are greener now after much needed rain in the area surrounding this city, but the devastating effects of this summer's drought can be seen in the stunted corn, the crooked cucumbers, and the acres of land that have been plowed under.

Devastation can also be found in the lives of those who work the land here — the farm workers who migrate each year from Florida and Texas to tend and harvest the crops.

Visiting farm worker camps with an organizer for the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), the story was the same at each camp. "We've been here over a month and had hardly any work," one woman said. "We'd like to go somewhere else, maybe Michigan, but we're afraid we would not find work there either. I worry about how we will get home to Texas."

Very little aid has been given to farm workers by government agencies so far. Families are given \$20 in gas money and \$25 for food. To get even this amount farm workers have to wend their way through miles of red tape and fulfill complicated rules and regulations.

FLOC has circulated a petition among farm workers calling for government aid, including unemployment compensation. The petition got an enthusiastic response. As one worker said during a visit to his home, "It's not my fault I haven't been working. I have a right to unemployment money."

FLOC President Baldemar Velasquez stressed this point in a press conference. "Farm workers produce \$85 million worth of crops in northwest Ohio. We pay taxes. We are not asking for charity, only what is rightfully ours."

FLOC has also issued calls for the giant food processors to help shoulder responsibility. Heinz USA responded by donating

food, which was distributed to farm workers.

The drought relief bill adopted by Congress did not include one penny for farm workers. Instead, on August 8 the Department of Labor announced a \$14.8 million "survival plan" for farm workers. Government officials said up to \$9.5 million will come from money already allocated for migrant worker programs; another \$5 million will come from Job Partnership Training Act funds; and a \$300,000 "discretionary fund" will be established to provide additional emergency support services.

Some 200,000 migrant workers, according to the Labor Department, are expected to benefit from this package. If the "survival plan" were divided equally each worker would receive \$74.

Fernando Cuevas, FLOC's first vice-president, said this program amounts to "robbing the poor to give to the poor!" Except for the \$300,000, he said, this is "all money already earmarked for the poor."

Cuevas pointed out that many questions remain unanswered about this aid package. "When will the money be available?" he asked. Now, when the workers are beginning to leave, or in October when it will be too late?

Will the rules and regulations be waived, he asked, so that the money is actually available? And how much will each family get? Will it be enough to get home or just out of the state? "Somehow this [program] just doesn't excite me," he said.

Texas Congressman Albert Bustamante said the money might not reach migrant farm workers for as long as six weeks because it will go first to state relief groups, rather than directly to workers.

On August 9, FLOC announced the formation of a fund to help farm workers get back to their home states. Heinz USA has contributed \$50,000. Cuevas said this money will be quickly and easily gotten

received before the 1988 planting season. They are given until July 31, 1989, to do this.

Little help to livestock farmers

Farmers who raise cattle, hogs, poultry, and other livestock will receive relief only if they raise some of their own feed. If they are dependent on buying feed, at prices that are now rising, they are not entitled to aid.

Many livestock farmers have had to market animals well before they were at the best age for butchering in order to cut their losses. Others have had to get rid of breeding stocks that have taken many years to develop. There are no provisions to compensate for these losses.

Dairy farmers will get an increase in dairy price supports for three months beginning next April, and a cut in price supports scheduled for January 1 will not go into effect.

Farmers who have lost more than 65 percent of their crops will be required by the new legislation to buy federal crop insurance next year. Waivers may be considered if the cost of the insurance would be a hardship.

Although the president and congressional lawmakers have emphasized the large size of the relief program, the Agriculture Department estimates that overall the drought will bring savings in the federal budget. Rising grain prices are expected to reduce income support payments to farmers. The anticipated savings would total about \$7 billion, considerably more than what is projected for aiding farmers.



Dee Scalera
Baldemar Velasquez, president of Farm Labor Organizing Committee.

and will be administered by FLOC.

Cuevas noted that "it always takes a union to get things for workers." We are "challenging the companies in the pickle and tomato industries and all the companies that use stoop labor," he said. "This is also a challenge to the government. If a union can do this, the government can do it. It should be the government that does this."

Cuevas explained that FLOC is not only fighting to get relief for the current drought, but is laying the basis for action around future natural disasters.

At its fourth convention on August 6, FLOC adopted a resolution calling on the organization to fight for a permanent system of insurance to protect farm workers against catastrophic loss as a result of natural conditions.