

Massive worldwide aid needed for Nicaragua



Part of Bluefields, one of main cities in Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast region, after Hurricane Joan struck.

The following statement was issued October 26 by James Warren and Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president.

In the wake of Hurricane Joan, Nicaragua needs massive emergency aid from governments throughout the world, including Washington.

Many organizations and individuals responded quickly to Nicaragua's need, col-

lecting food, clothing, medicine, and funds.

In this kind of crisis, human solidarity comes to the fore. People will respond without regard to their political views about the Nicaraguan revolution.

There is every prospect for involving a very broad array of individuals and organizations in the campaign. The labor movement can be an important part of this. Some unions have responded to Nicaragua aid appeals in the past, and in this situa-

tion, more will do so.

Churches and community organizations should be asked to collect humanitarian aid as well, and to act as dropoff points for donations. Various products should be solicited from employers.

All of these efforts to collect aid can give impetus to the campaign that is needed to demand that resources of governments internationally be used to aid Nicaragua. The devastation is so enormous that it will require the help of Washington and other governments to meet the relief needs.

In Canada, Tools for Peace, which has done major work in gathering humanitarian aid for Nicaragua, has launched an emergency drive, along with such forces as Oxfam International and various Nicaragua solidarity groups.

At the same time, the group has called a demonstration in Toronto during a visit of Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, demanding that the government expand its present token contribution to Nicaragua and give substantial aid.

In the United States, it will take a strong fight to get government action. The White House has already tried to slam the door on giving aid. But pressure can and must be mounted on Congress and the White House.

The case is certainly a compelling one. Some 300,000 Nicaraguans have been left homeless. The heaviest toll has been on the Atlantic Coast, where the mainly Indian and Black population has suffered the most from the underdevelopment imposed by years of U.S. colonial domination.

Nicaraguan agriculture has suffered a hammer blow; manufacturing, transportation and communications have been hard hit.

And this comes on the heels of the U.S.-
Continued on Page 21

Nicaragua rebuilds after hurricane

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — President Daniel Ortega has appealed for emergency international aid after part of the country was devastated by Hurricane Joan October 22.

Inside the country working people have begun mobilizing relief and organizing brigades to rebuild the devastated areas.

The storm dealt a heavy blow to this country, already suffering from a sharp economic crisis and the economic toll of the U.S.-financed contra war.

The south Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua was hit with the full force of the hurricane. Corn Island and the towns of Bluefields and El Bluff were demolished by high waves and winds that reached speeds of 140 miles per hour.

In Bluefields, 6,000 houses were leveled. Only a few structures are still standing. The remainder of Bluefields is a vast field of splintered wooden boards and scattered household possessions.

The south Atlantic region is home to most of Nicaragua's Blacks. Many Indians and Spanish-speaking mestizos also live there. Most residents live in scattered farming and fishing villages located along rivers or deep in the southeastern forests.

Initial reports of the hurricane's toll include:

- 60 dead, although this figure could rise;
- tens of thousands without homes;
- destruction of major fish-processing

plants, boat repair facilities, and some agricultural-processing plants;

- extensive damage to food and some export crops;
- loss of electricity in large parts of the country.

The Cuban government was the first to respond to Nicaragua's appeal. Even before the hurricane reached Nicaragua, Cuba sent a team of civil defense workers to aid in preparations.

In the first two days after the storm passed, seven Cuban airplanes arrived with a total of 250 tons of medicine, food, blankets, and tents. The first plane to land in Bluefields after the skies cleared was a flight from Havana with an emergency medical brigade aboard.

According to Julio Mederos of the Cuban embassy here, this is just the beginning of an "air bridge" of two flights a day that will continue as long as necessary.

"Other countries should act the same way," Mederos told the *Militant*. "The situation here depends on international solidarity. The whole world must show its support."

Despite the extensive damage, quick action by the Nicaraguan government and working people saved many lives.

Before the hurricane hit, the government formed a National Emergency Committee to coordinate action. Local committees were set up in neighborhoods of Managua and in cities and towns across the country. These committees, which mobilized some

Vote Socialist Workers Nov. 8!

The November 8 elections come only a few weeks after the first anniversary of the October 1987 stock market crash in which prices on the New York Stock Exchange

took the steepest plunge of this century. Most of the 1988 presidential election campaign has taken place under the shadow of that event. Like the flash of lightning before a deluge, the crash signaled that a worldwide



James Warren for president

EDITORIAL

economic depression is on the way. Hundreds of millions of people in every corner of the globe will be swept up in the social and economic crisis that will follow.

The Republican and Democratic party candidates, George Bush and Michael Dukakis, have treated the stock market crash and its implications like an unwelcome guest whose presence no one wants to acknowledge.

"I was not out there when that stock market dropped, wringing my hands and saying this was the end of the world as some political leaders were," Bush explained during one debate, "because it isn't the end of the world." For Bush, who is likely to ride into the White House on the wave of the current economic upturn, there is no advantage in addressing the implications of the crash.

Dukakis rarely refers to the stock market
Continued on Page 22



Kathleen Mickells for vice-president

All-out drive needed to reach \$250,000 Pathfinder Fund goal

BY HARRY RING

A special, all-out effort is required to complete the \$250,000 Pathfinder Fund on schedule.

It's urgent to do this in order to enable Pathfinder to consolidate the important gains it has been making as a major international publisher of world revolutionary figures, and to realize the ambitious publishing and promotion work now under way.

The numbers underline the kind of effort that is needed to finish the fund in full and on time. With a goal of raising \$250,000 by December 1, \$212,400 has been pledged and of this, only \$69,500 collected.

With a big push by all those who support Pathfinder's books and pamphlets, we can make the drive in the five weeks we have remaining.

The most important opportunity we have to raise and collect donations are the Pathfinder support rallies, which are slated for 21 cities between now and November 19.

The rally in Miami October 29 is an example of how the broad recognition that Pathfinder has won can be reflected on these platforms. That meeting will celebrate the publication of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia. David Deutschmann, editor
Continued on Page 7

Emergency aid organized for Nicaragua

BY HARRY RING

The organization Quest for Peace has begun work to send \$10 million in emergency aid to Nicaragua. It estimates that the Nicaragua Network and other concerned groups will send an equal amount in response to the devastating hurricane that hit Nicaragua.

A national network with offices in the Washington, D.C., area, Quest for Peace has collected more than \$100 million in humanitarian aid for Nicaragua over the past several years.

William Callahan, a member of the Quest staff, said the aim of the emergency drive is to ship 35 to 40 cargo containers of food, clothing, medicine, vegetable seeds, tools "and whatever else will help the recovery."

In the past week, with the storm approaching Nicaragua, six cargo containers of supplies were shipped out. This included 22 tons of vegetable seeds.

So far, 16 more containers are scheduled to be shipped by mid-November, Callahan said.

At the Washington offices of the Nicaragua Network, Michele Costa said the organization will be working with Quest for Peace, the American Friends Service Committee, and others on the emergency aid project.

This effort will be pressed, she said, by Nicaragua Network supporters in some 200 communities. In addition, the network is appealing to other groups and organizations to hold special fund-raising events to finance the emergency drive.

There was a big, immediate response to the news of the hurricane, Costa said. "Our phones have been ringing off the hook with people calling to find out what they can do to help."

The Nicaragua Network is also organizing brigades of U.S. volunteers to go to Nicaragua in December and January to help harvest the coffee crop.

The network is also exploring the possibility of organizing special hurricane brigades to help with the cleanup and rebuilding.

In Miami, a drive for emergency aid was discussed at a previously scheduled meeting of a coalition of organizations and groups working to help Nicaragua.

The 75 people attending heard Bob Livesey of the Vets for Peace Convoy, which has been collecting and delivering aid to Nicaragua. Miami will be one of five starting points for aid to Nicaragua sponsored by the Pastor's Peace Convoy, initiated by religious groups.

Livesey told the meeting that in addition to their own efforts, the hurricane makes it essential to demand that the U.S. government provide massive emergency aid to Nicaragua.

In New York, Casa Nicaragua initiated an emergency meeting of partisans of Nicaragua to launch an aid campaign.

The meeting included representatives of the New York Nicaragua Network; Central

America Health Rights Network; Brooklyn Sister Cities Project; Ventana, a cultural workers' organization; and MADRE, which solidarizes with the women and children of Central America.

The coalition mapped plans to establish drop off points for food and clothing. It discussed involving unions and churches in this effort, asking them to establish dropoff points as well as contributing.

Plans were also made to organize a phone bank to raise funds for antibiotics and other medicines.

In San Francisco, a meeting hosted by the Nicaragua Information Center decided, as an initial action, to devote Saturday, November 5, to collecting money for hurricane relief. Street tables will be set up in various Bay Area locations to collect money, and there will also be door-to-door collections.

Other groups in the area are also raising emergency funds and it was urged that

these efforts be coordinated as much as possible to ensure maximum affect.

At the University of California in Berkeley, a campus meeting for hurricane relief was slated for October 28. The rally was initiated by student groups and the Faculty Committee for Human Rights in El Salvador.

In Detroit, Pastors for Peace, which has been sponsoring aid convoys to Nicaragua, said it was pressing to move a slated December departure up to November.

Two large trucks are being purchased, and the plan is to fill them with corrugated roofing, food, and medicines. A broad fund appeal is being made to finance this.

The Central America Solidarity Committee, which raised more than \$11,000 with its recent Walkathon, is sending half of that to Nicaragua. The committee is urging support for the Pastors for Peace convoy.

To join in the nationwide effort, contact

the Nicaragua aid or solidarity group in your area.

For more information, or to make a contribution, contact: Quest for Peace/Hurricane Relief Fund, P.O. Box 5206, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. (Phone 301-669-0042.)

For Nicaragua Network contributions: Let Nicaragua Live/HAND. 2025 I St. N.W., Suite 212, Washington, D.C., 20006. (Phone 202-223-2328.)

Financial donations in U.S. dollars can also be sent directly to: Campaña Nicaragua Debe Sobrevivir, Account No. CFA, SA 51-041-294-001-31, Banque Nationale du Paris, Sucursal Panama, Panama. Donations should specify that the funds are for hurricane relief.

Pete Seidman in Miami, Gail Skidmore in Washington, D.C., Jerry Freiwirth in New York, Jeff Powers in Detroit, and Mark Weddleton in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Nicaragua rebuilds after hurricane

Continued from front page

lantic Coast. When he was unable to persuade the majority of residents to leave, Hooker remained on the island to head up civil defense efforts.

"I lived through the 1972 earthquake in Managua," Hooker said. "This is much worse." Much of Managua was destroyed in the quake.

Hurricane preparations in Managua included mobilization of hundreds of members of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), who worked with army troops to help evacuate residents of low-lying areas.

'Committee to Aid Atlantic Coast'

Just hours after the storm passed, Omar Cabezas, coordinator of the Sandinista Defense Committees, initiated a nationwide Committee to Aid the Atlantic Coast Victims, which will collect relief supplies in Nicaragua. The committee includes the Nicaraguan Red Cross, Lions Club, Rotary Club, religious groups, and other organizations. Students are going door to door in Managua collecting donations to be sent to the Atlantic Coast.

Workers at some CST-organized factories are donating a day's pay to aid the hurricane victims. Brigades are also being organized to go to help rebuild Bluefields.

Two days before the storm reached Nicaragua, President Ortega declared a state of emergency, which will remain in effect for 30 days. Under the decree, the news media is allowed to report only government-approved information on the hurricane and its effects. Transmissions by the Voice of Nicaragua, the official government radio station, are being broadcast simultaneously by all other radio stations.

Jaime Wheelock, minister of agriculture, told reporters that the situation is

"grave" throughout the country. The hurricane "hit us at a crucial moment," he said. "We had not finished harvesting the previous crop and we had not finished planting the next."

According to Wheelock:

The three largest rice-processing facilities in the country were destroyed along with 25,000 rons of rice.

In central Nicaragua, thousands of acres of crops were destroyed by the winds or heavy flooding.

In northwest Nicaragua, 40 percent of banana production for export was lost.

Seven thousand tons of seed needed for the next planting season were destroyed by the storm.

The coffee crop, Nicaragua's main export, is in danger because heavy rains washed out many roads used to transport the crop. The hurricane struck one week before the coffee harvest was to begin.

Government aid sought

As the hurricane approached, government officials called a meeting of diplomats accredited in Nicaragua to request emergency aid. Vice-president Sergio Ramirez and Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco were sent to Europe to press the request.

In addition to Cuba, several other governments have begun flying in supplies. Mexico sent 12 tons of blankets and medical supplies. The Federal Republic of Germany is sending \$1.7 million worth of aid.

However, the U.S. government has refused to help. White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater charged that the Sandinistas want "to use the storm as another platform for propaganda against the contras."

Washington will not offer any aid, Fitzwater added, alleging that the Nicaraguan



El Nuevo Diario/Ernesto Mejia
Woman in Bluefields, on Atlantic Coast, surveys storm-wrecked house.

government would use the supplies to fight against the contras.

In an appeal for donations, the Nicaraguan Council for Friendship, Solidarity, and Peace said that among the most urgently needed items are powdered milk, clothing, and medicine.

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activist in Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada

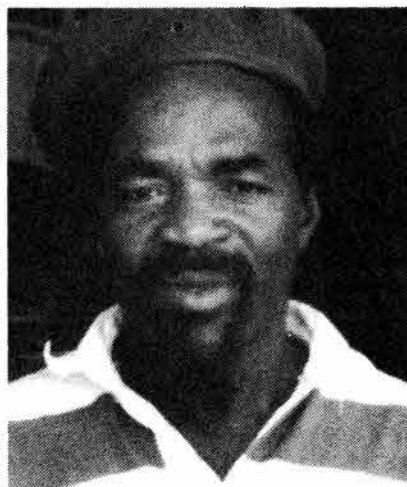
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Coeditors: MARGARET JAYKO and DOUG JENNESS
Circulation Director: NORTON SANDLER
Nicaragua Bureau Director: LARRY SEIGLE
Business Manager: JIM WHITE

Editorial Staff: Susan Apstein, Fred Feldman, Seth Galinsky (Nicaragua), Arthur Hughes, Cindy Jaquith, Susan LaMont, Sam Manuel, Harry Ring, Judy White (Nicaragua).

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Why polls show Bush likely to win in November elections

BY DOUG JENNESS

According to the polls, Vice-president George Bush will be elected president November 8, barring some unexpected turn of events. Polltakers also predict the voter turnout will be one of the lowest ever.

Why is the Republican contender the most likely victor? The overriding element is that Bush is capitalizing on the current upturn in the business cycle, which is nearing its sixth birthday. Already the second-longest upswing since World War II, there is no sign that it is going to turn around in the next few months.

Official unemployment rates are the lowest in more than a decade, and new jobs are being created as factory output continues to increase. Inflation, while edging up, still remains relatively low compared to the 1970s and early '80s.

Millions of people are benefiting from this upswing. This not only includes capitalist manufacturers, bankers, and traders; professionals, technicians, and other middle-class layers have also prospered.

Some sectors of the working class, too, have gotten along well in this period, especially more skilled and better-paid work-

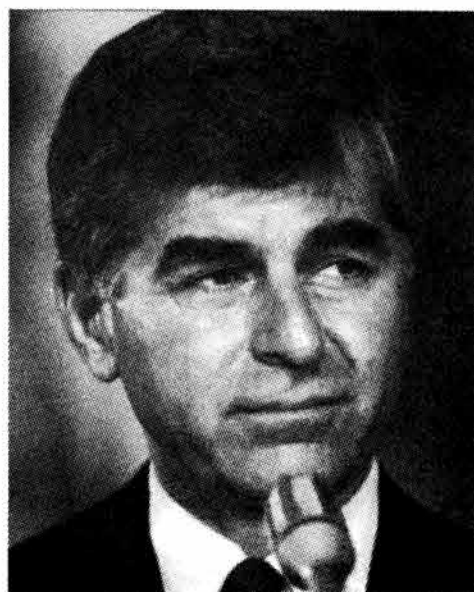
ers. And even many workers who are managing now, but are worried about their future job security as a result of last year's stock market crash, are inclined to stay with the status quo. Why change to a Democratic horse when the Republican one seems to be doing alright for now?

Behind 'longest expansion'

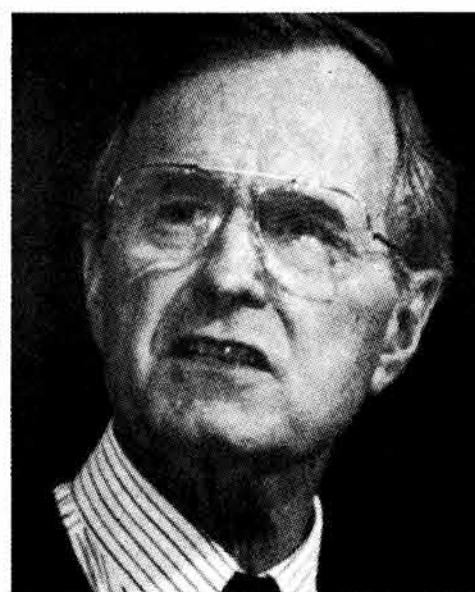
Bush, of course, attributes the current economic conjuncture to the policies of the Republican administration.

The duration of this "longest expansion," as he refers to it, can't be credited, however, to the alleged wisdom of the Reagan administration. Rather, it's the result of the 1981-82 recession — the most severe in the United States since 1937-38. Inventories were drastically cut, and unused productive capacity rose dramatically. Moreover, the recession coincided with a sharp acceleration of the employers' assault on labor, in which workers' average wages were driven down and speedup and onerous work rules were imposed.

The longer-than-usual upward phase of the business cycle reflects the mileage the capitalist rulers were able to get out of the recession and their antilabor offensive.



Michael Dukakis



George Bush

These factors put their stamp on the "boom" in another way. In spite of economic growth and the creation of more jobs, millions of workers, farmers, and small businesspeople have not shared the benefits of these "good times."

The percentage of the population living at or below the poverty line has increased; hundreds of thousands are homeless; real wages for millions have been pushed back to their level at the beginning of the 1960s; farmers are being forced off the land; and the true level of unemployment, including those who have never had or expect to get a job, is high.

Millions of working people have become pauperized and are far from satisfied

with Bush's status quo. They need and want the government to provide some protection now.

Dukakis offers no relief

While Michael Dukakis, the Democrats' standard-bearer, has acknowledged that the upturn's prosperity is not being enjoyed by millions, he hasn't offered any relief, even within the traditional liberal framework of the Democratic Party. He hasn't, in the spirit of Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal," Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society," or even Harry Truman's "Fair Deal," proposed using massive government resources to help those who need aid.

Dukakis has placed himself firmly in the framework of the bipartisan domestic policy that has developed over the past decade. A growing majority of Republican and Democratic politicians have agreed to subordinate domestic social spending and tax policy to improving the international competitive position of big business in the United States and shoring up the dollar.

The war against inflation and against the decline of U.S. capitalists' competitiveness in the world have become the hallmarks of this bipartisan policy.

If the pollsters are right and the number of voters casting ballots is unusually low, it won't be surprising. A good many people not voting will be from among those who are dissatisfied with the way things are and see no proposals by either Bush or Dukakis for the government to aid the victims of the current economic situation.

In the absence of any organized, large-scale political opposition by the working class, there is a tendency for capitalist politics, presently represented by the Democrats and Republicans, to drift to the right. This is clearly being demonstrated in the current election race as Dukakis adapts to Bush on one issue after the other.

But this doesn't mean that a Bush victory will be a sign that working people are shifting to the right politically. To the contrary, evidence is mounting that a growing layer of workers are becoming more combative.

Beginning in 1979, when Chrysler Corp. demanded and won givebacks in wages, benefits, and work rules from unionized auto workers, until the mid-1980s, layer after layer of unionized workers agreed to pay cuts and worse working conditions. They yielded without a fight or attempting to win support from allies. A framework was set where the goal was no longer to win better wages and more control over working conditions, but how much to give up.

The first break in this passive policy occurred in 1985 with the beginning of the packinghouse workers' strike at George A. Hormel & Co. in Austin, Minnesota. Further struggles developed in the meat-packing industry. Paperworkers, woodcutters, cannery workers, coal miners, farm workers, and others have also fought back rather than acquiesce to takebacks.

Some of the struggles have won gains, most have been defeated; and the pace of such battles is still very uneven. But whatever the outcome, layers of workers, especially young workers, are deciding it's better to fight, take the risk of losing, and learn from the experience. Simply making concessions without struggle, they are discovering, doesn't make their jobs or anyone else's secure. Rather, it is simply the prelude to even more concessions.

It's from among these fighters and many more to come that the forces who can organize and lead a working-class political movement will emerge.

SWP fields 43 candidates in 29 states

Listed below are the Socialist Workers Party candidates in the November 8 elections.

An asterisk behind a state's name indicates that the SWP presidential ticket of James Warren and Kathleen Mickells will appear on the printed ballot in that state. An asterisk behind other candidates' names indicates that their names will be on the ballot. The remainder are write-in candidates.

ALABAMA*

John Hawkins — U.S. Congress, 6th C.D. (Birmingham).

ARIZONA

Ruth Nebbia — U.S. Senate.

CALIFORNIA

Joel Britton — U.S. Senate; **Steven Fuchs** — U.S. Congress, 5th C.D. (San Francisco); **Peter Thierjung** — U.S. Congress, 8th C.D. (Oakland-Berkeley); **Shellia Kennedy** — U.S. Congress, 7th C.D. (Contra Costa County); **Elizabeth Stone** — U.S. Congress, 24th C.D. (Los Angeles); **Eli Green** — U.S. Congress, 28th C.D. (Los Angeles).

GEORGIA

Kevin Dwire — U.S. Congress, 4th C.D. (Atlanta); **Maceo Dixon** — U.S. Congress, 5th C.D. (Atlanta).

ILLINOIS

Omari Musa — Mayor, Chicago (election in spring 1989; date not yet set).

IOWA*

Nan Bailey* — U.S. Congress, 4th C.D. (Des Moines).

MARYLAND

Rashaad Ali — U.S. Senate.

MASSACHUSETTS

Jon Hillson — U.S. Senate; **Elizabeth Soares** — U.S. Congress, 9th C.D. (Boston).

MICHIGAN*

Mark Friedman — U.S. Senate.

MINNESOTA*

Wendy Lyons* — U.S. Senate; **Craig Honts*** — U.S. Congress, 1st C.D. (Austin); **Natasha Terlexis*** — U.S. Congress, 4th C.D. (St. Paul).

MISSOURI

Raúl González — Governor; **Tom Leonard** — U.S. Senate; **Ellen Haywood** — U.S. Congress, 21st C.D. (St. Louis).

NEBRASKA

Diane Shur — U.S. Senate.

NEW JERSEY*

Tom Fiske* — U.S. Senate; **Joan Paltrineri*** — U.S. Congress, 6th C.D. (New Brunswick); **Mindy Brudno*** — U.S. Congress, 10th C.D. (Newark).

NEW MEXICO*

NEW YORK*

James Harris* — U.S. Senate.

NORTH CAROLINA

Stuart Crome — governor.

NORTH DAKOTA*

OHIO

David Marshall — U.S. Senate.

OREGON

Lisa Hickler — U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D. (Portland).

PENNSYLVANIA

Jim Little — U.S. Senate; **Laura Garza** — U.S. Congress, 2nd C.D. (Philadelphia).

RHODE ISLAND*

SOUTH DAKOTA*

TENNESSEE*

TEXAS

Al Budka — U.S. Senate.

UTAH*

William Arth* — U.S. Senate; **Judy Stranahan*** — U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D. (Price).

VERMONT*

WASHINGTON, D.C.*

Gail Skidmore — D.C. City Council, at-large.

WASHINGTON STATE*

Dan Fein — U.S. Senate.

WISCONSIN*

Patricia Grogan* — U.S. Senate.

WEST VIRGINIA

Andrew Pulley — governor; **Dick McBride** — U.S. Senate; **Jim Gotesky** — U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D. (Charleston); **Ellie Beth Brady** — secretary of state.

Socialist Workers 1988 Campaign

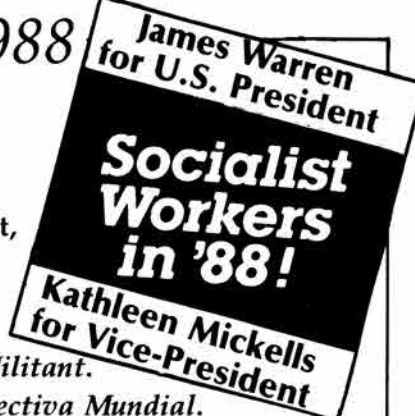
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Socialists take stand on referenda issues

ARIZONA, COLORADO, FLORIDA: 'English only' measures should be defeated

The Socialist Workers Party candidates are urging the defeat of Proposition 106 in Arizona, Amendment 11 in Florida, and Amendment 1 in Colorado. These measures seek to make English the "official language" in the three states. They are part of a national effort by U.S. English, an or-



Militant

Ruth Nebbia

ganization that seeks to make English the official language of the United States by amending the U.S. Constitution. Bilingual ballots and education are special targets of the group.

"Proposition 106 is a racist, anti-immigrant, anti-working class measure designed to deepen discrimination against non-English-speaking people in the United States," said Ruth Nebbia, SWP senatorial candidate from Arizona. "It is an attempt to deepen divisions in the working class, stigmatize immigrants, and erode gains won in

the area of bilingual education and provision of government services."

In Florida, the campaign to pass Amendment 11 builds on a similar 1980 Dade County ordinance — adopted in the wake of the boatlift from Mariel, Cuba — that specifically prohibits county funds from being used for posting non-English signs. There are close to 1 million Hispanic and Haitian residents in Dade County.

OREGON: Defend antidiscrimination order

Referendum 8 on the Oregon ballot would overturn an executive order signed in 1987 by the governor. The order bans discrimination based on sexual orientation against employees in the executive branch of state government. Right-wing opponents of democratic rights for gays have targeted the executive order, claiming that it gives homosexuals "special rights" and that it "advances homosexuality."

Lisa Hickler, SWP congressional candidate from the 3rd C.D., is urging the defeat of this measure. Among the forces urging a no vote is the state AFL-CIO, which explains that this anti-discrimination order is a labor issue.

CALIFORNIA: Measures would be blow to democratic rights, harm fight against AIDS

Two propositions concerning AIDS are on the California ballot this fall — Propositions 102 and 96. The SWP candidates

are urging a no vote to defeat both measures.

Proposition 102 would require all persons who test positive for the AIDS antibodies to have their names turned into local health authorities within 48 hours by the doctor or other medical personnel giving the test. This would end anonymous testing for AIDS. The measures would also end the current ban on the use of AIDS tests to determine eligibility for insurance or employment.

Joel Britton, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, explains, "By making it legal to give AIDS tests to determine who is eligible for employment and insurance, the law would deepen discrimination against AIDS victims. At the same time, by outlawing anonymous testing, it would be harder for possible AIDS carriers to get tested without opening themselves up to such discrimination."

"The fact is that if we end anonymous testing, fewer people will be tested for AIDS," Britton said. "This is a terrible blow not only to possible AIDS victims themselves, but also to the whole effort to contain the AIDS epidemic because testing and education that goes with it are essential to stopping the spread of the disease."

Proposition 96, if passed, would compound the damage done by Proposition 102. It calls for mandatory AIDS tests of victims of crimes or persons charged with assaulting police if these assaults include biting, scratching, spitting, or other acts that the proposition claims might lead to the spread of AIDS. Proposition 96 also calls for sending the results of such tests to the prison where the person accused of the crime is being jailed.

Pointing to the example of the United Farm Workers Union, which opposes both propositions, Britton urged other unions to campaign to defeat these measures.

Another referendum on the ballot is Proposition 97, which would restore funding to CAL/OSHA, the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Supporters of Proposition 97 present re-funding the agency as a solution to the serious health and safety problems that exist, and an alternative to workers themselves fighting to expand and enforce safe working conditions. They claim that CAL/OSHA is a much more effective agency than the federal OSHA, and that workers in California are powerless to act to defend themselves against health and safety abuses without CAL/OSHA.

SWP campaign supporters are taking an active part in the discussion about how to fight for workers' health and safety on the job that this measure has prompted. They are explaining that gains in this area can only be won by workers themselves, through their efforts on the job, backed by the use of union power. This is, in fact, the only way government agencies dealing with these issues can be pressured to take even minimal steps to enforce health and safety regulations.

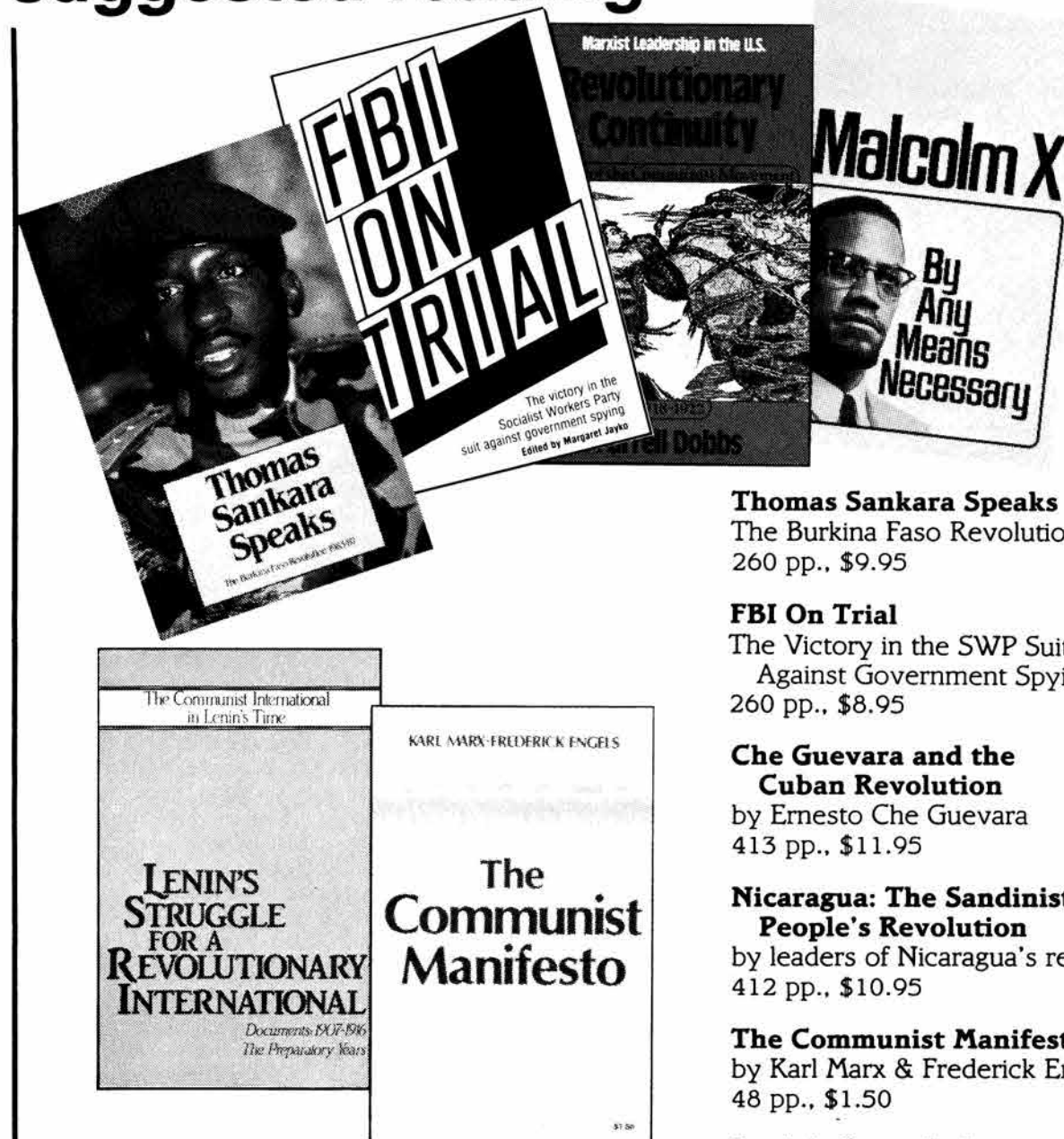
The SWP candidates are urging working people to abstain from voting on this measure.

WASHINGTON: Raise the state minimum wage

Initiative 518 would raise the state minimum wage to \$3.85 an hour in January 1989 and \$4.25 an hour in January 1990. This measure was placed on the ballot as the result of a broad campaign led by the United Farm Workers of Washington State. Washington's minimum wage is currently \$2.30 an hour, the 36th lowest in the country. The SWP candidates are urging passage of this measure, which would benefit all working people by raising the wages of the most oppressed layers of the class.

Dave Salner from Phoenix, Pat O'Reilly from Miami, Pat Nixon and Carole Lesnick from Los Angeles, and Lisa Hickler from Portland contributed to this article.

suggested reading



The Revolution Betrayed
What Is the Soviet Union and Where Is It Going?
by Leon Trotsky
314 pp., \$9.95

Revolutionary Continuity: The Early Years 1848-1917
Marxist Leadership in the U.S.
by Farrell Dobbs
221 pp., \$8.95

Teamster Rebellion
by Farrell Dobbs
192 pp., \$7.95

By Any Means Necessary
by Malcolm X
184 pp., \$7.95

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women
by Joseph Hansen and Evelyn Reed
144 pp., \$6.95

Socialism on Trial
by James P. Cannon
184 pp., \$6.95

IN SPANISH
50 años de guerra encubierta
El FBI contra los derechos democráticos por Héctor Marroquín, et al.
70 pp., \$3.00

Habla Nelson Mandela
por Nelson Mandela
100 pp., \$5.95

Thomas Sankara Speaks
The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87
260 pp., \$9.95

FBI On Trial
The Victory in the SWP Suit Against Government Spying
260 pp., \$8.95

Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution
by Ernesto Che Guevara
413 pp., \$11.95

Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution
by leaders of Nicaragua's revolution
412 pp., \$10.95

The Communist Manifesto
by Karl Marx & Frederick Engels
48 pp., \$1.50

Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International
Documents 1907-16: Preparatory Years
624 pp., \$12.95

Available from your local PATHFINDER bookstore or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Write for a free catalog. (enclose payment and \$.75 per title for shipping and handling)

from **PATHFINDER**

Mickells speaks at Arizona rally against 'English only' measure

BY BERNIE SENTER

PHOENIX — "The thousands of you here are among thousands of others around the world fighting for freedom, equality, and human dignity, and against racism and discrimination," Kathleen Mickells told 3,000 demonstrators at a rally against Arizona's English-only referendum. Mickells is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president.

"You are not alone in confronting Proposition 106," Mickells continued. "There are similar initiatives like this in Florida and Colorado. This is part of an attack by a layer of the ruling rich who are trying to deepen divisions among working people. This is an attempt to legalize the discrimination that many of us face day to day on the job. It is in our interests, if we are going to be able to fight against the conditions on the job and for a decent standard of living, that we organize against Proposition 106."

Also speaking at the October 21 rally were leaders of the Latino, Black, Native American, and Asian communities; labor officials; and local elected officials. A representative from the Asian community captured everyone's sentiments when she said, "This proposition would hurt all of us, not just Hispanics."

While in the Phoenix area, Mickells also spoke to 40 farm workers at two informal meetings. The meetings were held at a citrus ranch organized by the Arizona Farmworkers Union.

Contract negotiations were under way at the ranch. The grower wanted to lower the amount paid per large bag of lemons from \$1.28 to \$1.17. The farm workers overwhelmingly voted to go on strike. Later they settled for \$1.25.

Mickells told the farm workers that working people around the country are experiencing wage cuts. "Immigrant workers are playing a key role in the struggle of working people here in the United States," she said. "They will, and have, played a leadership role because of the conditions you face here and in your own country. Many, like yourselves, have stood up and said, 'Enough.'"

Farm workers described to Mickells the depression-like conditions in Mexico that

force thousands to come to the United States for jobs.

César said, "I am a small farmer and I can work the land only if there's rain. All winter it didn't rain. I had to come here even though the wages aren't enough."

Discussions touched on the \$100 billion debt owed by Mexico to U.S. and other imperialist bankers. Mickells explained how the debt keeps Mexico underdeveloped by draining the country of needed resources.

César agreed that the debt was unpayable.

Jesús said, "Every Mexican politician says it can be paid, but if the money were there to pay the debt we'd be living a better life."

"That's how the Third World debt works," Mickells said. "It's a lethal economic



Militant/Bernie Senter

Kathleen Mickells (in center, with mike), speaking to 3,000 demonstrators at Phoenix rally opposing "English only" amendment to Arizona state constitution.

weapon used against working people."

Farm workers were interested in the case of Mark Curtis, a defender of immigrant worker rights in Des Moines, Iowa, who

was framed-up and railroaded to jail.

Mickells also spoke before 20 students at a campaign meeting at Arizona State University.

'To get solidarity, you have to give it'

BY JON HILLSON

DETROIT — Demands for massive, emergency relief to Nicaragua's hurricane-devastated Atlantic Coast region take on "an urgent, emergency character," Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Warren told a standing room only gathering here October 22.

The destruction caused by Hurricane Joan, he explained at a citywide meeting at the Pathfinder Bookstore, "comes on top of years of Washington's efforts to starve, bomb, and squeeze the Nicaraguan revolution into submission. This makes the demand for reconstruction aid even more timely, more necessary, and more important than ever."

Warren's Nicaragua aid plea came in a speech dealing with the approach of a "catastrophic economic and social crisis" anticipated by the 1987 Wall Street stock market crash.

Even now, he said, the employers are intensifying their efforts to "make us pay for the crisis of the profit system."

"Just look at the most recent defeat," the socialist candidate said, "just look at what International Paper did to the paperworkers." Sixteen-month strikes by members of the United Paperworkers International Union in Jay, Maine; Lock Haven, Pennsylvania and De Pere, Wisconsin, ended in defeat October 9.

This follows the defeats suffered by thousands of packinghouse workers in the last several years, Warren noted.

"It is much more difficult to win a strike when you begin to look for solidarity after you've gone out on strike. If you make \$14, \$15 an hour, and the company wants a few bucks back, it doesn't mean much to ask someone making the minimum wage or \$5 an hour to defend 'your' job. Then you come around and say, 'How about some solidarity.' It doesn't work like that."

"You have to give solidarity to get solidarity," Warren said. Until this is understood and "acted on, strikes like these will be defeated because there is no social content to them."

Only when unionized workers defend themselves as "part of a class" and place the "weight of their unions" on the side of the "most exploited, most oppressed, lowest-paid members of their class," by defending a program of social demands in the interest of our class as a whole, can a social movement develop that will make it impossible for "companies like International Paper to do what they do: Go out and hire a replacement work force and crush strikes." A demand that concretizes the perspective of class solidarity is that of "a minimum wage, at union scale — and at the upper, not the lower, end of that scale," Warren said.

This aims to lift the wages of "women working in the 'high tech' industries, workers slaving in the garment industry, workers in the so-called fast food industry, hundreds of thousands of unorganized ag-

ricultural workers, brutalized in the fields, workers across Appalachia, as well as the millions of young people, particularly Black youth, who have no prospect for work at all," he explained. "This is what is meant by affirmative action."

The coming 1930s-like depression, foreshadowed by last year's Wall Street crash, makes this perspective "essential." "Without it, there is no way forward," Warren said. "And it must be taken into unions now, raised, and discussed to unite thinking workers today to prepare for what is coming."

Michigan SWP candidate gets write-up in Machinists' paper

DETROIT — "I'm not here to collect votes," Mark Friedman, the SWP's candidate for U.S. Senate here, explained in the October issue of the *Transporter*, the monthly publication of Local 141 of the International Association of Machinists. He's running to "build a movement that will transform [society], stop union-busting, forge an alliance between farmers and trade unionists," the socialist candidate stated.

Friedman, an airport baggage handler, has been taking that message to working people and youth around the state. In separate tours of Kalamazoo in the last several

The crash and its implications stimulated the most questions from a group of students who heard Warren's presentation at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor during his Detroit-area swing. They asked if there was a "way out" for U.S. capitalists, if the crash was only one of many indications of a downward economic trend. They wondered about the effects of programs like President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" during the 1930s depression.

Warren's responses, "give you a lot to think about. It's not like they teach that in there," one student said, referring to the university.

During a day at Kalamazoo College capped by a speech to 53 students, campaign supporters sold 23 subscriptions to the *Militant*.

On October 19 the socialist candidate spoke at a meeting of the Huron County National Farmers Organization and addressed a demonstration organized by CISPES, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

His Kalamazoo tour was organized by a campaign supporter who's a leader of CISPES. — J.H.

S. African union leader speaks in N.Y.

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — More than 50 people gathered on short notice here October 7 to hear John Nkadimeng, general secretary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU).

Nkadimeng was in New York to attend a Special Session of the United Nations on Prisoners. "Friends of the ANC [African National Congress of South Africa], SWAPO [South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia], and the Frontline States" sponsored the meeting, held at the headquarters of Local 1199 of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees.

The trade union leader explained that he had helped to found SACTU more than 30 years ago because "it became necessary to form an organization to reflect the aspirations of the masses of working men and women in South Africa." Unionized Black workers were excluded from the official unions.

"I joined the African National Congress a few years after I came into the trade union movement," Nkadimeng explained. "I used to work full-time for the union during the day and continue with political work in the evenings, going door-to-door

collecting our people's ideas for the Freedom Charter."

The Freedom Charter is the document that unites the mass anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. After being discussed and debated at meetings throughout South Africa, it was adopted at a meeting of some 3,000 delegates in 1955.

A new Labor Relations Amendment was adopted this year by the Pretoria regime, aimed at drastically eroding trade union rights.

Nkadimeng read from a statement by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) denouncing this amendment. The statement was prepared for a congress of the giant trade union federation, founded in 1985. However, the apartheid regime blocked all roads leading into Capetown and prevented the September meeting from taking place.

Commenting on the new amendment, the SACTU general secretary said, "This type of law cannot be abided by. The passage of this law illustrates why the trade union movement must be fully involved in the struggle for liberation."

Nkadimeng is also a member of the Executive Board of the ANC.

Socialist Workers '88 presidential campaign wrap-up rallies

In Boston

Hear **James Warren**, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Fri., Nov. 4, 6:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$2. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

In Los Angeles

Hear **Kathleen Mickells**, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president. Sat., Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

In Newark, N.J.

Hear presidential candidate **James Warren** and **Margaret Manwaring**, Revolutionary Workers League candidate for Parliament in Canada. Sat., Nov. 5. Reception 6 p.m.; rally 7 p.m. 141 Halsey. Donation: \$5. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

In New York City

Hear presidential candidate **James Warren** and candidate for Canadian Parliament **Margaret Manwaring**. Sun., Nov. 6. Reception 4:30 p.m.; rally 5 p.m. 79 Leonard St., Manhattan. Donation: \$5. For more information call (212) 219-3679.

Socialist campaigners spur sales drive

BY JIM WHITE

As we go to press, supporters of the Socialist Workers Party ticket of James Warren for president and Kathleen Mickells for vice-president are beginning a full-scale election campaign mobilization.

The election mobilization is key to the international campaign to win 10,400 readers for the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazines *New International* and the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Over the next several days campaigners will also be selling thousands of copies of the *Action Program* to *Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, a Pathfinder pamphlet available in English and Spanish that contains proposals put forward by the SWP. Our goal is to sell more than 20,000 copies by the end of the drive on November 19.

The stock market crash a year ago signaled that a world depression is in the offing that will have devastating consequences for working people. Warren and Mickells and the more than 40 SWP candidates for Senate, Congress, and local office are advancing proposals to unify working people internationally and to protect us from the ravages of that calamity.

The *Action Program* helps advance the discussion among workers and farmers about what to do in the face of the crisis. This discussion, which has been growing for the last year, is a crucial part of the preparation for a working-class fightback.

The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* accurately report the effects of the developing crisis on working people here and around the world. These periodicals pay close attention to the resistance workers and farmers put up to employer and government assaults on our living standard and rights.

Subscribers to the *Militant* and *PM* are able to follow these developments far beyond the election period.

New International and *Nouvelle Internationale* take up questions of importance to working-class fighters in more depth than space considerations in the *Militant* allow.

A glance at the scoreboard shows the challenges that remain in making the drive in full and on time.

For the past few weeks we have been slipping behind schedule. Sales of the *Action Program* are lagging even further behind the periodicals.

By paying careful attention to the drive from here on out, beginning with the Oc-

tober 28–November 5 target days, the goals can be reached.

Supporters in several cities are poised to go over their original projections. They are encouraged to set new targets for the drive, as a way of boosting the overall international effort.

SWP campaign supporters sell the *Militant* and *PM* to industrial workers every week. During the campaign target days, they will be making a special push on *Action Program* sales at factory gates across the country.

Our supporters in Arizona and Utah are working together to get the publications out in the western coalfields. This includes putting a team together that will visit the mining areas around Kayenta, Arizona, and Gallup, New Mexico.

In Birmingham, Alabama, supporters have set a target of selling 110 copies of the *Action Program* and 10 copies of *New International* during the week along with

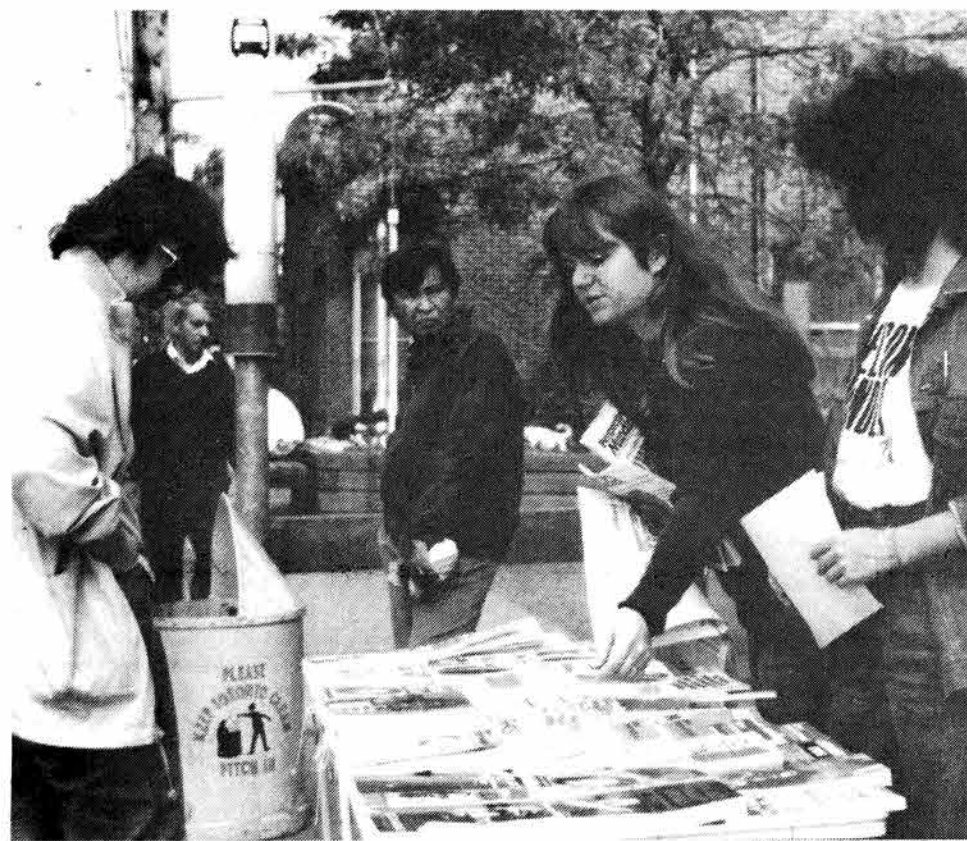
dozens of *Militant* and *PM* subscriptions. In addition to campaigning in the coalfields, they are contacting readers whose subscriptions are nearly expired to urge them to renew. They encourage these readers to also get a copy of the *Action Program* and *New International*.

To reach their target of selling 125 *Action Programs*, Morgantown, West Virginia, supporters are going to campaign at least four times this week.

In Chicago supporters are arranging their schedules so they can join all-day campus teams.

One special note comes from distributors in Sweden, who have decided to raise their *Militant* and *PM* goals by 15 — a 30 percent increase over their original projections.

If you want to be part of the campaign mobilization, look us up in the directory on page 20, or contact our business office at (212) 929-3486.



Selling socialist publications from Pathfinder literature table in Toronto, Canada. *Militant/Monica Jones*

SWP wins right to distribute political literature in Newark

BY RICH ARIZA

NEWARK, N.J. — On October 11 the Essex County Superior Court overturned a Newark Municipal Court decision finding Socialist Workers Party activist Priscilla Schenk guilty of violating Newark's peddlers' ordinances.

This marked the end of a 19-month legal battle to defend the right of political activists to sell and distribute literature from tables on the streets of Newark.

In early 1986 the Newark police began harassing and threatening socialists as they staffed literature tables.

The American Civil Liberties Union in the city informed police officials that the activities in question were constitutionally protected.

Following the ACLU's action, police confronted Schenk while she staffed a literature table in downtown Newark. A police officer issued Schenk two summonses and stated he had photographed her at the table selling a book.

The ACLU provided the services of attorney William Volonte, who represented Schenk throughout the trial and subsequent appeal.

The city administration's use of peddlers' ordinances against political activists goes hand in hand with the gentrification process taking place in this majority Black and Hispanic city. The local government

has been trying to make Newark attractive to the business community. Their campaign to "clean up Newark" has also included attempts to close down storefront churches.

In court, Volonte did not challenge the peddlers' ordinances. He argued that their application to political activities violated Schenk's constitutional rights.

In the opinion of the Superior Court, Schenk's rights had in fact been restricted. However, the court ruled the city could restrict these rights if it could prove an overriding need to do so and that adequate alternative means of expression were available. In this case the city had proved neither.

The judge also ruled that no distinction can be drawn between the sale and free distribution of ideas.

A broad array of labor, religious, and political groups protested Schenk's prosecution and supported her appeal.

In response to the decision, Mindy Brudno, the Socialist Workers Party congressional candidate in the 10th C.D., declared, "Our campaign is returning with literature tables to the streets of Newark in a big way. We'll be out there with our *Action Program* to *Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, the *Militant* newspaper, Pathfinder books, and petitions to defend Iowa frame-up victim Mark Curtis."

Sales drive scoreboard

Area	Drive Goals			Militant subscriptions		New International* single copies		Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES									
Portland, Ore.	140	114	81	100	89	25	20	15	5
Cleveland	165	131	79	110	84	40	36	15	11
Salt Lake City	125	92	74	90	71	20	14	15	7
Newark	500	337	67	275	153	110	126	115	58
Atlanta	220	142	65	160	106	40	12	20	24
Greensboro, NC	145	90	62	110	72	20	16	15	2
Oakland, Calif.	215	133	62	120	95	45	6	50	32
Pittsburgh	250	153	61	185	106	45	39	20	8
Philadelphia	250	151	60	160	106	40	26	50	19
St. Louis	220	132	60	170	100	40	28	10	4
Morgantown, WV	175	104	59	135	81	30	20	10	3
Charleston, WV	105	62	59	85	54	15	5	5	3
Seattle	275	160	58	200	124	25	12	50	24
Omaha	135	78	58	90	62	25	4	20	12
Boston	350	197	56	230	123	50	39	70	35
Los Angeles	700	381	54	375	203	125	42	200	136
Miami	300	161	54	185	100	55	35	60	26
New York	1,200	631	53	600	360	300	148	300	123
Twin Cities	350	181	52	270	151	50	13	30	17
Milwaukee	170	87	51	110	57	35	8	25	22
Des Moines	210	106	50	150	84	40	16	20	6
Chicago	460	230	50	300	172	60	17	100	41
Price, Utah	70	34	49	50	24	10	5	10	5
Birmingham	185	88	48	145	72	30	13	10	3
Austin, Minn.	110	51	46	85	39	15	3	10	9
Kansas City	120	53	44	75	35	20	8	25	10
Detroit	265	113	43	200	97	40	11	25	5
Houston	215	89	41	140	52	30	16	45	21
San Francisco	350	137	39	200	94	75	13	75	30
Washington, DC	250	94	38	150	59	50	14	50	21
Phoenix	160	60	38	80	37	25	1	55	22
Baltimore	215	79	37	175	69	30	2	10	8
National teams	200	58	29	130	54	20	0	50	4
Columbus	25	3	12	25	3	—	—	—	—
Denver	24	9	38	15	7	2	0	7	2
Louisville	5	1	20	5	1	—	—	—	—
Other U.S.	—	45	—	—	31	—	13	—	1
U.S. totals	8,854	4,767	54	5,685	3,227	1,582	781	1,587	759
AUSTRALIA	50	26	52	35	21	5	4	10	1
BRITAIN									
London	145	98	68	75	65	30	12	40	21
Nottingham	61	34	56	35	29	20	2	6	3
Manchester	70	21	30	50	18	5	3	15	0
South Wales	80	23	29	40	18	30	1	10	4
South Yorks	90	20	22	50	14	20	3	20	3
Other Britain	54	57	—	25	43	20	12	9	2
Britain totals	500	253	51	275	187	125	33	100	33
CANADA									
Vancouver	45	27	60	30	20	5	1	10	6
Montréal	275	145	53	125	69	75	48	75	28
Toronto	400	206	52	250	134	75	46	75	26
National team	—	73	—	—	57	—	9	—	7
Other Canada	—	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Canada totals	720	455	63	405	284	155	104	160	67
ICELAND									
32	17	53	25	13	5	4	2	0	
NEW ZEALAND									
Auckland	100	92	92	84	80	12	4	4	8
Wellington	80	61	76	68	52	10	8	2	1
Christchurch	70	45	64	60	43	8	1	2	1
New Zealand totals	250	198	79	212	175	30	13	8	10
PUERTO RICO									
30	11	37	5	5	2	0	23	6	
SWEDEN									
65	49	75	35	28	10	3	20	18	
Other International	—	61	—	—	37	—	8	—	16
Totals	10,501	5,837	56%	6,677	3,977	1,914	950	1,910	910
Drive Goals	10,400			6,630		1,895		1,875	
Should be		6,298	61%		4,015		1,148		1,136

*Includes *Nouvelle Internationale*

Protests mount over book banning by Grenada government

BY NORTON SANDLER

"As a trade unionist and longtime supporter of democratic rights, I strongly protest the banning from Grenada of Pathfinder books," New York garment union official Kathy Andrade stated.

"Such an action closely resembles what the world has come to expect from the apartheid regime in South Africa, the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile, and other repressive governments."

This message from Andrade, educational director of Local 23-25 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, was one of many that were sent to the Grenadian government following its seizure of copies of the *Militant* and books and pamphlets published and distributed by Pathfinder at the Point Salines Airport on October 18.

Customs officials took the books as I was entering the country to attend a rally sponsored by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement the next evening. They said, "The books are against our system here."

For three days, MBPM leaders, Pathfinder representative James Harris from New York, and I tried to get the government to release the books. In the process we were bounced from one government office to another. We were finally informed that the materials had been turned over to Commissioner of Police Cosmun Raymond.

The seizure of the publications was covered prominently by newspapers in Grenada and throughout the Caribbean.

In response to an inquiry from Pathfinder Director Steve Clark in New York, Raymond said the titles were being checked against a "list of banned books."

Ninety-two titles were in the seized cartons. They included *Maurice Bishop Speaks*; the new Pathfinder title *One People, One Destiny: The Caribbean and Central America*

Today, edited by Don Rojas, former press secretary to Bishop; and *Thomas Sankara Speaks, The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*. Sankara was the leader of the revolution in the West African country of Burkina Faso.

Also in the boxes were numerous titles by Malcolm X; *The Struggle Is My Life*, by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela; *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*; and several books by Cuban President Fidel Castro.

On October 20 government official E. Cernac called to inform me that the books had been barred from Grenada, but that I could take them with me when I departed from the country.

By then, however, the books no longer belonged to Pathfinder. They now are the property of Grenadian citizen Einstein Louison, a leader of the MBPM. As of October 26, government officials still had the books impounded, refusing to release them to Louison.

A Pathfinder press release issued October 25 notes, "On the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Grenada, members of the British Parliament, journalists, and human rights groups are condemning the government there for its decision last week to bar entry into the country of books and periodicals published and distributed by the New York-based Pathfinder Press."

Protest statements or inquiries have been sent to Grenada from:

Tony Benn, Labour Party Member of British Parliament: "Members of the British Parliament want to know who drew up the list [of banned books], what statutory authority exists for it, and why the Grenadian government is breaking the UN Charter on Human Rights."

Ronald Dellums, U.S. congressman

All-out effort needed on fund drive

Continued from front page

of the volume, will address the meeting. Also speaking will be Andrés Gómez, editor of *Areito* magazine; Dr. Rodney Daithorn and Rita Vega of the Association of Caribbean Studies; Rick Walker, member of International Association of Machinists Local 702 at Eastern Airlines; and Derold Saintilus, from the Young Socialist Alliance.

Pathfinder will be providing speakers to address the rallies. They include: David Deutschmann; Pathfinder Mural Project Director Sam Manuel; Malik Miah, former *Militant* editor; Elizabeth Stone, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*; John Riddell and Michael Baumann of the Pathfinder editorial staff; and Pathfinder representatives Tom Leonard and Joe Swanson.

These meetings can provide a political and financial rallying point for the leap now required in the fund campaign. Every one of the growing number of supporters of Pathfinder and its mural project should be encouraged to attend.

In the course of publicizing the meetings, as well as during the rallies, special fund appeals can be made aimed at closing the gap in the drive. Those who have already made pledges can pay them off, with those in a position to do so being approached for additional donations. Combined with new contributors, this can give the fund a real boost.

Pathfinder supporters in 32 cities are taking goals for the amount they pledge to raise in their region.

Pathfinder is sending letters to all those who have contributed or pledged to the fund, thanking them for payments already made and urging completion of pledges.

A letter is also planned to go to *Militant* subscribers and other potential fund contributors.

Pathfinder's current plans are impressive. A collection of previously unpublished speeches by Malcolm X is in preparation. And Pathfinder is mapping an ambitious promotion and distribution drive for upcoming books from Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia. These include: *The Economic Thought of Ernesto Che Guevara*, by Carlos Tablada; *Fidel Castro Speaks About Che Guevara*; and the *Fertile Prison*, the first of several books by Mario Mencía on Cuba's July 26 Movement.

Successful completion of the Pathfinder Fund will ensure that these important books get maximum circulation.



Militant/Norton Sandler

Ninety-two titles are included in cartons of Pathfinder books held by Commissioner of Police Cosmun Raymond at his Fort George office.

John T. Williams, retired president and business agent Teamsters Local 208 in California: "Wherever there is a denial of the freedom to read, there is an inherent rejection of the right to seek knowledge, which is but a prelude to the shackles of enslavement."

Susan Sontag, President PEN American Center: "On behalf of 2,100 American writers, [we] protest barring Pathfinder Press books from Grenada."

Committee to Protect Journalists, Walter Cronkite, honorary chairman: "... We urge you to take immediate steps to see that the publications are released and permitted to circulate freely in Grenada — even though the conference for which they were destined is now over."

Peter Milton, Australian Labor Party

minister in Federal House of Representatives: "This goes against basic democratic rights and fundamental freedom of expression."

Nick Bolkus, Australian Labor Party federal senator, and Sandra Nori and Ernie Page, New South Wales Labor Party MPs

Ko Brown, campaign coordinator, Article 19, London

Roland Algrant, chairman International Freedom to Publish Committee of the Association of American Publishers

Protest messages can be sent to Herbert Blaize, Prime Minister, St. George's, Grenada, and Cosmun Raymond, Commissioner of Police, St. George's, Grenada. Copies are requested by Pathfinder, 410 West. St. New York, New York 10014.

Grenadian revolutionary leader tours United States, Canada

Terry Marryshow, leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement in Grenada, is currently touring several cities in the United States and Canada.

Marryshow will be speaking on recent developments in Grenada and the Caribbean at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York, on Saturday, October 29, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by the Coalition for Caribbean and Central American Unity and endorsed by several other organizations.

Marryshow will be in Toronto October 30-31 and in Montréal from November 1-2. He will then go to Atlanta on November 3-4 and Miami on November 5-6.

The Grenadian revolutionary leader has spoken in Boston and Detroit and at Rutgers University in New Jersey.



Militant/Rena Cacoullos

Terry Marryshow

Action Program scoreboard

Area	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Area	Goal	Sold	% Sold
UNITED STATES							
Price, Utah	150	116	77	Omaha	400	115	29
Greensboro, NC	250	182	73	Houston	450	123	27
Charleston, WV	300	224	64	National teams	500	400	80
Cleveland	350	218	62	Columbus	50	8	16
Salt Lake City	225	131	58	U.S. totals	18,180	8,061	44
Seattle	425	244	57	AUSTRALIA	50	15	30
Philadelphia	475	261	55	BRITAIN			
Portland, Ore.	275	148	54	Manchester	100	62	62
Chicago	700	376	54	Nottingham	100	53	53
Milwaukee	325	174	54	London	200	66	33
Oakland	575	300	52	South Wales	100	22	22
San Francisco	700	350	50	South Yorks	200	39	20
St. Louis	500	244	49	Other Britain	100	53	53
Morgantown, WV	400	195	49	Britain totals	800	295	37
Phoenix	230	111	48	CANADA			
Miami	500	235	47	Toronto	700	307	44
Baltimore	375	176	47	Montréal	250	91	36
Newark	1,000	450	45	Vancouver	45	11	24
Detroit	525	235	45	National team	-	23	-
Atlanta	450	200	44	Canada totals	995	432	43
Los Angeles	1,100	488	44	ICELAND			
Pittsburgh	400	172	43	ICELAND	10	4	40
Boston	575	240	42	NEW ZEALAND			
Twin Cities	700	290	41	Auckland	200	177	89
Birmingham	325	110	34	Christchurch	150	117	78
Kansas City	275	90	33	Wellington	150	67	45
New York	3,500*	1,112	32	New Zealand totals	500	361	72
Des Moines	350	111	32	PUERTO RICO	30	10	33
Austin, Minn.	200	63	32	SWEDEN	50	26	52
Washington, DC	575	169	29	Totals	20,615	9,204	45%
				Drive goals	20,540		
				Should be		12,439	61%

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Women's Continental Front meets in Cuba

1,200 participants discuss debt choking Latin America, Caribbean

BY CINDY JAQUITH

HAVANA, Cuba — The foreign debt strangling Latin America and the Caribbean is increasing hunger, disease, unemployment, and illiteracy, with especially devastating results for women.

This was one of the main themes of the Third Conference of the Women's Continental Front Against Intervention, held here October 3-7. Twelve hundred women participated, most of them from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The five-day gathering was above all an opportunity for participants to learn from one another about the effects of U.S. political and economic domination of Latin America and the Caribbean, and to discuss what can be done to protect the living standards of the region's working people, achieve self-determination, and advance the status of women.

It was also an opportunity for the delegates, most of whom had not been to Cuba before, to see firsthand how a socialist revolution can transform the lives of women and lay the groundwork for overcoming their centuries-old oppression.

Vilma Espín, a leader of the Continental Front and president of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), noted this in her welcoming remarks to conference delegates the first day, encouraging the women to learn as much as they could about Cuba during their brief visit.

Origins of Continental Front

The Continental Front was founded at a conference of Latin American and Caribbean women held in Managua, Nicaragua, in 1982. Longtime Sandinista National Liberation Front leader Doris Tijerino became its president and Sonia Aguiñada, a leader of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador, its executive secretary.

The Continental Front then sponsored a second international conference in 1985 in Havana. It also organized a meeting of Latin American and Caribbean women journalists that year in Managua.

Bringing women together for such conferences has been one of the principal activities of the Continental Front. It also publishes a bulletin in Spanish, *Mujeres del Continente Contra la Intervención* (Continental Women Against Intervention), which carries news on struggles against U.S. intervention and for women's rights in various countries in the region.

Nicaraguan newspaper editors tour U.S.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

NEW YORK — Two editors of *Barricada Internacional*, published by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) of Nicaragua, have been touring the United States to promote the biweekly newspaper. They addressed a meeting of 100 people here October 11 at the New School for Social Research.

Edited in Managua, *Barricada Internacional* is currently printed in four languages: Spanish, English, Portuguese, and German. It carries new stories on developments in Nicaragua, interviews with Nicaraguan government and FSLN leaders, and occasionally speeches or other documents. Much of the material is not available in the daily *Barricada*, also published by the FSLN.

Ruth Warner, coeditor of the English-language *Barricada Internacional*, told the audience that the English edition is now being published in the United States to facilitate distribution. There are currently 1,500 U.S. subscribers, and the goal is to double that in the coming months.

Sergio de Castro, director of *Barricada Internacional*, spoke on the U.S. lie campaign against Nicaragua and the importance of getting out the truth.

Also speaking was Arnoldo Ramos, a representative of the Political-Diplomatic

At the opening session of this year's conference, Tijerino explained that the Continental Front was founded in response to the escalating U.S.-run contra war against Nicaragua, U.S. militarization of the Caribbean aimed at the Grenada revolution, and threats of aggression against Cuba.

There was a vital need, and an objective possibility, she said, to rally broad layers of women and women's organizations to oppose Washington's attack on these revolutions and to organize against U.S. policy as a whole in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Support for national self-determination and opposition to imperialist intervention were the only requirements for becoming part of the Continental Front, Tijerino explained. "We agreed," she said, that there would be "no exclusion of any popular, political, religious, or governmental group, or individual woman," who identified with these two goals.

'Unity in action'

The Continental Front is not highly structured, she continued. It simply aims to promote "unity in action for nonintervention and self-determination" by bringing together "revolutionary, democratic, and progressive women."

The composition of the delegations reflected this. Many participants came representing women's organizations that look to one or another political current in their country: parties of the revolutionary left, national liberation fronts currently engaged in armed struggle, Communist parties, social-democratic parties, and some liberal parties.

Many of the delegates were professionals. There were some trade union officials and working-class women: garment workers from Mexico, domestic workers from Peru and Colombia, miners' wives from Bolivia, and others. Some peasant women also participated.

Dignity Battalions

The Panamanian delegation perhaps best captured the anti-imperialist sentiment that the Continental Front seeks to mobilize. Anayka Mercado Romero, a leader of the Organization of Torrijista Women, of the Revolutionary Democratic Party in power in Panama told the conference:

"The United States has frozen \$78 million of our assets in their banks. They've sent 3,000 more troops to Panama over the last year. But we are resisting! And we are

resisting combatively. Every one of the sisters here from Panama is a member of the Dignity Battalions."

The Dignity Battalions were set up last spring when Washington's drive to overthrow the Panamanian government reached its height and a U.S. invasion was openly threatened. Working people began de-



Militant/Cindy Jaquith
Sandinista National Liberation Front leader Doris Tijerino explained aim of Continental Front is to bring together "revolutionary, democratic, and progressive women" to unite in action for nonintervention and self-determination.

manding that the Panamanian government arm them to defend their country. The Dignity Battalions were organized for these civilians to receive military training. Battalion members also began politically organizing their neighborhoods.

Several of the Panamanian delegates here proudly sported Dignity Battalion baseball caps that read: "I won't sell out my country. Not a single step backward!"

Capitalist economic crisis

The effects of the world capitalist economic crisis on the continent spurred the most discussion during the five-day Continental Front gathering. A resolution from the workshop on Women and the Crisis detailed some of the effects.

"...the exorbitant foreign debt and the ever-increasing interest rates are asphyxiating the precarious economies of the region," it said.

The resolution placed the blame on "the capitalists in the industrialized world — and particularly U.S. imperialism — who have become rich at the expense of our wealth and natural resources" and who "are the ones who owe Latin America and the Caribbean."

"We therefore reaffirm that the foreign debt is unpayable, uncollectible, and immoral as well." It went on to call for "united action to bring about a just new international economic order based on equality and mutual cooperation."

The resolution denounced the attempts by some governments to meet debt payments by turning state-owned enterprises over to private hands and by slashing social expenditures, which has sharply driven illiteracy and infant mortality rates up.

This crisis has had particular effects on women, the resolution continued. Many women, driven off the land, are unable to find productive employment in the cities and end up as peddlars on the street or prostitutes.

The resolution also condemned "mass sterilization of women as a form of birth

control" and "the practice of taking children away from their mothers and sometimes fattening them up for sale."

In an interview with the *Militant*, several delegates from Bolivia described the scope of the foreign debt crisis in that country. They reported that since 1985, the Bolivian government has thrown 27,000 miners out of work by shutting down state-owned mines. The miners and their families have been forced to move to the city of La Paz, where they are living in tents on the streets. They have no schools, no health care, no means of earning a decent income.

The delegates noted that in the midst of this sharp crisis, the U.S. government has begun sending donations of food and clothing to Bolivia. The donations are distributed by the Bolivian government and the Catholic and Adventist churches, who seek to use the desperately needed supplies to pressure women politically.

Instead of creating productive jobs for the many women trying to support families singlehandedly, the free food and clothing is offered if the women cooperate with church authorities, including by discouraging protests in their own neighborhoods against government policy.

The Women and the Crisis resolution raised a variety of suggestions for action, particularly repudiation of the foreign debt.

It also called for the promotion of "national sex education programs that include family planning and abortion among the health services provided." Another point called for support to "the demands that governments implement true agrarian reforms, that they place the land in the hands of the people who work it."

Indigenous women

The resolution also called for launching a political campaign around the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landing in the Americas — from now to 1992 — to oppose "colonialism, slavery, genocide, and cultural imposition" and support "the people's right to self-determination and the preservation of indigenous cultures of each nation."

Delegates from Indian tribes in Latin America and the United States attended the conference. Ediza Ehrman, a Kuna Indian from Panama, was one of the indigenous women who addressed the delegates the last day, speaking both in the Kuna language and in Spanish.

She recalled the resistance of the continent's Indians to the genocide and land theft carried out by European colonizers. The spirit of that resistance continues today "in the struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism, and imperialism," she said, singling out the role of "the women and people of Cuba, led by the great warrior Fidel Castro Ruz."

Indian women, she concluded, "must stand firm with the exploited and oppressed, with the peoples who are struggling for national liberation and a new national identity."

There were some delegates who were Black and whose first language was English, from such countries as Panama, Colombia, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, and the United States. Numerous other delegates, from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Surinam, and Cuba, were of direct African descent.

In a speech on the final day, Continental Front leader Eunice Santana, a minister who heads the National Ecumenical Movement of Puerto Rico, pointed out that combating "the specific problems faced by Indians and Blacks" is an important component of the overall battle for national liberation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Speech by Castro

Cuban President Fidel Castro attended the final session of the conference where the resolutions were read out, as did Tomás Borge, Nicaragua's minister of the interior and a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

Castro gave a speech to the delegates, focusing on the foreign debt issue. He reminded the women that in 1985 he had called for the governments of Latin America to refuse to pay the debt. "We said: the debt should be a uniting factor to make it

Commission of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front (FMLN-FDR) of El Salvador. Ramos is also an editor of the English-language edition of *Venceremos*, published by the FMLN-FDR.

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possible for us to marshal our forces to fight for the new international economic order.

"I truly feel that 1985 would have been a decisive year had the leaders of the countries risen to the occasion," Castro said. This did not happen, he continued, and "I sincerely think that a huge historic opportunity was lost."

The Cuban president stressed, "We are strong enough to make demands" on the capitalists and bankers bleeding Latin America dry. The debt should be canceled.

"Of course, they will not do it out of charity. We have to demand it!" Castro insisted to cheers from the women.

Focuses of solidarity

The Political Dimensions workshop resolution pointed to several countries where solidarity against imperialist intervention was particularly important. It called for "support and solidarity with the women and peoples of El Salvador and Guatemala; with the women and people of Puerto Rico in their struggle against colonialism; with the women and people of Panama against imperialist intervention; with the struggle of Free Nicaragua and the defense of its Revolution; with the women and people of Socialist Cuba; with the women and people of Chile in their struggle against Pinochet."

The Final Declaration adopted by delegates did not seek to call coordinated actions or single out particular demands, but rather emphasized four general points on which the vast majority of delegates could agree: "Solidarity," "Our militant and absolute anti-imperialism," "Our ever-more-urgent need for self-determination," and "The awareness of our status as women and our will to combat any form of discrimination that subordinates us and hinders our development."

How Front is organized

"In reality we're not an organization, we're a movement," Tijerino told the *Militant*. "And that's exactly what allows us to function, keep gathering forces, and bring women together from different political and ideological tendencies, different religions, different races, all around the basic problem of intervention, from military intervention, to cultural, political, diplomatic, and economic intervention."

"At first we thought that national chapters of the Continental Front could be set up," she said. "In practice, we rapidly realized this would work in some countries but not in others."

Tijerino said there are organized chapters of the Continental Front in a few countries. "In others there is no such united front. In those cases we maintain bilateral relations through the Front coordinating committee with the various organizations that exist."

All women who support the Front's goals are welcome. "We don't start by looking to see if you're a social democrat, a liberal, a conservative, or a feminist. That's not what's important to us. What is important is that you be in agreement with the struggle against intervention," Tijerino explained.

She said the experience of the Front demonstrated "the necessity for women to find a movement that takes up all their political and social concerns, and the possibility of doing so." She added that so many women signed up to come to this year's conference that registration eventually had to be closed because all the available hotel space in Havana was already taken.

The decision to hold the third conference here in Cuba coincided with a decision to base the Continental Front in Havana for the time being, with the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) taking major responsibility for coordinating the Front's



Panamanian women at conference. Member of delegation told gathering: "The U.S. has sent 3,000 more troops to Panama over the last year. But we are resisting! And we are resisting combatively. Every one of the sisters here is a member of the Dignity Battalions." Civilian battalions were organized to receive military training when Washington threatened to invade Panama last spring. They also began politically organizing their neighborhoods.

work. (See box for address).

The Front leadership, made up of a secretariat and coordinators in various countries, also decided to no longer maintain the post of president, but rather seek to expand the role of the secretariat and increase the number of coordinators.

U.S. delegation

Nearly 70 women from the United States participated in the conference. They had come to Havana for a Seminar on Cuban Women sponsored by the FMC, and were invited to be delegates at the Continental Front conference, which coincided with the seminar dates.

Many of the U.S. participants belonged to organizations, including Women's Workshop in the Americas, Women for Racial and Economic Equality, MADRE, Women's Alliance Against Repression, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, National Organization for Women, and several groups of Black or Native American women. About half the delegation were Black, Latina, Asian, or Native American.

Like all delegates, they were invited by their Cuban hosts to spend one day visiting factories, farms, prisons, hospitals or child-care centers in Cuba and meeting with leaders of Cuban mass organizations.

U.S. and Canadian delegates also had the opportunity to attend a neighborhood meeting of rank-and-file FMC activists and Fidel Castro. The meeting turned into a dialogue between Castro and the neighborhood women on the progress being made in building more child-care centers and involving women in various tasks of the revolution.

Meeting with trade unionists

About 100 delegates from many countries met with leaders of the Federation of Cuban Workers (CTC), who explained that Cuba's rectification process is at the center of their work today. By this they meant the campaign led by the Cuban Communist Party to deepen communist consciousness and bring the working class to center stage in the battle to overcome Cuba's economic difficulties and uproot bureaucratic and administrative methods.

CTC Assistant General Secretary René Peñalver explained that the revolution had found that economic mechanisms alone did not work to increase productivity and quality of work. Political leadership is needed, he stressed, adding, "We are impassioned revolutionaries more than trade unionists."

Peñalver also told the delegates that the CTC is working to increase the number of union leaders who are female. While women are roughly 47 percent of the local union leaders, they make up only 15 percent of the national CTC staff, a fact that prompted considerable discussion during the meeting.

A group of delegates also toured the José Martí tobacco factory in Havana. The majority of the several hundred workers there were women, and many were anxious to meet any Panamanians who might be in the visiting party. "We were ready to go fight with you if the Yankees invaded!" de-

clared one worker.

A variety of other events were also organized, including a concert, film showings, a dance program, and a fashion show.

The final day, U.S. delegates had the opportunity to meet with FMC President

Espín. She stressed the importance of the delegates reaching out beyond their own organizations to broaden knowledge about U.S. intervention in Latin America and the Caribbean and involve more women in the fight against it.

1,700 Miami Cubans demand: 'Normalize relations with Cuba'

BY PETE SEIDMAN

MIAMI — Some 1,700 Miami Cubans jammed a meeting here October 2 to demand that the U.S. government normalize relations with Cuba.

Another 300 Cubans, unable to get into the breakfast at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, listened outside the door as former New Mexico governor Toney Anaya addressed the first public event organized by the Cuban-American Committee for Family Rights.

The committee was formed about six months ago by a group of professionals and educators in Miami's Cuban community. "Only a caveman mentality could say, 'No, you can't visit your mothers, you can't send a pair of eyeglasses to your brother,'" says Carmen Díaz, a Miami psychologist who founded the committee.

Besides facilitating family visits, the committee is demanding regularization of mail and telephone communications with Cuba and the rapid processing of visas for the annual quota of 20,000 immigrants negotiated between Washington and Havana last year.

Committee co-founder Carmen Marina says the group is offering an alternative to the politics of "Cuba sí, Castro no."

Miami's Monseñor Bryan Walsh, who is also a member of the new committee, gave the benediction at the breakfast. "The problem of the Cubans is the problem of human rights," Walsh said, according to *El Nuevo Herald*, a Spanish-language daily published by the *Miami Herald*. "Since the founding of the United States, the unification of the family has been fundamental. But during the last nine years, it appears, the government has changed its policy and ceased making the reunification of Cuban families a priority."

Walsh's comments, *El Herald* continued, "provoked an enthusiastic reaction in the audience, made up in its majority of women whose average age was 50, some of whom chanted, 'Normalize relations with Cuba.'"

Another committee supporter is Walfrido Moreno, leader of the Alianza de Trabajadores de la Comunidad (Community Workers Alliance). "Nobody is going to turn this back," he insisted. Moreno was a participant in the 1979 Dialogue, the last major effort within Miami's Cuban community to seek improved relations with Cuba.

At that time, *El Herald* commented in an October 10 article, "the leaders of the Dialogue paid dearly. Two were murdered. Others were threatened, attacked with bombs, or put on a black list."

"There were no bombs" at the Sunday meeting, *El Herald* noted, "only eggs and bacon and speeches." Although the Radisson Plaza had received a bomb threat, it decided to go ahead with the event anyway.

Unlike the 1979 Dialogue, which focused on discussions between the Cuban community in the United States and the Cuban government, the new committee plans to focus its demands on Washington.

The October 2 meeting was built through a mailing to people who had traveled to Cuba or requested to do so through Marazul, the principal travel agency handling trips to Cuba. Last year, Marazul celebrated the first anniversary of its new offices in Miami with a party here attended by some 800 people.

According to *El Herald*, Angel Pino of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., said he had not heard of the committee, but that its strategy seemed appropriate.

"I believe that if the community strives for normalization in the U.S., this will contribute toward achieving its objective of family reunifications in Cuba."

Lively discussion on Cuban revolution at Miami meeting

MIAMI — A lively discussion on the Women's Continental Front conference and the Cuban revolution took place here October 10 at an informal reception at the Pathfinder Bookstore.

The bookstore had invited *Militant* reporters Cindy Jaquith and Roni McCann to give brief reports on their trip to Havana, where they had covered the Continental Front conference and a seminar on Cuban women.

Among those attending the reception were Cuban workers living in Miami. One, a garment worker, said she had been following the Continental Front conference all week by listening to Cuban radio stations.

Several of the Cubans present spoke up on the need to counter the lies against the Cuban revolution.

One woman, who has lived in the United States for three decades, described the superior health and educational opportunities in Cuba, which she has visited frequently to see relatives. "Where else can a woman get a free, two-month stay in the hospital because of complications in her pregnancy?" she asked. "That's Cuba! That's the revolution!"

How to contact Continental Front

To contact the Women's Continental Front Against Intervention, write to Federación de Mujeres Cubanas, Paseo 260 esquina a 13, Vedado, La Habana, Cuba. Telephone: 3-0032.

Hopes high at farm workers' convention

Support grows for union's demands on California grape growers

BY JOEL BRITTON
AND CARLOS BELTRAN

DELANO, Calif. — Hopes ran high at the ninth constitutional convention of the United Farm Workers (UFW) that the union's campaign to pressure California table grape growers may be entering a new stage.

Some 200 delegates, mainly from California, met at the union's Forty Acres center here October 9.

During and after UFW President Cesar Chavez' 36-day "fast for life," support for the union's demands on the grape growers has grown. The fast ended August 21 at a Catholic mass attended by thousands of farm workers. The UFW is calling for "free and fair representation elections and good-faith collective bargaining"; an end to the use by growers of five pesticides that pose severe health problems, such as cancer, damage to the nervous system, and birth defects; and a "joint UFW-grower testing program of poisonous residues on grapes sold in the stores, with the results made public." Grape growers employ some 50,000 farm workers.

Among those who have responded to the UFW's call for stepped-up support to the union's grape boycott and related campaigns are Gerald McEntee, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; John Sweeney, president of the Service Employees International Union; John Henning, executive secretary-treasurer, California AFL-CIO; Canadian Labour Congress Secretary-treasurer Richard Mercier; actors Martin Sheen, Edward Olmos, Lou Diamond Phillips, and Robert Blake; antiwar activist Brian Willson; and other political and religious figures.

UFW staff member Hub Seeger reported to the delegates that Chavez' fast had given renewed impetus to the boycott. He cited recent industry statistics on the grape market that show a decline in grape shipments to large East Coast and Midwest cities, as well as dumping of grapes at prices below the cost of production in Los Angeles and San Francisco. "We figure the amount they have lost on Thompson grapes since the middle of August is \$8.4 million" on this year's record crop, Seeger said. He added that workers around Delano report that cold storage facilities are filling up with millions of boxes of unsold grapes.

There was no indication in reports to the



A 1985 United Farm Workers rally in Delano, California. Union is calling for end to growers' use of five pesticides that cause cancer, damage to nervous system, and birth defects.

convention that the growers are inclined to come to terms with the union, despite whatever impact the grape boycott is having on sales. Seeger said the growers have cited other factors, such as hot weather, to explain slower grape sales.

UFW Third Vice-president Ben Maddock gave a "crops group" report to the delegates. The union has succeeded, he

said, in renegotiating 65 contracts, covering more than 8,000 workers, in the two years since its last convention. Ten new contracts have been signed covering 2,100 workers. The union now has 98 contracts, almost all in California, covering more than 20,000 workers.

Growers in the grape, lettuce, and citrus sectors have succeeded, with help from

government officials, in virtually eliminating progress the UFW made in the 1960s and '70s. They have driven down wages, eliminated medical insurance and other benefits, and drastically worsened working conditions. Maddock cited Ventura County, where a few years ago the UFW had more than 4,000 citrus workers under contract, and now has only 130.

Some recent contracts have been won after bitter strike struggles, including a one-year strike at a Napa Valley winery.

UFW officials project a "share the suffering" campaign of water-only fasting by farm workers and supporters, following Chavez' example, as part of the effort to keep up pressure on the grape growers.

Delegates welcomed Chavez and First Vice-president Dolores Huerta back to active duty during the afternoon session. Chavez is still recuperating from the effects of his fast, and Huerta is recovering from a brutal beating at the hands of San Francisco police in September at a protest against Republican presidential candidate George Bush.

The convention passed a resolution condemning the beating, demanding punishment for the cops who were responsible, and calling for compensation to Huerta for her injuries.

A convention highlight was greetings from Baldemar Velasquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC). Velasquez told the convention about the advances FLOC is making in northwest Ohio and other Midwest states. The union expects 14 more contracts to be signed soon, he said, covering 3,000 workers.

At FLOC's recent convention, delegates approved moving toward unity with the UFW. "I hope next time we will be delegates to this convention," Velasquez said.

Atlanta: abortion foes fail to shut clinics

BY KATE DAHER

ATLANTA — Operation Rescue, a New York-based organization opposed to legal abortion, failed in its second wave of attempts to shut down clinics and hospitals here that perform abortions.

More than 800 activists opposed to abortion rights were arrested in July and August when they tried to disrupt medical facilities. They returned to Atlanta the first

week of October, vowing to make the city "abortion free."

This time 361 of them were arrested. Charges include obstructing a sidewalk, unlawful assembly, refusing to obey police officers, and giving false names. Those arrested often use the names Baby Jane or John Doe.

Operation Rescue Director Randall Terry was arrested and charged with conspiring to commit a crime after organizing a meeting of members planning to disrupt the abortion facilities. He was released after posting \$75,000 bond.

Operation Rescue members sit down and block the entrances to the clinics to keep patients and staff from entering. They bill their disruption activities as a national campaign of "nonviolent civil disobedience" and liken it to the massive civil rights movement that overturned legal racial segregation. They have carried out similar actions in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. They call their return "The Siege of Atlanta."

In a heated debate September 19, the Atlanta City Council voted 12 to 5 to seek injunctions against leaders of the antiabortion demonstrations. According to local press reports, both sides in the debate invoked the authority of the civil rights movement. Council member Jabari Simama said the injunction "will not deny this group's rights to exercise its First Amendment rights." He said only illegal activity, not picketing and free speech, would be prohibited.

Hosea Williams, veteran civil rights leader, argued against an injunction claiming that the city's actions were similar to those of Nazi officials in Germany. "I've been enjoined 100 times," said Williams. "They're protesting for different causes, but they're exercising their right to protest just like we did in Birmingham and in Selma and in Forsyth," three places famous for important Black rights protests.

On October 4 Fulton Superior Court Judge Joel Fryer signed an injunction ordering antiabortion activists to stay a minimum of five feet away from the property lines of the clinics. The provisions include a stipulation that failure to comply

with any aspect of the order could result in civil contempt penalties of \$500 per violation.

The next day, three people attempting to block access to the Feminist Women's Health Center were charged with simple assault after a teenage patient tripped and fell to the pavement when they tried to stop her from entering the clinic.

The protesters surrounded the young woman and, while tugging at her, screamed, "Please don't kill your baby." She became entangled with a man trying to prevent her from entering the clinic. According to the clinic's staff, she was badly shaken after the attack, and her mother, who was with her, fainted when she got inside.

On the last day of the attempts to disrupt the facilities, more than 40 arrests took place. At the Midtown Hospital in downtown Atlanta, most of the women seeking medical attention were young and Black. When they arrived in the morning, anti-abortion protesters — overwhelmingly white and male — were waiting. Though some women drove through the blockade into the hospital's parking lot, others had to climb over the railing and run a gauntlet of hostile pickets. Some Operation Rescue members attempted to photograph the women, who were shielded by escorts. None of the women seeking abortions were turned back.

On October 3 some 250 people attended a "Take Back the Roses" commemoration for women who died from illegal abortions before the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that struck down state laws restricting abortions. Sponsors included the National Organization for Women and National Abortion Rights Action League.

Maceo Dixon, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 5th District, released a statement condemning the illegal attempt to restrict women's access to abortion. "The only civil rights issue involved here is the right of a woman to control her own body. Operation Rescue is trying to take away civil rights, a right women fought for and won. I firmly defend women's rights, including the right to abortion," said Dixon.

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The rectification process in Cuba: how revolution is moving forward

Interview with Communist women's leader from Guantánamo

The following is an interview with Nieves Alemañy, general secretary of the Federation of Cuban Women in Guantánamo Province, a rural area of eastern Cuba. Alemañy is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and a delegate to the National Assembly, Cuba's legislature.

The interview was conducted in Spanish by Cindy Jaquith and Roni McCann in Havana on October 7. The translation is by the Militant.

Militant. How is Cuba's rectification process affecting women?

Alemañy. Ever since the third congress of the party took place [in two sessions in February and December of 1986], and even a little earlier, when the commander in chief [Fidel Castro] called for the rectification of errors, all our organizations mapped out projections for how we could contribute in our sectors toward putting the rectification process into practice.

The Federation of Cuban Women is a very broad organization that includes women who are workers, peasants, housewives, intellectuals, and professionals. We devote ourselves to working within all of these sectors so that women can fulfill their real role. One of the fundamental aspects of this is the role of women as leaders.

I believe a turning point was reached in this regard in the rectification process. Cuban women participate fully in society as workers, and in many other sectors—especially as professionals. But they still hadn't fully assumed the leadership role we aspire to at the municipal, provincial, and national level. We hadn't reached this point and still haven't.

We've tried not to bring in women simply because they're women, but rather women who are qualified, who have the knowledge that's required to play a leading role and overcome the difficulties and limitations women continue to face. We've been making progress in this sense. It's clear that both the party and state are being strengthened by women in the central leaderships.

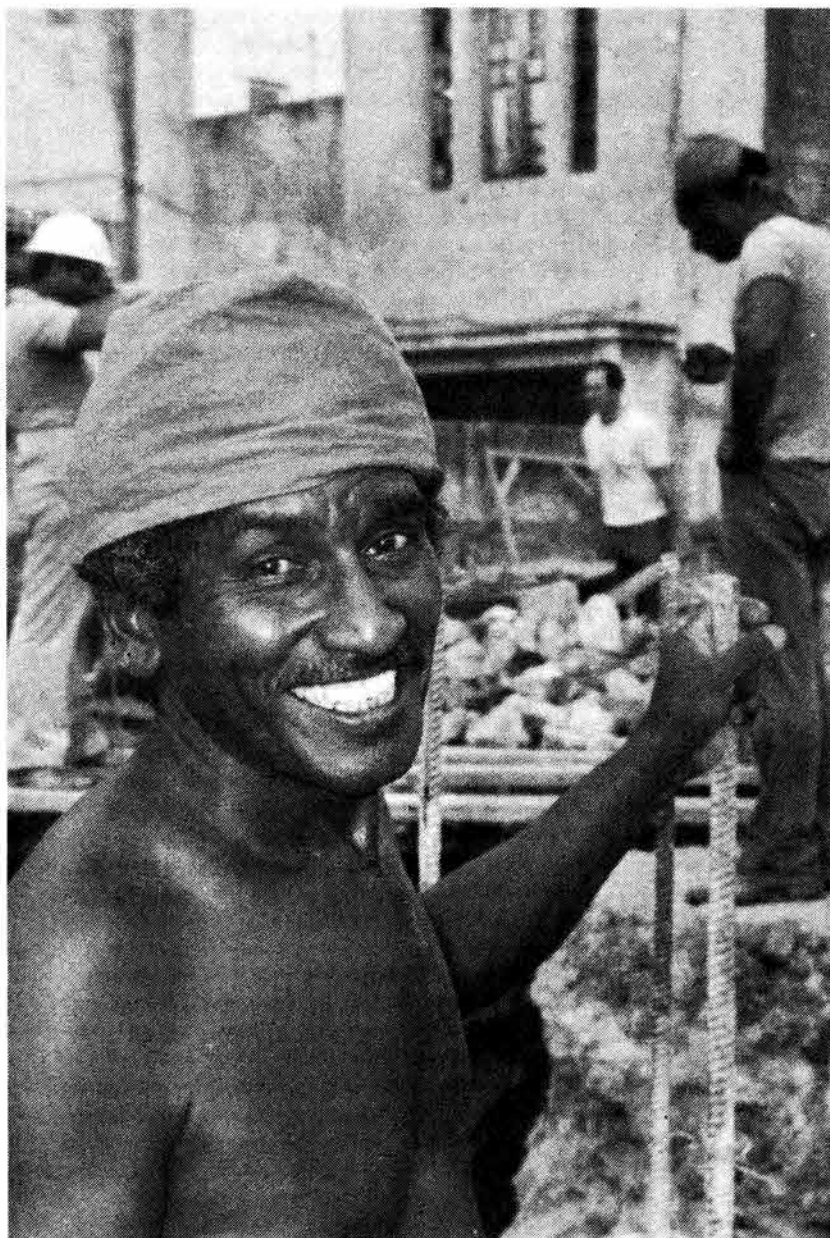
Also, at least in my province, there are already several women who are directors of enterprises at the provincial level, in enterprises as complex, for example, as road construction in the mountains.

Also, we view the rectification process not simply as correcting errors by the state or in the line of the party. We see the process as one in which every Cuban has errors to correct. Every Cuban, in other words, has a role to play in the process.

Women who are workers can carry out this role in their workplace. In the service sector, for example, there's still a lot of resistance to offering efficient service to the population.

We've worked directly with women workers so that they can play a role in this. If women need certain services—clothes, shoes, to go to the doctor, catch a bus—and if they like being able to receive these things, and get good service, then as workers they should offer the same.

However, a woman fulfills her duties as a worker not only when she's at work, but by participating in activities carried out in the community, in activities in defense of the country. In other words we've done the political work



One of the 30,000 Cubans participating in construction 'minibrigades' in Havana. Engaging in volunteer labor of this kind is central to the two-year-old "revolution within the revolution," as Cuban President Fidel Castro has called the rectification process.

of convincing our membership in all areas to see itself as responsible for carrying out the rectification so that they don't view the rectification process as something that exists outside of them—something that only the party and the state carries out.

Each one of us has a part to play in this process—if we have the necessary work discipline, if we have respect for the quality of the work, and if we're able to offer a service with the kind of quality people need. Then after

“A turning point in the development of women leaders is the rectification process . . .”

we've complied with our duties, we have the right to demand that others similarly comply with their obligations toward us.

In other words, we've tried to bring this consciousness to the woman worker, the professional, and the peasant woman, who also plays a very important role in the process.

Militant. With regard to peasant women, do they face greater obstacles to achieving full equality compared to

Continued on next page

Canadians join with workers in Havana doing voluntary labor

BY AL CAPPE

MONTREAL — Over the past several months, the role of Cuban internationalist troops in helping the Angolan and Namibian people inflict defeats on the South African forces in Angola has broken into the news.

However, almost nothing has been reported on the giant strides being taken by Cuba's workers and farmers through what the Communist Party of Cuba calls the rectification process—a struggle that is today deepening the Cuban revolution.

This past July, in order to experience these developments firsthand and report back the truth about them, 22 workers and students organized by the Québec-Cuba Friendship Society traveled to Cuba.

We went to participate in the voluntary work movement that is at the heart of the rectification process. Through the voluntary work brigades, launched by the Cuban CP in 1986, thousands of working people are being mobilized to solve many of Cuba's burning social problems such as the need for vastly expanded child-care facilities and housing.

Our tour decided to name itself the Nelson Mandela International Solidarity Brigade in honor of the jailed leader of the African National Congress of South Africa. Participants included members of the United Steelworkers of America, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, Canadian Paperworkers Union, teachers, and high school and university students. One of the brigade members lives in Iceland, the rest in Canada.

From July 10 to 24, our brigade joined Cuban construction workers and others on the Miguel Enríquez Hospital construction site in Havana. In our spare time we met with representatives of mass organizations, such as the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, as well as with workers responsible for child-care centers and other aspects of Cuban society.

'Revolution within the revolution'

Cuban President Fidel Castro has called what is going on in Cuba today a "revolution within the revolution." He explains that it aims to overcome the problems created by the revolution beginning to go off course. It had, he says, increasingly relied on the blind functioning of economic mechanisms, rather than on political mobilization and deepening the communist consciousness of the working class.

Productivity and work quality had begun to decline; construction projects were started and never finished; the voluntary work brigades that were prominent in the early years of the revolution were abandoned. Castro explains that a social layer of administrators and functionaries grew up who began to "act like capitalists." They counterposed their individual well-being to the social needs of Cuban working people as a whole.

Manuel Rodríguez works as an economist in the Cuban sugar industry and is assigned to give presentations on the rectification process on behalf of the Central Committee of the Cuban CP. He explained to us that "the idea had developed that money would solve everything."

"But money solves nothing. Work, especially creative

Continued on next page

Cuban Communist Party leader talks about

Continued from previous page
women in the urban work force?

Alemañy. This is true of peasant women and all the difficulties they confronted in the past. The remnants of machismo are much stronger in the countryside than in the cities.

Peasant women have made a lot of progress. And we're continuing to work to integrate these women more massively into the new forms of production.

From her position in the family the peasant woman can help educate her children and influence her husband to cease producing from an individual point of view and go over to the socialist form of production, the farm cooperatives.

Our agricultural yield is limited by the fact that our island isn't going to grow any bigger. So we're compelled to use the land we have, at maximum production.

An isolated peasant on a small plot of land can't resolve the problem of the need to produce more and more to satisfy the growing food needs of our population. The solution is therefore cooperative labor, where technology, science, and engineering can be applied. On the

“We view rectification process as one in which every Cuban has errors to correct and therefore a role to play in the process . . .”

cooperatives the productive yield can be much higher. Almost all the cooperatives already have agronomy and farming engineers who advise them.

From the beginning of the revolution when the land was turned over to the peasants and this new form of production was established, Fidel proposed that joining a cooperative be absolutely voluntary, that it's a matter of carrying out the political work of convincing people to join. Today, at least in my province, there remains a percentage of peasants who are not part of the cooperatives.

We are working with peasant women so that they join but also so they exercise influence within the family, to help the family understand that the cooperative is the solution to the problem. And that it's the only real solution for the country and for the peasants as well.

We've been making progress step by step. Many women have joined cooperatives, but not yet everyone. We continue to work with the percentage that haven't, raising the kind of consciousness that I believe is the fundamental task in the countryside.

Speeches by Fidel Castro on rectification

The following speeches by Fidel Castro have appeared in issues of the *Militant*:

1988

'Cuba will never adopt methods of capitalism' Sept. 2

'Volunteer work brigades lead revolution forward' Jan. 29

1987

Speech to Young Communist congress May 29

'Socialism cannot be built without a communist party' July 3

'Material incentives are secondary to revolutionary work' Aug. 7

Speech on rectification in Havana Province Oct. 16

Fidel Castro honors Che Guevara Nov. 13

To order, send \$1 per speech to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Also available in *New International* No. 6, 'Important problems for the whole of international revolutionary thought,' and 'Renewal or death.'

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Militant. Fidel has pointed to the big campaign to construct child-care centers through voluntary labor as an important achievement of the rectification process. He's also said that the view existed among some government functionaries that providing adequate child care was a low priority. Could you describe the situation that existed in more detail?

Alemañy. Well, there was a tendency to lean more toward the construction of projects for production than projects for social needs. Fortunately, correcting this is part of the rectification process. Fidel has proposed that we can't stop constructing socially necessary projects and at a rate that satisfies the needs of women and of workers in every sense.

Child-care centers were being constructed, but at a rate that was never going to satisfy the real need that exists in the country. Today tremendous work has been carried out in the construction of child-care centers. Here in the capital many have been built. Last year, more than 100 were built, and this year new centers have already been completed in all the provinces.

A budget has also been allocated for the construction of child-care centers, and not only child-care centers, but a program for grade school children as well that includes lunch and after-school care.

Because, in addition to preschool child-care, the children need a program at the grade-school level so that the mother can continue working with the security that her child is being cared for.

This program is at the primary school level. The children eat lunch there — they're in school all morning and then they eat there — and if the mother is late she can pick them up at 6:00 in the evening. It's the continuation

of child-care at the grade school level.

So right now we're making a serious effort, through our revolution, to offer women these two services so that she will have this security. We haven't yet answered everyone's needs, because we'd have to build many more child-care centers for that, but at least there's been a tremendous response to current needs.

And I believe as a result more women are also joining the work force, and those already in the work force who

“We've convinced members of the FMC not to view rectification as something existing outside of themselves . . .”

didn't yet have child-care services available to them feel more reassured about this problem.

Militant. What has been the response of working people in your province to the rectification campaign?

Alemañy. In a general sense it's been good because people have seen that the many problems that concern them are being addressed. They've seen how the top leadership of the revolution and the leadership bodies at the provincial and municipal levels have been taking measures with regard to those problems. These were problems that we, even, to a certain extent, fostering dissatisfaction because needs of the population weren't being met.

Experience of Canadians on a v

Continued from previous page

work, does that," he stressed. "The central idea of the rectification process is that the construction of socialism is fundamentally a political task.

"Factory managers had become more concerned with profits than with the development of the economy," he said. "This was an extremely grave problem. Socialism will not be built in a spontaneous way. It must be consciously planned. This is a key political task that must be led by the party."

At the same time, he explained, economic planning, cost accounting, and attention to efficiency are all necessary. "But these must be subordinate to political objectives.

"Politics is about people," he concluded. "Our job is to lead men and women to understand their role in building society. We are correcting errors now. This is a process, not a political campaign that has an end. It is a conception of the construction of socialism."

A mass movement

The voluntary work movement sweeping this country of 10 million people, more than anything else, expresses what this conception of the fight for socialism is all about. It is truly a mass movement.

Throughout Havana, 1,000 "minibrigades" of 30 workers each are busy on housing and other construction projects. These workers are volunteers who take leaves from their regular jobs to participate in the minibrigades. They receive their normal weekly pay, but generally work much longer hours than they do at their regular jobs. The work previously done by the minibrigade members in their regular jobs is done by other workers in the workplace.

For example, the Coppelia ice cream factory that we visited has a work force of 156, which includes 10 workers who are currently participating full time in the voluntary work projects. The factory administrator explained to us that the minibrigade members — *microbrigadistas* — are chosen through consultation between the bodies of the Communist Party, Union of Young Communists (UJC), and the union in the factory, along with the factory administration. The work they would normally do in the plant is now handled by the remaining 146 workers.

The director of People's Power — Cuba's legislative system — for Havana Province also told us that this year the goals of the voluntary work movement in Havana include building 10,000 new housing units, 600 family-doctor clinics, at least 50 new child-care centers, 24 special schools for children with physical disabilities, and enlarging 47 hospitals.

By the end of 1988, Old Havana, one of the poorest areas of the city with a large Black population, will have 30 family-doctor clinics, a new polyclinic, two new child-care centers, a new bakery, and 244 apartment buildings.

The family-doctor clinics include an apartment for the

nurse, the doctor's family quarters, and the clinic itself.

These clinics represent a new stage in Cuba's health-care system. By living in the same neighborhood as their patients, doctors and nurses will be able to establish preventative health-care practices through daily contact with the working people in their neighborhoods.

Miguel Enríquez Hospital contingent

For five days we became part of the work force of more than 1,000 at the enormous Miguel Enríquez Hospital construction site.

While an integral part of the rectification process, the work on the site is not being done by a voluntary minibrigade but by a special construction contingent. Similar contingents are working on other complex and important projects such as road construction. Sixty percent of ti.

“Through their example, Communists on the worksites are leading population to understand political stakes involved in rectification . . .”

Miguel Enríquez Hospital contingent is composed of professional construction workers. The other 40 percent are from other workplaces.

Six hundred new beds and 12 new operating rooms are being added to this old east-end Havana hospital. The enlarged facility will serve not only Cubans but also patients from abroad who for financial and other reasons cannot receive adequate treatment in their own countries. Medical services in Cuba are free.

Many of the professional construction workers on the site have come from the eastern provinces of the island, having left their families in order to participate in the project. They work from 7:00 a.m. until as late as 11:00 p.m., six days a week. Every Sunday 400 to 500 also put in five hours of unpaid voluntary labor at the site.

Party members provide example

The construction workers have pledged to complete the project by December 31, the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. From beginning to end, the project will have taken under two years. Signs dot the site declaring: "Not a minute more, not a second more, Commander [Fidel Castro]. We will do it!"

Miguel Coyula, the chief technician for electrical power, explained, "A project like this one builds our confidence that meeting the deadline is possible. In and of it-

rectification

So generally there's been progress in looking at these problems from a political point of view. And of course there's been a much more positive response from the entire people in production and in the service sector.

Militant. *What has been the reaction in Guantánamo province to the defeat of South African troops at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, last March, where internationalist units of Cuban soldiers fought alongside the Angolan army?*

Alemañ. Ever since our government responded to the Angolan government's request for aid, we have felt the struggle of the Angolans as though it were our own.

Our people have always been very internationalist. Whenever Fidel says, "This revolution is socialist," he also says, "and internationalist."

We are prepared to participate in a mission to lend our aid in whatever field is necessary — in medicine, education, in whatever area a fraternal people, a Third World country, asks for aid from our government and our party.

When we sent teachers to Nicaragua and some of the *companeros* were killed [by counterrevolutionaries], even more people volunteered to go.

The same has happened with aid to Angola. Even though those who go are soldiers, it's voluntary. Many youths have gone and they're proud to go. Their families are proud of them as well.

And when they return, it's with a sense of satisfaction at having fulfilled a duty toward a fellow people of the Third World.

We lived the victory of Cuito Cuanavale just as the Angolan people did. We felt as satisfied and as happy as if we'd been the best Angolans and the best Africans.

lunteer brigade

self the building is worth nothing — it's just bricks and mortar. When the first patient lies in the first bed, then society will benefit from our work. We're trying to break a tradition, a bad tradition, working too slowly. We have to work harder, more efficiently, and with our heads."

Mercedes, a quality-control inspector from the Ministry of Construction, explained that the challenge to raise work standards is considerable. This is because Cuba has had to start from a level of extremely low productivity caused by its underdevelopment resulting from decades of imperialist domination before the revolution.

Through their example, members of the Cuban Communist Party on the worksites are leading the entire population to understand the political stakes involved in the rectification process. A high proportion of the workers on the site are members of the CP or UJC. They are easy to spot because they are the hardest workers.

At the Miguel Enríquez Hospital site a large proportion of the workers we worked side by side with had served on internationalist missions, especially in Angola. For these workers the fight against apartheid in South Africa and the construction effort in Havana are all part of the same revolutionary struggle in which they are participating.

One 37-year-old Black worker explained that he joined the UJC at the age of 14, shortly after the revolution. Since then he has been to Angola twice, as well as to Ethiopia, Algeria, and Libya as a construction expert. He is now a member of the Cuban CP and hopes to go to Nicaragua to help build a hospital there.

"To be ready to die to help society is part of being a communist," he said.

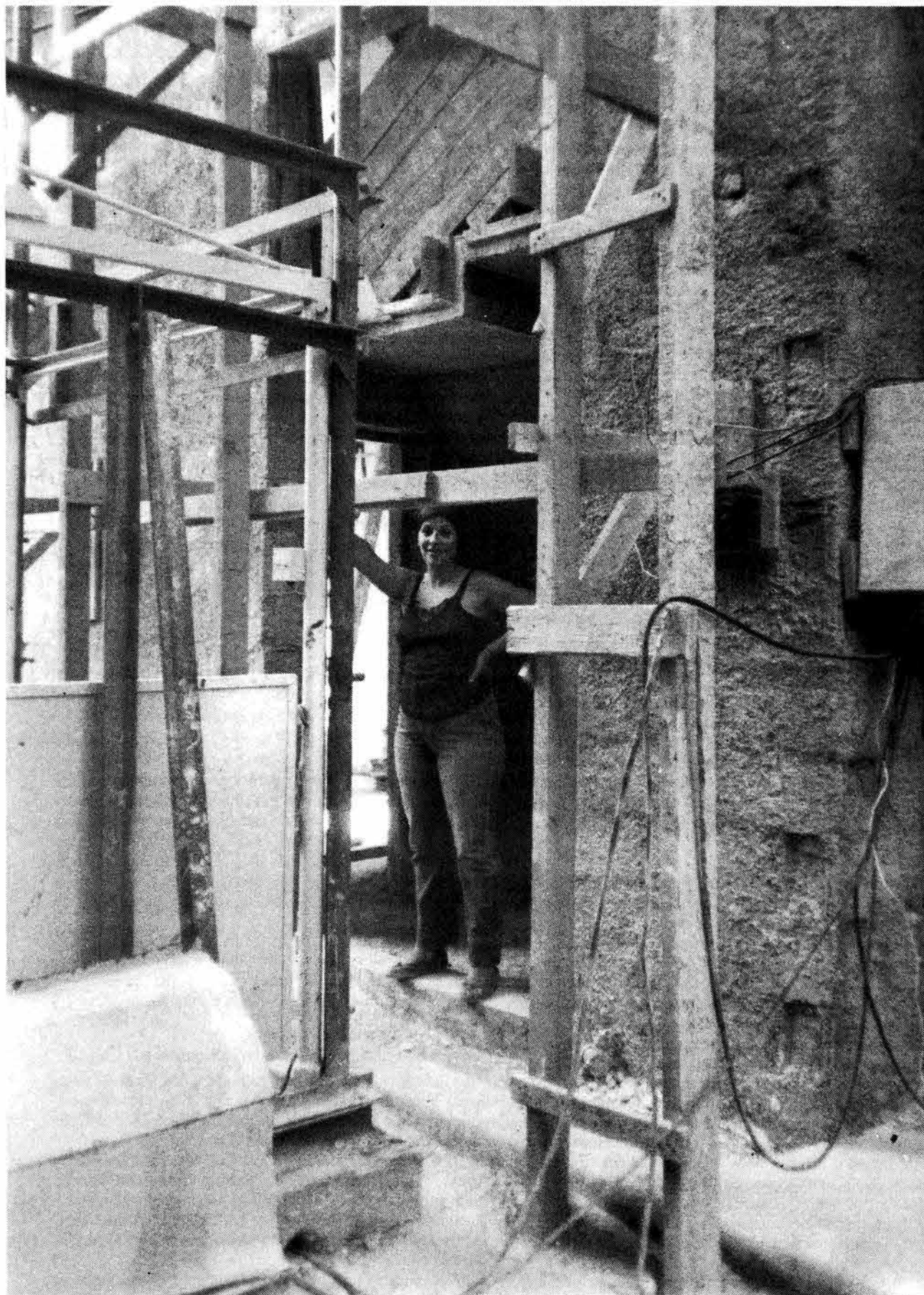
One mention of the town of Cuito Cuanavale in Angola, where the South African forces were defeated by Cuban and Angolan troops earlier this year, would immediately bring on a round of hand shakes in celebration of this historic victory.

Geidi, a 19-year-old construction worker and single mother who lives with her parents, told me she had applied to join the UJC. She works from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. After work she goes home to her five-month-old baby, gets the food and clothes ready for the next day, and drops into bed about 2:00 a.m. She also does voluntary work on Sundays.

"The whole concept of work here stuns me," declared Kathy, one of the Mandela Brigade members. "In Canada, work is drudgery. It's something you do for eight hours separated from the rest of your life. Here, work involves everything. The people, through their work efforts, they decide."

Workers become teachers

Students, office workers, and professionals are also organized into the work force and taught by the construction workers on the job.



Militant/Debbie deLange
Microbrigadista working on a family-doctor clinic in Old Havana. Construction projects are designed to meet social needs such as child-care, housing, and medical care at neighborhood level.

About 200 high school students were working on the site doing a two-week voluntary work stint during their vacation period.

"If you told a Canadian building contractor that tomorrow he would have to put 200 high school students to work he wouldn't know what to do," remarked Mandela Brigade member Alan, who is a civil engineer.

A young Cuban woman hoping to become a doctor declared she was "enchanted" by the experience of helping to build the hospital.

Miguel Coyula laughed: "I'm a bureaucrat. I work in an office as an architect for the Ministry of Construction."

"The central idea of rectification is that the construction of socialism is fundamentally a political task . . ."

Two hundred office workers from a list of those who applied from the ministry were chosen to work on the project.

"There are two different ways of working," he said. "In the air conditioning of your office with your imagination flowing . . . or right here on the site." With the benefit of on-site experience he had made a number of changes in the original blueprints, saving weeks of work and a considerable amount of materials.

The Mandela Brigade also spent a day working with

the Boyeros y Conill minibrigade, which is constructing a 27-story apartment block. The project is being built mostly by the voluntary labor of journalists from the *Granma* newspaper, professors from the University of Havana, multilingual professionals from the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), and office workers from the Party Institute of History. They are being taught and supervised by a number of professional construction workers.

"At the beginning, I had pains in every part of my body," Pedrosa, a 51-year-old ICAP worker wearing a back corset told us. "I get up at 5:00 in the morning. When the brigade members from ICAP got here, only the foundations had been laid. We are all happy because we are doing it. You never know what you'll do next in Cuba."

The brigade has set 1990 as the occupancy date.

Two days after the Nelson Mandela Brigade left on a Cubana airlines flight for Montréal, Castro summed up some of the key lessons of the rectification process in his July 26 speech to a massive crowd of workers and peasants in Santiago de Cuba.

"What I can indeed tell the imperialists and the theoreticians of imperialism is that Cuba will never adopt methods, styles, philosophies, or characteristics of capitalism," he said. "Capitalism has had some technological successes, some successes in organizational experiences that can be used, but nothing more! Socialism and capitalism are diametrically different, by definition and by essence."

The truthfulness of this statement was confirmed 100 percent by the experience of the Mandela Brigade.

Ideas of African communist valuable for all workers

'Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87'

Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87. Pathfinder, New York, 1988. 260 pages. \$9.95.

BY SAM MANUEL

The publication of this collection of speeches and interviews by the late president of Burkina Faso is of inestimable value to workers and farmers around the world. In its pages the important lessons and turning points of the four-year effort by the workers and peasants of that West African country to overcome decades of colonial

BOOK REVIEW

and imperialist underdevelopment are outlined by one of the outstanding Marxists of our time, who was murdered in October 1987 during a counterrevolutionary coup.

This book deserves to be read and studied by workers and peasants throughout the world who are fighting imperialist oppression and capitalist exploitation.

It is the only collection in English of the speeches of the central leader of the revolution in the former French colony then called Upper Volta. Following the Aug. 4, 1983, revolution, the country was renamed Burkina Faso.

The speeches and interviews are arranged in chronological order. But they reveal more to the reader than a succession of events in Burkina, or the complexity of the tasks the revolution faced. They also show the rich evolution of Sankara's views, an evolution rooted in his uncompromising commitment to the perspective that transforming Burkina Faso depended on organizing and mobilizing its workers and peasants.

Mobilization of toilers

In the first speech, "Who Are the Enemies of the People?" Sankara explained, "They are the men in politics who travel through the countryside exclusively at election time. These politicians are convinced that only they can make the country work. The CSP [Council for the Salvation of the People], however, is convinced that Upper Volta's seven million people represent seven million political beings capable of leading this country."

At that time Sankara was prime minister in the CSP government headed by President Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo. As the counterposed political perspectives within the CSP sharpened, Ouédraogo ordered Sankara's arrest in May 1983. The arrest sparked massive strikes and protests that culminated in the August 4 revolt. Sankara was freed and became head of the National Council for the Revolution (CNR) government.

Sankara's political perspective consistently sought to deepen the political consciousness and involvement of the workers and peasants in the revolution. In a radio broadcast on August 4, he called upon the people of Upper Volta "to form Committees for the Defense of the Revolution everywhere. . . ."

He returned to this theme in an interview two weeks later. "For some, if you have arms and a few units of the army with you, that is sufficient to take power. But others have different convictions. Power must be conquered above all by a conscious people," Sankara emphasized.

Political Orientation Speech

The basic political perspectives of the revolutionary government headed by Sankara were presented Oct. 2, 1983, in the "Political Orientation Speech."

In this address Sankara analyzed the origins and development of the contending social classes in the country and explained the character of the revolution.

"The August revolution has a dual character," Sankara explained. "It is a democratic and popular revolution. Its primary tasks are to liquidate imperialist domination and exploitation and cleanse the countryside of all social, economic, and cultural obstacles that keep it in a backward state. From this flows its democratic character."

Sankara continued, "Its popular character arises from the full participation of the Voltaic masses in the revolution and their consistent mobilization around democratic and revolutionary slogans that express in concrete terms their own interests as opposed to those of the reactionary classes allied with imperialism."

Sankara also described the significance of the CDRs. "The CDRs are the authentic organization of the people for wielding revolutionary power," he explained. He added, "They must be schools of political training."

The Political Orientation Speech charted a course for transforming every aspect of society, including the economy, education, health care, and the role of women. All of these themes are developed and enriched in Sankara's subsequent speeches.

Sankara stressed the centrality of the workers and

peasants in the revolutionary transformation of Burkina Faso.

In the October 1983 speech, he explained that the Voltaic working class, is relatively young and small but "has proved through continuous struggle against the employers that it is a genuinely revolutionary class. In the current revolution, it is a class that has everything to gain and nothing to lose."

"Because of its past and present situation," Sankara said of the peasantry, "it is the social layer that has had to pay the highest price for imperialist domination and exploitation." The communist leader explained that the government's policies were made in the interests of the peasants, from agrarian reform and nationalization of the land to price support for their crops.

In a March 1985 speech, "We Must Fight Against Imperialism Together," Sankara explained, ". . . from now on the peasant who has a piece of land will have the security to work it. He will know the land is entrusted to him. The land today belongs to the Burkinabè state and no longer to an individual, but the Burkinabè state can entrust the use, management, and cultivation of the land to those who work it."

In an interview the same year, Sankara added, "We know of thousands and thousands of peasants who were obliged to give up their land to usurers and all types of capitalists during difficult times between harvests. These capitalists could then use this land for speculation at a later time. So we took measures to prevent this by nationalizing the land."

Later in a speech marking the fourth anniversary of the revolution on Aug. 4, 1987, the revolutionary leader stressed, "The peasantry should not be left to fight this battle alone. The working class and the revolutionary petty-bourgeois intellectuals should take up their historic responsibility and through sacrifices and self-denial, work to reduce the gap between town and country," he explained.

"The working class and the revolutionary petty-bourgeois intellectuals should thus consider this celebration as an important milestone in the process of strengthening their strategic alliance with the peasantry," Sankara said.

'Environmental battle is above all political'

In February 1986 Sankara brought to the First International Tree and Forest Conference held in Paris the experiences of a government mobilizing its people to fight against the advance of the Sahel Desert.

This struggle included measures to protect existing forests and to plant new ones. Through mobilizations and international support 10 million trees were planted in Burkina Faso in 15 months, the revolutionary leader said. Dams and irrigation systems were constructed throughout the country.

"Colonialism has pillaged our forests without the least thought of replenishing them for our tomorrows," Sankara said.

"We therefore wish to affirm," he stated, "that the battle against the encroachment of the desert is a battle to establish a balance between man, nature, and society. As such, it is a battle that is above all political, one whose outcome is not determined by fate."

Emancipation of women

"There is no true social revolution without the liberation of women," Sankara told thousands of women and men at a March 8, 1987, International Women's Day celebration in Ouagadougou.

Sankara presented a scientific and historically rooted analysis of the origins of women's oppression, drawing on the works of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels.

"Humankind first knew slavery with the advent of private property. Man, master of his slaves and of the land, became in addition the woman's master. This was the historic defeat of the female sex. It came about," explained Sankara, "with the upheaval in the division of labor and as a result of new modes of production and a revolution in the means of production. In this way, paternal right replaced maternal right."

Within that class framework Sankara presented the concrete conditions of women's oppression in Burkina Faso and laid out a course for working people to fight for the liberation of women.

"How could we continue to accept that woman doing the same work as a man should earn less? Can we continue to accept dowries and forcing widows to marry their brothers-in-law, which reduce our sisters and mothers to common commodities to be bartered for?," explained Sankara.

"The genuine emancipation of women is that which entrusts responsibilities to them and involves them in



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Thomas Sankara speaking in Harlem in 1984

productive activity and in the different struggles the people face."

Internationalism

Sankara's evolution was also marked by a thoroughgoing internationalist view. Sankara rejected any course that reinforced divisions among the peoples of Africa. He objected strongly to the suggestion that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was weakened by having to deal with conflicts involving countries in Africa with dominant Arab populations.

"I am not at all convinced that relations between the SADR [Saharan Arab Democratic Republic], which is African and mostly white, and certain African countries that are black, are worse than relations between one particular black African state and another," Sankara stated. "In terms of component organizations of the OAU, there is no place for the color-sensitive. There is only one color — that of African unity."

Sankara fought for unity in action by all African countries and opponents of racism around the world in supporting the struggle of the peoples of southern African against South Africa's apartheid regime. He called for support to the Palestinian people in their fight against Israeli occupation. He urged support for the independence of the people of New Caledonia against French colonialism.

Speaking before the United Nations in 1984, Sankara explained, "Our revolution in Burkina Faso embraces the misfortunes of all peoples. . . . We wish to be the heirs of all the revolutions of the world and of all the liberation struggles of the peoples of the Third World."

This solidarity extended to oppressed and exploited peoples in the United States, too. "Our White House is in Black Harlem," Sankara told a rally of 500 at the Harriet Tubman School in New York City during a visit in 1984.

Cuba and Nicaragua

Sankara forcefully condemned the U.S.-run contra war against the people of Nicaragua. He spoke on behalf of the international representatives in attendance at a rally marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua. Sankara told the 200,000 people at the rally, "We say that the struggle of the Nicaraguan people must be supported by each one of us throughout the world."

Sankara presented Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega the Gold Star of Nahouri, the country's highest revolutionary honor, when Ortega visited Burkina Faso in August 1986.

In awarding the medal to the Nicaraguan leader, Sankara said, "Nicaragua is synonymous with struggle against domination, exploitation, and oppression, with struggle against foreign control, and with direct and open confrontation with imperialism and its local henchmen."

Sankara visited Cuba in September 1984 where he was given the José Martí order by Cuban President Fidel Castro. After receiving the medal, Sankara explained, "We have been fighting, we fight, and will continue to fight to create with our own hands the material base for our happiness. In this fight we know we can count at all times on the firm support of the revolutionary people of Cuba and all those who have embraced José Martí's ideals."

New book launched at meeting in Trinidad

'One People, One Destiny' documents struggles in Caribbean, Central America

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

ST. AUGUSTINE, Trinidad and Tobago — More than 60 people gathered at the University of the West Indies campus here October 25 to celebrate the publication of the Pathfinder book *One People, One Destiny*. The book is edited by Don Rojas, secretary for propaganda and information of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America and a leader of Grenada's Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM). This new book presents a collection of major speeches and documents discussed by the Anti-Imperialist Organizations since its formation in 1984.

Student Guild President Milton Sylvester opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. Speakers included Dr. James Millette, professor of history at the University of the West Indies and leader of the February 18 Movement, one of two Trinidadian member groups of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations; Michael Als, representing the People's Popular Movement, the other Trinidadian member organization; Don Rojas; and James Harris, representing Pathfinder.

Helen Meyers of Pathfinder chaired the meeting. She introduced the Cuban ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, Severino Mansur, and his wife Esperanza Iglesias; David Abdulah, treasurer of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union of Trinidad; and activists from the Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Dominica.

'Publication is timely and urgent'

Greetings from Cheddi Jagan, president of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations and general secretary of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana were presented by PPP representative Harry Davenar. "Publication of a book of this nature cannot be underestimated," Jagan said, "especially when consideration is given to the need for the anti-imperialist forces in the Caribbean region to reassert themselves and use every available means at our disposal to beat back the propaganda blitzkrieg of U.S. imperialism."

"The book, no doubt, will help spread to wider audiences the hopes and aspirations of the Caribbean working man and woman, its youth, as well as its progressive intelligentsia. The publication is timely and urgent. We recommend it to all those who cherish peace, freedom, and social progress."

Meyers also read greetings from Olga Iris Sanabria, secretary of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations and a member of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party's Central Committee and the party's permanent mission in Cuba.

"The Puerto Rican Socialist Party bids a warm welcome to the publication of the book *One People, One Destiny: The Caribbean and Central America Today*," Sanabria stated, "which we know will play a big role in making fully known the reality of intervention and struggle in our countries in the Caribbean and Central America."

A message from Terry Marryshow, political leader of the MBPM of Grenada, said, "At a time when the onslaught of U.S. imperialism is at its highest following the defeat of the Grenada revolution, this book is an inspiration that highlights the fightback by the anti-imperialist forces of the Caribbean and Latin America to confront the enemy and to stand firmly for the dignity, self-respect, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of our respective nations."

Rojas recalled "with great sadness the tragic events of Oct. 25, 1983, which began with the house arrest of Maurice Bishop and ended with the criminal U.S. invasion of Grenada." He explained that since then Grenada has been "directly under the U.S. yoke." But, he stressed, "This meeting is not to celebrate that crime. It is to celebrate the launch of a book that grew out of a common response to that crime."

Millette explained that Pathfinder "articulates the aims and aspirations of the oppressed people, especially in a situation where the majority of the press that exists in the Caribbean 'only exists to propagate

the ideas of the oppressor.' Als hoped that the new book would "reach thousands of eyes and brains" in the region.

Harris explained, "Pathfinder has every confidence in the ability of ordinary working people to read these books, discuss them, and draw political conclusions." In this light, he urged all participants at the rally to protest the seizure of several boxes of Pathfinder books by the puppet government in Grenada. "Fighting this illegal attempt to prevent the revolutionary publications circulating in Grenada must be a major issue for all of us. When they attempt to restrict travel or to restrict the circulation of literature, they are aiming at restricting the ability of working people to get involved in politics."

Student participation

Students from the University of the West Indies attended. Their Student Guild helped to organize facilities for the meeting and refreshments for the participants.

Many UWI students at the meeting learned about it from an international team of Pathfinder supporters from the United States, Canada, and Britain who have staffed a book table on campus. From that table and at the meeting, 81 Pathfinder titles were sold, including 19 of *One People, One Destiny*, as well as five copies of *New International* and nine copies of the *Militant*.



Militant/Norton Sandler
Pathfinder literature display at Second Caribbean Peoples International Bookfair held in San Fernando, Trinidad, October 19-30. A literature table at nearby University of West Indies did a brisk business during book launch, selling 81 titles.

300 discuss legacy of Thomas Sankara at one-day conference in Paris

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS — "We must remain loyal to he who is no more, and we must carry his message onward to new fields." These opening words by Marie-Roger Bilou set the central theme of the day-long conference on Thomas Sankara, central leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, held here October 15 on the first anniversary of his assassination.

The conference, called by the Thomas Sankara International Association, was attended by close to 300 participants, the vast majority from countries in Africa. They learned from a report by Sennen Andriamirado, author of the book *Sankara le rebelle*, that similar associations have been formed in Canada, Sweden, Hungary, and the Soviet Union, as well as in Senegal and several other countries in Africa.

David Gakunzi, editor of the Paris-based African journal *Coumbite*, summarized some of the major gains of the Burkina revolution under Sankara's leadership.

In economic policy, Sankara prioritized helping the small peasants, the immense majority of the population, to increase production. He promoted measures to enable the working population through their own initiative to slow and reverse the deterioration of the land and the advance of the desert. The plunder of range cattle was curbed, better stoves enabled peasants to reduce consumption of wood, and the entire population joined in planting trees to slow erosion.

The incomes of relatively privileged government functionaries were limited, and resources were shifted to the countryside in what Gakunzi termed "a politically risky policy of redistribution."

"In Sankara's view, for such policies to succeed, the population must feel that it shares in the management of the state," Gakunzi said. That is why political power was "decentralized" into the hands of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs), and the five-year development plan was adopted after consultation with 7,000 villages.

Impressive gains were registered in only four years, including significant improvements in health conditions, reductions in illiteracy, substantial gains in water conservation, and more. "But there is another gain that cannot be quantified," Gakunzi explained, "that of having given back to the people and to African youth a sense of dignity and hope."

Among several panelists that commented on different gains of the revolution was René Dumont, a well-known agronomist and writer on Africa. During the lively discussion that ensued, Germaine, who participated in the Burkina revolution, described the efforts made to transform the position of Burkinabè women. Most women in the countryside were little better than beasts of burden, she said, spending long hours each day hauling wood and water. "Women must have time if they are to participate in political life," Germaine pointed out. That is why the revolution emphasized digging wells and supplying improved stoves to cut down the labor of collecting firewood. Sankara wanted to liberate women by changing the material conditions of their existence, she said.

Greetings were brought to the gathering by Yves Benot of the Thomas Sankara Collective. A representative of the Anti-Apartheid Movement also spoke.

A warm response greeted a presentation by John Riddell on the Pathfinder book *Thomas Sankara Speaks, The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*, and his announcement of Pathfinder's plans to publish this book in a French edition. Riddell is the editor of the multivolume series *The Communist International in Lenin's Time*, distributed by Pathfinder.

A debate erupted at the gathering, when Belgian journalist Ludo Martens took the floor close to the end of the conference. By 1987, Martens asserted, Sankara had lost the support of the left-wing groups and trade union leaders and was opposed by the three other historic leaders of the revolution. Sankara had thus led the revolution into a dead end and was more and more isolated.

In Martens' view, even those who defended Sankara's record had no alternative today but to support the Blaise Compaoré regime now in power.

Although applauded by about a quarter of those still present, Martens' speech was strongly opposed by the majority. Germaine sharply attacked the sectarianism of the middle-class leftist groups that had turned against the Sankara leadership.

Gakunzi added that Sankara's moves to support, strengthen, and organize the small peasantry had aggravated privileged layers in the city. But Sankara had not yet had time to organize and mobilize the revolution's support in the countryside, leaving him vulnerable.

In closing the conference, its organizers called on those present to join in future activities to commemorate Sankara's life and work.

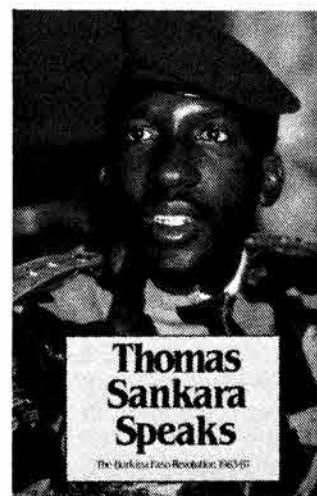
NEW YORK CITY

Pathfinder invites you to celebrate the publication of

THOMAS SANKARA SPEAKS
THE BURKINA FASO REVOLUTION 1983-87

Sunday, Nov. 13, 1988 —
2 p.m. reception, 3 p.m. program
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Why the Caribbean Basin Initiative ran aground

The first of two columns on the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

The Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) is one of Washington's key instruments in its efforts to consolidate its weakening domination over our region.

The CBI was launched with great fanfare in 1983 with an initial \$350 million package. It was to be the cornerstone of the economic response by the Reagan administration and bipartisan Congress to the Grenadian and



CARIB NOTES

Don Rojas

Nicaraguan revolutions of 1979. From the outset it excluded Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua (as well as Guyana) from the list of eligible beneficiary countries.

The CBI sought to restructure the Caribbean economy to benefit U.S. corporations and deepen the economic dependence of the region on U.S. imperialism. It also aimed to give the U.S. capitalists a competitive edge on their Western European, and particularly Japanese, competitors in the world capitalist market.

The program contained three basic elements: (1) \$125 million in loans to Caribbean countries; (2) duty-free entry of specified Caribbean exports for 12 years; and (3) negotiations of bilateral investment and tax treaties with participating governments.

As can be seen, the dollar value of the CBI's components was a mere pittance.

Today, just five years after its launching, this much-celebrated project has run aground on the deepening world capitalist economic crisis. Its fundamental goals remain unaccomplished. U.S. aid to, trade with, and investments in the Caribbean have all declined since 1985.

The CBI's problems are so grave that a new, revised bill is now pending in the U.S. Congress — the Caribbean Basin Economic Expansion, or CBI-2.

The new bill offers partial duty-free concessions to products currently not covered by CBI, plus automatic extension of the arrangement for another twelve years when it expires in 1995. (It should be noted that even prior to the original CBI, 87 percent of Caribbean exports already entered the United States duty free.)

CBI-2 would provide unlimited tariff exemption for products manufactured or assembled in beneficiary countries — so long as they are made from 100 percent U.S. materials or components!

The new legislation also includes a provision to restore quotas of U.S. sugar imports to their 1984 levels. The quota set at the beginning of 1988 was the lowest in more than a century. The outcry from governments of Caribbean and other sugar-producing countries forced Washington to back off a bit this summer. It raised the 1988 quota by 40 percent; this is still 40 percent below the 1986 quota.

While the Reagan administration is said to support CBI-2, it opposes the proposed sugar quota provision. And the huge U.S. trade and budget deficits have dampened enthusiasm for the CBI in general both in the White House and in the protectionist-minded Congress.

Despite the promises of CBI, a recent report by the

U.S. International Trade Commission showed that since 1983, U.S. imports from the Caribbean have steadily declined, while U.S. exports to the region have held steady.

All this has led to mounting disenchantment with the scheme over the past two years. Criticism is being voiced even by neocolonial elites in the region. This is making life difficult for those U.S. officials who must deal most often and directly with Caribbean governments.

Paul Russo, U.S. ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, told a news conference somewhat plaintively last year that he'd been "hoping to maybe have more visibility for CBI from someone in the administration, whether it be the president or our special trade representative, or someone from the State Department."

St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton, a staunch ally of Washington and one of the most vocal regional supporters of the criminal invasion of Grenada in October 1983, said recently that the CBI was "pretending to give with one hand, while Congress and the administration were taking it away with the other." In urging the U.S. Congress to adopt the new, revised CBI, Compton said that he hoped "congressional rhetoric will be matched with congressional performance on the issue."

Echoing Compton's sentiments is Hugh Shearer, foreign minister of Jamaica's pro-imperialist government, who has bluntly stated that the CBI is not meeting its objectives. Shearer, however, has added his endorsement to CBI-2. Roderick Reinford, secretary general of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), is also backing the new bill.

While these brambles between the U.S. capitalists and their Caribbean clients rage like a tempest in a teapot, millions of Caribbean workers, peasants, women, and youth remain shut out from any benefits from the CBI.

Population control policy for Nicaragua discussed

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Should the Nicaraguan government adopt policies aimed at lowering the birth rate to help solve problems such as rising unemployment, lack of housing, and malnutrition?

Growing numbers of functionaries in government ministries see no alternative to such a course. They explained their views recently at a three-day conference here on "Population and Development: Toward a Population Policy." The meeting was attended by 200 participants, mainly from government agencies. The conference was funded by the United Nations Population Fund.

Up until now, the Sandinista government has rejected adopting policies aimed at discouraging women from having children. Conference organizers hoped to convince President Daniel Ortega to change that decision.

Referring to the economic crisis Nicaragua faces, the main resolution discussed at the gathering said that if the current situation continues, "a broad crisis of a social character will result, since the inability to meet material needs is not always explainable." The document went on to say that "the lack of effective answers will cast doubt on the revolutionary program" and concluded that those who are dissatisfied will "swell the ranks of the opposition to the revolution."

To avoid this, the document said, adoption of a "population policy" is essential. The population policy advocates argue that Nicaragua's population is growing at a faster rate than the ability to produce food, housing, and basic services. Therefore, it is necessary to reduce the number of children being born to working-class and poor peasant women.

Medea Morales, an organizer of the conference from the Planning and Budget Secretariat, said in an interview that, in her opinion, family planning services should "orient mainly to those sectors of the population who cannot afford more children — youth, the poor, peasants, and illiterate women." Morales said that "peasant women have too many children. Of course no one should be forced, but the government should persuade them to accept sterilization so they have the number of children they can adequately care for."

Woman's right to choose

Mixed in with this discussion on population control is a debate on the importance of women gaining the right to decide if and when to have children. Sex education in the schools is not widespread here. Most working people in Nicaragua have limited or no access to affordable methods of contraception. The Ministry of Health only re-

cently lifted the requirement that women obtain their husbands' permission before they can be sterilized. Abortion is still illegal.

Some of those who are urging advances in women's right to control their own bodies link their arguments to the need for "population control." And some of those who oppose women's right to choose argue that Nicaragua needs more, not less people.

One illustration of the way this discussion is unfolding was a two-part column by Mercedes Olivera that appeared in the Sandinista daily *Barricada* during the conference. Olivera is an anthropologist and researcher at the Nicaraguan Women's Institute.

Olivera wrote that in the context of the economic crisis, there is a "gap between resources and the needs" of the population. She argued that production must be increased and the birth rate reduced to close the gap.

Not only does Nicaragua have the highest birth rate in Latin America, Olivera said, but "the birth rate of illiterate rural women is three times higher than that of urban women with professional training."

According to Olivera, Nicaragua's high birth rate has turned women, especially in the rural areas and among the poor, into "victims" whose principal role is to "reproduce the abundant labor force. Women are seen as possessing a divine mandate of having many children and dedicating their lives to caring for them, always subordinated to masculine authority."

Other approaches raised

At the population policy conference itself, the overwhelming majority of participants — who were primarily social planners, economists, and welfare and health professionals — agreed that government action to reduce the birth rate is an urgent task.

Some participants, however, sought to point toward other approaches to meeting Nicaragua's economic and social problems. One woman from the Center for Research and Study of the Agrarian Reform suggested that the conference propose deepening the land reform by distributing more land to poor peasants and the unemployed. "Then we would both increase basic food production and solve unemployment," she said.

Yadira Flores from the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) called for "encouraging workers in the cities to move to the countryside" to strengthen the agricultural cooperatives.

The CST has been proposing the organization of a large-scale effort to convince unemployed workers and their families to move out of Managua and onto farm cooperatives where more labor is needed. The union federation has organized some pilot projects to set the example.

Flores also strongly objected to the report's assertion that the revolution is in danger of an impending political crisis. She said that "the people support the revolution. That does not mean that we haven't made mistakes, but we should not exaggerate the problems that we face."

President Daniel Ortega attended the closing session of the conference, where he listened to the proposal to adopt a government population policy.

"We are sparsely populated," Ortega replied. "The problem is not that we have too many people." The imperialists want "birth control so that the population won't be a problem," he said. They think, Ortega added, that if they can control the birth rate, they can end the "risk of revolution."

Ortega pointed to Cuba as an example of a country that improved the conditions of its people with a more just distribution of wealth as a result of the revolution, even while the population increased. He contrasted this to the United States, where, he said, "in spite of all the policies of population control," the Black community suffers high infant mortality, poverty, and discrimination.

Guevara's life celebrated at N.Y. event

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — Oscar Oramas, permanent representative of Cuba to the United Nations, was the featured speaker at an event marking the 21st anniversary of the death of Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara. The evening of speeches, poetry, and song was sponsored by Casa de las Americas, a long-time partisan of the Cuban revolution. Some 150 people attended.

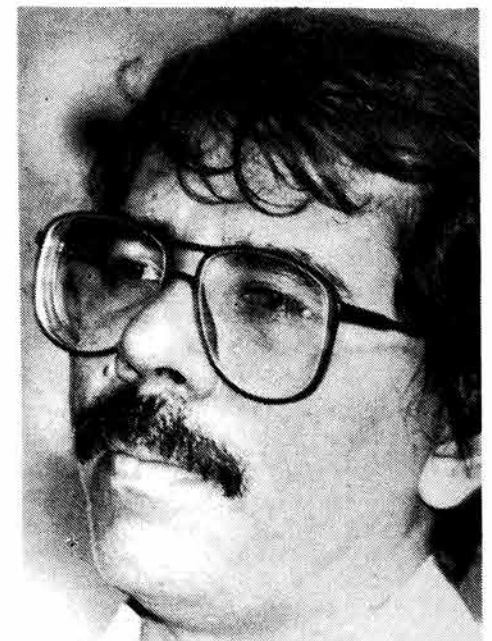
The life, ideas, and most of all "the concrete work" of Guevara, Oramas said, "every day, every minute is the source of the Cuban people's inspiration."

Oramas spoke on October 8, 21 years to the day that Guevara was captured, wounded, and later killed by Bolivian army officers with the aid of the U.S. CIA. He was in Bolivia as part of a guerrilla force.

Today's Latin America, the Cuban diplomat said, is "superior and different from the Latin America that existed when Che was alive."

"Today there is a Sandinista Nicaragua,"

Turning to another topic, Ortega stated, "There are single women who have abortions because of social pressure, even though they want to have the child. If we tell women about contraception, family planning, and all the rest, but we don't tell society to end this pressure, then we don't have a balanced plan. We would be trying to restrict population growth."



Militant/Robert Kopece
Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega told conference he was opposed to restricting country's population growth.

Oramas said. "Today there is a common understanding of common problems, and more united sentiments in our lands."

Guevara was "the architect, the forger, and the example of the voluntary work movement, which is expressed today in Cuba as the microbrigade movement," Oramas explained.

Microbrigades are detachments of workers, students, government employees, and others who give labor freely, without any expectation of wages, to engage in projects for the betterment of society.

Oramas said he'd seen copies of Guevara's *Socialism and Man in Cuba* pamphlet at the literature table for the tribute. "It is one of Che's most important works, most basic works," he said.

"The Cuban people not only love Che," Oramas concluded to a standing ovation, "they are inspired by his political thought, his economic thought, by his example to constantly do better. The best homage of the Cuban people to Che is the construction of socialism."

How 'Yugoslav road' deepened economic, political crisis

BY FRED FELDMAN

On October 22 the Yugoslav government announced that meat and bread prices would rise by 60 percent — canceling out a large part of the wage increase granted two days earlier to some categories of workers and further driving down the living standard of the rest.

The price increases were among the latest manifestations of the economic crisis wracking Yugoslavia. The economic difficulties are a driving force behind growing political divisions and clashes, such as the massive Serbian nationalist demonstrations encouraged by Slobodan Milosević. Milosević heads the Serbian branch of the League of Communists, the ruling party in Yugoslavia.

The combined economic and political crisis in Yugoslavia reveals difficulties that are common to countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, where capitalism has been overturned.

Economic growth rates have dropped, and the productivity of labor is stagnant. Living standards are worsening, including in such basic areas as medical care. The convergence of these problems with the

in Eastern Europe had imposed an economic embargo. The percentage of Yugoslavia's trade that was with the Soviet bloc fell from more than 50 percent to virtually zero.

Imperialists step in

In the midst of the Cold War between the imperialist powers and the Soviet bloc, the U.S. government and its allies moved to exploit the Tito-Stalin conflict. They fostered trade with Yugoslavia, provided some loans, and gave diplomatic backing to Tito's government against Moscow.

In response, the Tito government backed the imperialist bloc led by Washington in the Cold War, including by lining up with the U.S. aggression in the 1950-53 Korean War.

In 1955 the Soviet government publicly apologized to Tito, and normal diplomatic and economic relations were re-established. Tito shifted to a posture of neutrality between the contending blocs, while continuing a course based on collaboration with the imperialists.

In 1955 Tito participated in founding the Movement of Nonaligned Countries. Within this formation, which is overwhelmingly made up of countries oppressed by imperialism, the Yugoslav representatives helped lead the opposition to a consistent anti-imperialist course.

Decentralization

The shift in diplomatic allegiances brought on by Stalin's attack on the Tito government was accompanied by economic changes as well.

Beginning in 1950, the regime began a program of sweeping economic decentralization in industry and other workplaces in the name of what it termed "self-management." In each factory or other workplace, the employees and managerial personnel formally chosen by them were to determine production plans, wages, and other matters.

The individual factories competed to sell their goods on the market. A steadily growing proportion of the resulting surplus — reaching 55 percent in the 1960s — was to be used as the self-management bodies at each factory saw fit. Wages could thus be supplemented by "profit-sharing" at those plants where the accounts showed a surplus.

Since the early 1950s, the government has conducted no campaigns to win peasants to the perspective of cooperative organization of agriculture.

Today 85 percent of agricultural land is privately owned. Peasant landholdings are officially restricted to a maximum of 25 acres, but this limit is often ignored. Most tractors are privately owned. Most of Yugoslavia's market produce and almost all its livestock are produced on these privately owned and operated farms.

Other methods of accumulating private wealth have been encouraged. About 60 percent of the 900,000 houses built since 1952 are privately owned, and in many instances owners become renters. Thousands of privately owned villas dot the countryside.

Privately owned restaurants and other shops have proliferated. A big majority of local freight is carried on privately owned trucks. Private entrepreneurs are permitted to employ up to five workers.

During the 1950s, and for some time thereafter, Yugoslavia experienced rapid economic growth. From 1950 to 1970, the gross national product grew at an annual average rate of 7 percent. Industrial output grew by an average of 10 percent a year.

But advances also took place after World War II in other countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, where market forces were given less play and commands from an administrative center played a predominant role.

One important factor making for the high growth rate was the shift of a section of the peasantry to factory work. The peasantry, which made up two-thirds of the population after World War II, now repre-



Serbian nationalists demonstrate in Kosovo, demanding crackdown on Albanians who make up majority in that region. Yugoslav government's course of relying on decentralization and market forces to guide economy has sharpened inequalities and conflicts among nationalities.

sents only one-fourth. A once predominantly agricultural and underdeveloped country has built up a sizable industrial base.

Chronic difficulties

But difficulties grew in the 1960s, manifested in the tendency for unemployment and inflation to become chronic problems and in the intensifying competition on international markets. By 1965 unemployment stood at 6.8 percent of the population, even though hundreds of thousands of workers had gone abroad to find jobs. Chronic unemployment stemmed in large part from inability to provide new jobs for an expanding potential labor force.

In a series of measures adopted in 1963, 1965, and 1967, the government responded with further decentralization and greater reliance on world as well as domestic market forces. Development funds, stemming from the proceeds of industry and agriculture, that had been government-controlled were turned over to banks. Although nationalized, the banks had considerable autonomy.

Tariffs on imports and subsidies on exports were slashed, and Yugoslav firms were allowed to trade directly with corporations abroad. This decentralized and thus greatly weakened the state monopoly on foreign trade.

A ban on foreign investment in Yugoslavia was lifted, and capitalist corporations were allowed to own up to 49 percent of projects they helped establish. Dow Chemical was among the firms that took advantage of the offer.

The shutdown or threatened shutdown of plants operating at a loss was intended to spur workers to increase production and efficiency.

The measures taken in the 1950s and '60s reinforced inequalities. The gap between the working people and the new layers of "rich guys," as they came to be called, widened.

The decentralization of the economy also made it easier for rich farmers, entrepreneurs, corrupt officials, or other operators to get around legal limits on owning land or other means of accumulating wealth.

National divisions

The fact that factories, farms, and whole regions of the country function as largely autonomous and competing units has exacerbated national differences and conflicts. The decentralization of planning and investment tended to reinforce the position of the areas that were most developed to start with, such as Slovenia and Croatia.

The average wage of a worker in Macedonia, for example, is only 70 percent that of a worker in Slovenia. The per capita national income in the predominantly Albanian region of Kosovo is only one-sixth that of Slovenia. Today unemployment in Slovenia is holding at about 1 percent, while 35 percent of Kosovo workers are jobless.

Political figures and nationalist forces in the better-off regions often protest the remaining requirements that they contribute to the less developed areas.

In 1971 nationalists in Croatia, which has the country's main ports, staged protests. Their grievances included opposition to the provision that foreign currencies obtained in international trade be turned over

to the central government, where they might be used for projects in areas other than Croatia.

By the mid-1970s, unemployment had passed the 10 percent mark and inflation was running at 30 percent. In an effort to obtain funds, the Yugoslav government began to borrow heavily from foreign banking institutions.

Between 1972 and 1981, the foreign debt rose from \$4 billion to \$20 billion. Unemployment reached the 14 percent mark. The inflation rate reached 43 percent. Shortages of goods, ranging from cooking oil and medicines to liquid gas, became more serious.

More than 2,500 state-owned enterprises were operating at a loss.

Today inflation is 200 percent annually and unemployment is at 15 percent. The annual growth rate has dropped in recent years to less than 2 percent — sometimes dropping to less than zero when inflation is taken into account.

Response to crisis

In the mid-1980s, in order to refinance the debt, the government imposed an austerity plan worked out in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund. In June of this year, the government imposed another, even more draconian plan. The standard of living of the masses, which has tended to decline throughout the 1980s, is now dropping precipitously.

Since the late 1960s, the resistance inspired by government cuts in living standards had compelled the authorities to recognize the right to strike in individual enterprises. The pace of strikes increased as workers' jobs and livelihood came under attack, reaching 1,500 last year.

But there has been no organized, countrywide protest by workers against the blows being dealt them. Instead, the response to the crisis has taken the form of sharpening conflicts among the peoples of the various republics and autonomous regions. This has been aggravated by the breakdown of the League of Communists along nationalist lines. The current nationalist demonstrations by Serbs encouraged by party officials in Serbia, for example, aim at regaining a semblance of their former dominant position in the Yugoslav state.

From Pathfinder

Apartheid's Great Land Theft: The Struggle for the Right to Farm in South Africa by Ernest Harsch.

Tells the story of the fight over land, which has been at the center of the struggle between South Africa's white rulers and its subjugated Black majority.

It is available at the Pathfinder Bookstore nearest you (see directory on page 20) or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. 56 pp., \$1.25. Please include \$.75 for handling.



economic crisis developing in capitalist countries around the world is creating a potentially explosive situation.

Policy shifts

The bureaucratic castes that govern these countries are groping for ways to improve the productivity of labor. In most of them, the regimes are weighing or implementing proposals to decentralize economic decision-making and allow profitability and market forces to play a larger role in determining investment, production plans, and distribution of goods. This, they hope, will spur a recalcitrant work force to produce more.

Moreover, private ownership is being given more latitude in agriculture and trade, and loans and investment are being sought from corporations, banks, and governments in capitalist countries.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has used the term "perestroika" or restructuring to describe his version of these proposals.

In Yugoslavia, the government began introducing these measures decades ago and has gone further in implementing them than any of the other regimes in the region.

Nearly four decades after they began to be introduced, however, these steps have not prevented the Yugoslav economy from going into a tailspin with the onset of the world capitalist economic crisis. To the contrary, these Yugoslav policies laid the basis for even more severe and explosive economic difficulties.

The Yugoslav government, headed at the time by Josip Tito, moved toward greater reliance on market forces soon after the workers and peasants of Yugoslavia carried out a social revolution. In 1945 and 1946, capitalist rule was toppled and the capitalists and landlords, who had formerly ruled the country, were expropriated.

In 1948 the Stalin regime in the Soviet Union broke with Tito because of the Yugoslav government's resistance to Stalin's insistence that all East European governments take orders from the Soviet government.

Within two years, Moscow and its allies

Electronics union president follows case closely

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is in jail on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international protest campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. To contact the committee, write Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

"On behalf of the members of the International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers, AFL-CIO, I am writing to express our

thing possible to assure that our justice system works fairly for all members of our society," he concluded.

At the September 29-October 4 convention of the IUE in Bal Harbor, Florida, more than 250 delegates — over half of those present — signed protest petitions and endorser cards for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Signers included four IUE International Executive Board members. Curtis supporters were also able to talk to President Bywater. Delegates donated \$110 to the defense effort.

Several local officials from Indiana were particularly interested.

Dozens of national and state farm organizations, including the American Agriculture Movement, North American Farm Alliance, Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, and Iowa Farm Unity Coalition, are participants in this coalition.

Several of those present were already public endorsers of Curtis' defense effort, including Merle Hansen of the North American Farm Alliance, Ralph Paige of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, and Doug Harsch of the Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance.

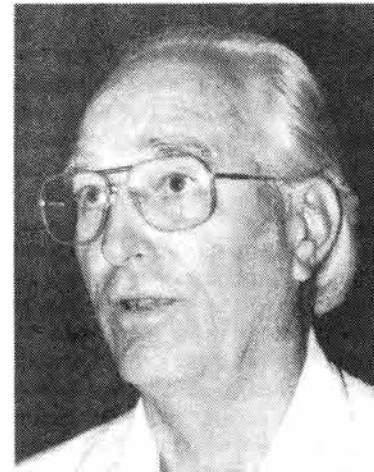
Among the statements of support distributed to board members was one from Merle Hansen.

"After sitting through two days of the trial of Mark Curtis, studying much that has been written about it, and talking with trusted friends who also sat in on the trial, I felt that ample evidence and simple logic supported a verdict of not guilty. That is not the way it turned out," began his three-page statement.

"Some people have said they think Mark Curtis is innocent but it's not their concern because he's a communist; that they should stay on safe ground and out of controversy especially since they don't like the way the SWP [Socialist Workers Party] operates.

"Others have taken the word of the police and prosecution's evidence as gospel. But I say just the

fact that Mark Curtis is a prime candidate for a frame-up and holds unpopular beliefs is all the more reason that we must be concerned that justice be served," the statement explained.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Farm leader Merle Hansen

"Most people in this country find it hard to believe that someone could be framed up and railroaded, but like so many myths about our country, there is a history of many frame-ups and I believe this is one of them.

"Are the courts and police always fair?" asked Hansen. "They represent who owns political power. When Darrell Ringer [a farmer] went before the judge in Kansas, he was told, 'When you come into this court against the bank, you are wrong.'"

Minnesota Citizens Organization Action Together (COACT) invited the defense committee to speak at its October 17 board meeting in St. Paul.

More than \$2,600 was raised at a Curtis defense meeting in San Francisco on October 1. Held at the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 6 hall, 80 people attended.

Puerto Rican author and poet Piri Thomas opened the program with a poetry reading.

"The Mark Curtis case is a reminder once again of how the victims become accused of being criminals," said Howard Wallace, United Farm Workers national field representative. He drew a connection between the Curtis fight and the brutal beating of UFW Vice-president Dolores Huerta at the hands of San Francisco cops in September.

Electric City Video, a gay video collective, taped the meeting. Their studio was recently broken into after a series of threatening phone calls, and much of their equipment, as well as tapes on Central America, was stolen. Sandy Mack spoke for the group.

Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, gave the keynote talk. Curtis is a member of the SWP.

Don Gurewitz, Argiris Malapanis, and Phil Duzinski contributed to this column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

concern about the recent arrest and conviction of union activist Mark Curtis," began an October 17 letter from William Bywater, international president of the IUE, to Polk County Attorney James Smith.

"The facts as they have been presented to me," Bywater continued, "appear to raise some questions about his arrest (and subsequent beating by police officers) and his first trial in September. It is certainly our hope that the actions against Mr. Curtis were not simply in reprisal for his trade union and political activities.

"The members of the IUE are following this case closely, and are hoping that you will do every-

"This is just like a case we had recently," they explained. One of their organizers had been framed up on murder charges as a way of quashing a union organizing drive she was heading. "It took seven months and tens of thousands of dollars before the union finally got the charges dropped," they said.

Irene Natividad, National Women's Political Caucus chair, also signed a petition.

Mark Curtis Defense Committee activists were invited to address the National Save the Family Farm Coalition board meeting the weekend of October 8-9 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Steelworkers collect \$200 for Curtis at plant gate

BY MITCHEL ROSENBERG

GARY, Ind. — Steelworkers dug into their pockets to aid imprisoned frame-up victim Mark Curtis when United Steelworkers of America Local 1014 organized a plant-gate collection at the sprawling USS Gary Works mill here October 11. Donations totaled \$205 from workers at the afternoon shift change.

Curtis had spoken at the local's August membership meeting a couple of weeks before his trial and won the support of most of those present. A resolution in support of his fight for justice was passed, and \$97 was collected at that time for the defense effort. Curtis was convicted on September 14 in Des Moines, Iowa, of third-degree sexual abuse (rape) and first-degree burglary.

Local 1014 sent a representative to Curtis' trial. After a report to the union's executive board on the way Curtis was railroaded to prison, the board decided to proceed with the plant-gate collection that had been voted for at the August membership meeting.

On October 10 teams of Local 1014 activists distributed a leaflet on Curtis' fight at the two largest gates of the mill. On one side was a letter from 1014 President Larry Regan urging support for the collection. "Mark Curtis is a union activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who was framed up and recently imprisoned by the authorities there," read the letter.

"Curtis spoke about the attack on him when he attended our local union meeting in August," continued Regan. "We pledged to support his fight for justice then — now that he has been locked up, he needs our financial and other help. Supporters from the international labor movement listed below and the information from Mark's defense committee on the back of this letter explain what each of us can do to help Mark. . . .

"I hope all local 1014 members will be generous. An injury to one really is an injury to all. Fighting for Mark is fighting for all of us."

Mike Mezo, president of USWA Local 1010 at Inland Steel in East Chicago, Indiana — the largest USWA local in the United States — and John Sako, president of USWA Local 1011 at LTV in East Chicago, were both quoted on the leaflet. Cur-

tis spoke to these steel locals in August as well.

Also listed were Paul Gipson, president of USWA Local 6787 at Bethlehem Steel in Burns Harbor, Indiana; Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mine-workers of Britain; and Marc Stepp, international vice-president of the United Auto Workers.

One thousand leaflets were distributed among the 4,000 members of Local 1014 who are currently working, ensuring that most saw the leaflet before the plant-gate collection took place.

The teams that went back to the gates for the collection the next day took signs and collection cans with them. Most workers who passed by had read the leaflet, and many reached into their pockets or wallets

as they approached the collection points. The collection cans had pictures of Curtis on them that showed his facial injuries from the beating he had received at the hands of the Des Moines cops after his arrest on March 4, 1988.

More than half the workers who went by threw something into the can. Five donated \$5 each, and the hundreds of other contributions ranged from spare change to a couple of dollars.

Discussion of Curtis' frame-up and what it means for the labor movement increased inside the mill. At the coke plant, where most of the petitioning and discussions have taken place, workers who had not yet heard that Curtis had been convicted expressed disbelief. Some have bought subscriptions to the *Militant* to follow the in-

ternational defense campaign.

Among the activists who carried out the leaflet distribution and collection was a worker victimized by USX. He has been a longtime reader of the *Bulletin*, the newspaper of the Workers League, a small sect that supports the frame-up of Curtis. He told the *Bulletin* that what it was printing wasn't true when the paper called him about the Curtis case prior to the plant-gate collection.

The USWA Local 1014 membership will get a report on the current stage of Curtis' fight for justice at its October 24 meeting.

Mitchel Rosenberg works at the coke plant at USS Gary Works. He was United Steelworkers Local 1014's representative at Curtis' trial.

Veteran rights fighter salutes Mark Curtis

The following is a letter sent by George Novack to Mark Curtis on September 25.

Novack, for many years a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, has been an energetic defender of democratic rights both in the United States and internationally. Thomas Mooney and Warren Billings, who Novack refers to in his letter, were left-wing labor leaders framed up in 1916 on bombing charges. In addition to the defense cases he mentions, Novack participated in the International Commission of Inquiry into the Moscow Trials of the 1930s; American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees (1938-39); Civil Rights Defense Committee, which helped the Minneapolis Teamster defendants in their 1941 Smith Act trial. He also took part in the defense of members of the Young Socialist Alliance indicted for "subversion" in Bloomington, Indiana, in 1963, and the suit the SWP and YSA brought against the FBI in 1973 for its decades-long spying on the two organizations.

Dear Comrade Mark:

The salutation of "comrade" is not a merely formal address. It expresses my deep-going feeling of solidarity with you as the victim of a vicious frame-up solely be-

cause you are dedicated to contending against social injustice. And for that you are yourself inflicted with injustice!

I am 83 years old and have been involved in protest movements against trampled-upon human rights now for over 50 years.

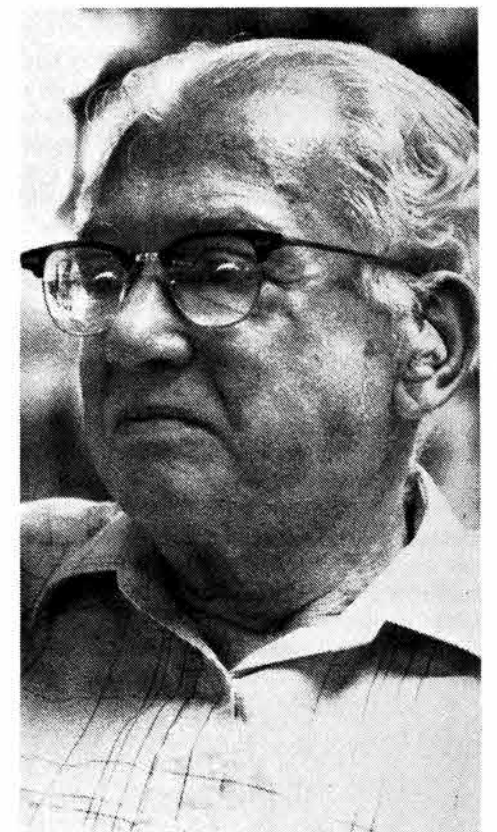
My record in this country alone started with the cases of Tom Mooney and Warren Billings and that of the Scottsboro Blacks in the 1920s and 1930s. I met with Billings in 1944 in San Francisco after his release from prison and talked with him about the problems of imprisonment on false charges.

Few cases have hit me as hard as yours. And as soon as I read about the circumstances my blood boiled and I enrolled as one of the defenders for the duration of your struggle for freedom. These already number in the thousands and they will be joined by many, many more as the months go by.

No matter how long it takes I am sure you will maintain the courage and convictions you have shown by your conduct.

When you look out at the bars that enclose you, and may be a bit downcast, keep in mind that you are never alone, at least in spirit. I am proud to be counted among that growing company of supporters.

Most fraternally
and friendly,
George Novack



George Novack

Militant

Why cops who attacked Curtis branded him 'colored-lover'

BY MARGARET JAYKO
(Fifth of a series)

DES MOINES, Iowa — When Curtis was arrested on the evening of March 4, 1988, he was beaten by cops who called him a "Mexican-lover just like you love those coloreds." In the few weeks prior to his arrest, Curtis had done plenty that would have branded him a "colored-lover" in the eyes of racist cops.

Curtis was among those who protested city authorities' refusal to rename University Avenue for Martin Luther King. And he had urged his coworkers at the Swift/Monfort packing plant to attend a February 20 march in the Des Moines suburb of Clive against cop racism there.

The Mark Curtis Story



At the demonstration, Curtis set up a table to sell revolutionary books and periodicals on the lawn of the police building, where the cops couldn't have helped but see him.

Anti-Black flier

Early in February 1988, the police department in the Des Moines suburb of Clive distributed a flier to block captains in Neighborhood Watch areas. The leaflets described a burglary earlier in the month during which the occupants woke up to find an intruder in their bedroom. The fliers described the burglar as a large Black man and said: "Also, if you see a black male in your neighborhood at night, please call the Clive police immediately so that we can try to find out who the individual is."

The leaflet immediately drew fire from the Des Moines branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, and many angry Clive residents.

"I think that statement is terrible," responded NAACP President Larry Carter. "The police department has other resources available to them to track down a suspect. There must be a better way of getting this information out without incriminating every Black male who may wish to go to Clive," Carter told the press. "We should be able to go freely wherever we choose without being subjected to police questioning simply because we are large or we are Black." He said the statement should be retracted.

Mark Lambert, assistant director of the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, called the flier "incredibly offensive."

"There are many, many Black males in the Des Moines area," Lambert said. "The fact that someone is Black is not enough of a reason to have them checked out by police or suspect them of being criminal."

"Sometimes police in mostly white neighborhoods decide if a crime is committed by a Black, that anyone like that seen in the area is automatically suspect."

According to the 1980 census, Clive had a population of about 5,900 people, 40 of whom were Black.

Feeling the heat, Clive Police Chief

Dean Dymond told the media, "It was a dumb statement at best."

"Nothing racial was meant by it," he said. "We put out a publication every two months, and we will make a special note to retract that statement."

In its February 11 issue, the *Des Moines Register* ran an editorial titled, "Offensive police letter."

After quoting the police chief's claim that "nothing racial was meant by it," the *Register* wrote, "No different than if the perpetrator had been driving a late-model red pick-up truck and police checked all such trucks, he may have thought."

It continued: "Police, of course, know that they need more specific descriptions of criminal suspects than the male gender of an entire race of people. So, putting out a call for reports of sightings of black men in Clive after dark is heavily loaded with unspoken meaning."

"It implies that black people don't belong in Clive after dark, that if one black man commits a crime there, all black men are suspect, and that the police have a right to stop, question, and demand the identity of any black men who happen to be in Clive after dark."

"We hope the citizens of Clive will rise up and object to the letter."

That same day, the Des Moines Human Rights Commission demanded that Police Chief Dymond resign. The commission urged the Des Moines City Council to withdraw any federal money administered to Clive through the city until Dymond stepped down. In addition, the human rights panel decided to ask the Iowa Civil Liberties Union to investigate the police department for violations of civil rights laws and, if violations were found, demand the withdrawal of any state money.

The city's Human Rights Commission director, Norma Jackson, said her office had been deluged with angry phone calls.

Mayor refuses to take action

Clive Mayor O. Gene Maddox responded that he would not ask for Dymond's resignation. "However, I certainly indicated in a letter to the chief," Maddox said, "that I do not approve of the language in the letter . . . and said we ought to very soon get out a retraction and apology. Certainly I could understand why Blacks would be offended by the language, but it doesn't justify any discipline be involved."

Maddox said the flier was written by police officer Terry Brauch.

Local civil rights leaders decided to try to get on the agenda of the city council meeting. "Some of these people are angry enough to go to the council meeting without being on the agenda," warned commission head Jackson. "I'm trying to keep people organized so they won't act in a way that will defeat our purpose."

Human rights Commissioner Carlos Jayne said a retraction was not good enough. "It was a policy that was surreptitiously instituted and not just an off-the-cuff remark," said Jayne. "His mistake wasn't in saying it. It was in having written it down."

Commission Chairperson Alfredo Alvarez said, "I'm of the thinking that racists are in the minority, but we're allowing that minority to speak loudly. I think we have to speak louder."

Antiracist march planned

The Human Rights Commission expressed its support for an antiracist march to Clive City Hall on February 20.

On February 13 the Clive City Council was forced to issue a retraction and a letter of apology for the police flier. No disciplinary action, however, was taken against those responsible.

Mayor Maddox said that he did not believe the police intended to harass or offend anyone. "They were trying to do what they felt was a police job of protecting the public safety and not ignoring the rights of citizens to be free from burglary," he argued.

He said he discussed the bulletin with Police Chief Dymond and officer Brauch. "I think their understanding has been greatly enhanced and increased by the entire experience," he said. The letter of apology was to be signed by both officers and sent

to the block captains who received the original letter.

Limeul Mack, a Black resident of Clive, said he was "deeply offended by the revelations associated with the bulletin. . . . I guess I have chosen not to dismiss the incident simply as a dumb statement. I think it was more than that. I think it was an irresponsible statement."

On February 18 the Clive City Council discussed the racist incident again. By this time a coalition of 11 groups had come together to back the upcoming march. They predicted it would be the largest civil rights march in the Des Moines area in two decades. They expected about 250 people to participate.

Sponsors of the march included: Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Des Moines Human Rights Commission, Iowa Civil Liberties Union, Black Ministerial Alliance, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Hispanic Political Caucus, League of United Latin American Citizens, National Association of Social Workers, Urban Mission Council, American Friends Service Committee, Iowa United Professionals, and several churches.

The city council, meanwhile, voted unanimously to add \$2,500 to its budget to train the city's 10 police officers and department managers in race relations.

"There is a need for sensitivity training for the Clive Police Department," Mayor Maddox told some 35 people who attended the council meeting.

Kevin Pokorny, a social service worker for the state of Iowa, reiterated the call for the resignation of the police chief. The mayor maintained his stance that neither of the cops involved would be fired or disciplined. Officials said that the city had received more than 30 letters asking that the two men not be disciplined.

Maddox also said that 2,100 copies of the retraction endorsed by council members and the apology from the two police officers had been sent to all Clive residents. This was a change from the council's decision the previous Saturday that only people who received the original flier would get a copy of the retraction.

The apology read, in part, "The intent of the bulletin was not to draw undue attention to or discrimination against all black males, and we apologize for the offensive statement. . . . The Clive Police Department did not intend to harass or offend any person."

March a big success

Almost 400 people, of all races and ages, turned out for the march. They came from a wide area of the state.

Participants brought handmade signs that declared, "Stop racism," "America should be free — so let's make it," and "Clive, next step Howard Beach," referring to the area of New York City where a Black man was killed in 1986 as a result of an attack by a white mob.

Many Clive residents watched from the windows of their homes, some waving and others coming out to take pictures as the marchers went by.

"We're here because racism in Clive affects racism in Marshalltown and Mason City and every other city in this state," said



Militant/Stu Singer
Alfredo Alvarez, chair of Des Moines Human Rights Commission. He participated in both the March 12 protest against immigration raid (above) and February 20 rally against police racism in Des Moines suburb of Clive.

Bill Dysart of Marshalltown.

"I'm very impressed," said Clive resident Harvey Beasley, who is Black. "This says to me that citizens are concerned, both Black and white. It's not just a Black issue, it's an issue for the entire community," he said.

One of the rally speakers was Clive teenager Joyce Clark. "I came here alone today because what happened makes me very sick," she said.

"The problem is bigger than Clive, bigger than Des Moines. It engulfs the whole state of Iowa," said Roy Swann, head of the Black Ministerial Alliance in Des Moines. He gave some statistics to make his point: "In a state with a Black population of less than 2 percent, 40 percent of the males in prison are Black. Black youth unemployment is 40 percent, while statewide unemployment is 7 percent."

Renaming street after King

Another incident that was fresh in people's minds was the refusal of the Des Moines City Council to rename University Avenue, a major east-west thoroughfare, after Martin Luther King. The council had voted instead to rename East 1st Street and East River Drive, a shorter route passing by City Hall and other government buildings.

This drew opposition from figures in the Black community who viewed the council proposal as an insulting gesture of tokenism.

Even this decision was tabled indefinitely by the council on February 15. According to a story in the February 16 *Des Moines Register*, "Mayor John Dorrian said the issue is touchy and must balance the interests of those who want a street renamed and those of property owners along the street."

Rudy Simms, head of the Martin Luther King Planning Committee and regional director of the Des Moines National Conference of Christians and Jews, told the Clive rally, "We need Martin Luther King Street. University Avenue ties us all together, and renaming it Martin Luther King would be a symbol of our interdependence."

(To be continued)

How you can help

● **Raise money.** The Mark Curtis Defense Committee needs to raise \$60,000 by December 31 in order to cover the expenses of the defense effort. Funds are urgently needed right away. More than 1,000 people have donated money to the defense effort to date.

Contributions should be sent to the Des Moines defense committee. (Checks for large tax-deductible contributions may be made out to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc.)

● **Get out the truth.** A combined petition and fact sheet, with excerpts from messages protesting Curtis' conviction on sexual abuse and burglary charges, are available.

Buttons that read, "Justice for Mark

Curtis! An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!" can be gotten from the committee for \$1 each.

Representatives of the defense committee are available to speak at meetings.

● **Endorse the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.** Send your name and how you'd like to be identified to the committee.

● **Write to Mark Curtis.** His address is Marion County Jail, Knoxville, Iowa 50138. Copies of the letters should be sent to the Des Moines defense committee.

Contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

Mark Curtis is a packinghouse worker, unionist, and political activist in Des Moines, Iowa. On Sept. 14, 1988, he was convicted on sexual abuse and burglary charges, and is currently being held in the Marion County Jail. He is scheduled to be sentenced on November 18.

Unionists, farmers, and youth around the world recognize that Curtis is one of those workers who are starting to stand up and fight back against the employers and their government. In their thousands, working people are beginning to join the fight for justice for Curtis.

The Mark Curtis Story is a multipart series that describes what happened to Curtis, where it fits into the class struggle, and the big stakes for working people in the fight against this frame-up.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

"Response to the South African Escalation." Showing of Cuban documentary video on defeat of South African troops in Angola. In English and Spanish. Sat., Nov. 5, 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Celebrate the publication of Thomas Sankara Speaks. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Nov. 19. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). For more information call (415) 282-6255.

Support the Farm Workers. March with Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. Join picket line and rally. Sat., Nov. 19. Assemble 11 a.m. Hawthorne School yard (Folsom St. between 22nd St. and 23rd St. near 24th St. BART station). March at noon through Mission and Castro districts. Rally 1 p.m. at Safeway on Church and Market. Sponsor: United Farm Workers of America, Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice. For more information call (415) 626-8053.

FLORIDA

Miami

Pathfinder Publications Fund Rally: Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: David Deutschmann, Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia; Dr. Rodney Daithorn and Rita Vega of the Association of Caribbean Studies; Rick Walker, member International Association of Machinists Local 702 at Eastern Airlines; Derold Saintilus, Young Socialist Alliance; Andrés Gómez, editor *Areito* magazine. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

The War in Southern Africa. Speakers: Manuel Pacavira, Angolan ambassador to the United Nations; representative of the South West Africa People's Organisation's UN mission. Thurs., Nov. 3, 8 p.m. F.I.U. Bay Vista campus, Room AC1-194, Biscayne Blvd. and 151th St. Sponsor: Coalition for a Free South Africa, Progressive Student Union-F.I.U. For more information call (305) 666-9538.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

One People, One Caribbean, One Destiny. A public discussion. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation requested. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

South Africa's Defeat in Angola. Showing of Cuban documentary "Response to the South African Escalation." In English and Spanish. Discussion to follow. Sat., Nov. 5, 6 p.m. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Socialist Workers Campaign Reception. Hear Rashaad Ali, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27. There will be an opportunity to talk to union activists, anti-apartheid fighters, students, and others. Sat., Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Cam-

paign '88. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: Michael Baumann, editor of Pathfinder publishing house; others to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 19, 7 p.m. 5019½ Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Pathfinder Publications Fund Rally. Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: David Deutschmann, Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia; Urule Igbargoa, Nigerian opponent of apartheid; Dale Shidester, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 9; Christine Evert, Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Nov. 6. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

Apartheid Army Defeated in Angola. Showing of Cuban TV documentary "Response to the South African Escalation." Translation to Spanish. Sun., Nov. 13, 6 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

Two Anti-apartheid Poster Collections: "Nelson Mandela: His Life in the Struggle" and "Apartheid's War Against Africa." Open Thursday to Saturday, noon to 7 p.m., until November 1. Admission free. Pathfinder Bookstore, 508 N Snelling Ave. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 30. Dinner and reception to meet James Warren and Raúl González, SWP candidate for governor, 4:30 p.m.; rally 6 p.m. 5534 Troost. Donation: dinner \$3, rally \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (816) 753-0224.

St. Louis

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Sat., Oct. 29. Reception 6 p.m.; rally 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Socialist Workers Campaign Wrap-up. Hear Diane Shur, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Nov. 5. Reception 6:30; program 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Nebraska Socialist Workers '88 Campaign. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Turning Point in the Liberation Struggle in Southern Africa. Showing of Cuban video "Response to the South African Escalation." In English and Spanish. Translation to French. Sat., Oct. 29, 6 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum.

For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Five Years After Grenada, a Revolutionary Tribute: One People, One Caribbean, One Destiny. Speakers: Terry Marryshow, leader, Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement; Roderick Thurton; films: *Maurice* and *Taking Off From a Dream*; and cultural presentations. Sat., Oct. 29, 5 p.m. Medgar Evers College, The Gym, 1150 Carroll St. Sponsor: Coalition for Caribbean and Central American Unity. For more information call (718) 282-6861 or 523-0927.

Manhattan

Latin American Art and Culture. Speaker: Ricardo Carpani, Argentinian muralist. Sun., Oct. 30, 3 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation requested. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project, Ventana, Pathfinder Books. For more information call (212) 226-8445. Carpani will also speak at Boricua College, Conference Room, 1st Floor, 156th St. and Broadway. Mon., Oct. 31, 4 p.m. For more information call (212) 694-1000.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

A Celebration of Pathfinder Publications. Panel discussion featuring John Riddell, representative of Pathfinder. Sun., Oct. 30, 6 p.m. 2219 E Market. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Chile: The People Say No to Dictatorship. Speaker: Clare Fraenzl, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

A Victory Over Apartheid. Showing of Cuban TV documentary "Response to the South African Escalation." In English and Spanish. Sat., Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

How Cuba Helped Repel South African Invasion of Angola. Video showing of Cuban TV documentary "Response to the South African Escalation." In English and Spanish. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$4. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Pathfinder Fund Celebration: Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: Elizabeth Stone, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution* and chairperson of Los Angeles Socialist Workers Party; Tomás Villanueva, president United Farm Workers of Washington State. Sun., Nov. 6, 4 p.m., to be followed by buffet and reception. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Hear the Socialist Candidates: Andrew Pulley for Governor, Jim Gotesky for Congress, 3rd C.D. Sat., Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Morgantown

The Homeless: The Struggle to Keep a Roof Over Our Heads. Speakers: Bob Hooley-Gingrich, director of Bartlett House, center for homeless people in Morgantown; Lorraine Cooper, board of directors Jubilee Soup Kitchen, Uniontown, Pennsylvania; Mark Satinoff, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

The Nicaraguan Revolution Today. Speaker: Naomi Hart, national leader Young Socialist Alliance, recently returned from Nicaragua. Sat., Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

BRITAIN

London

M15, FBI Political Vetting and Disruption: The Real Subversives Today. Speakers: Mark Hollingsworth, coauthor *Blacklist: The Inside Story of Political Vetting*; representative of Pathfinder speaking on new book *FBI On Trial*. Fri., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. Pathfinder Bookshop, 47 The Cut, London SE1 (nearest tube Waterloo). Donation: £1.

CANADA

Montréal

Grenada and the Caribbean Today: Five Years After the Overthrow of Maurice Bishop. Speaker: Terry Marryshow, leader, Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada. Tues., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. Black Community Council of Québec, Tucker Este Hall, 2121 Old Orchard Ave. For further information call (514) 482-8802 or 521-2791.

Defense of Women's Rights: The Struggle Continues. Speaker: Beverly Bernardo, Revolutionary Workers League, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 524-7992.

Toronto

Cuba: A Revolution Within a Revolution. The rectification process in Cuba. Speaker: Monica Jones, Revolutionary Workers League, member of United Steelworkers of America, recently returned from Cuba. Slideshow presentation. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Voice Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Grenada and the Caribbean Today: Five Years After the Overthrow of Maurice Bishop. Speaker: Terry Marryshow, leader, Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement in Grenada. Sun., Oct. 30, 7 p.m. Alexander Park Community Centre, 105 Grange Ave. Also, Mon., Oct. 31, 5 p.m. York University Curtis Lecture Hall, 2nd floor. For further information call (416) 861-1399.

Apartheid Troops Defeated in Angola. A showing of the Cuban TV documentary "Response to the South African Escalation." Speaker: Rolando Rivero, Cuban consul general; Yusuf Saloojee, chief representative of African National Congress of South Africa in Canada. In English and Spanish. Sun., Nov. 6, 2 p.m. The Alexander Park Community Centre, 105 Grange Ave. Sponsor: Socialist Voice Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

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Stockholm: P.O. Box 5024, S-12505 Älvsjö. Tel: (08) 722-9342.

Who said the rich are useless — Scientists report that, contrary to the general trend, average temperatures have been dropping at Palm Springs, a plush playground in



Harry Ring

California. They attribute this to the conversion of hunks of the desert there into cool, green golf courses.

Capitalism, the peaceful system — "There have been 471 wars

since about 1700, resulting in at least 101.6 million deaths. . . . More than 90% of those deaths have occurred in the 20th century. . . . Historically, about 50% of war-related deaths were civilian. . . . thus far in the 1980s, civilians have accounted for 85% of war deaths." — Author Richard Rhodes.

Tip to house-hunters — Animal Manors, creator of quality doghouses, offers a replica of a French chateau. \$2,850.

Golden garbage — "Landfill capacity is shrinking, the amount of garbage is not," beams Rodney Gilbert, a Massachusetts incinerator operator. Garbage is being spewed out at a rate of 7 bil-

lion tons a year, he notes, while landfill capacity is shrinking by 10 to 15 percent.

Our rational transportation system — U.S. motorists spend more than 1.6 billion hours a year sitting in traffic jams, says the Federal Highway Administration, which sees that number spiraling to 8.1 billion hours by the year 2005.

Maybe — According to historians, when Father Junipero Serra set up Franciscan missions in California, Indians were subjected to forced labor, and those who tried to escape were flogged. Pope John Paul II, preparing to declare Serra a saint, says the good father was "a shining example of Christian virtue."

A real stumper — As the summer's drought scorched feed and pasture land, farmers were forced to sell cattle for slaughter, driving down the price. Yet, federal probers found, this was not reflected in any savings to consumers. Just how this happened, they say, is something of a mystery.

Far out — "Stephen Stock has been chosen as the Associate of the Month at Magnetek-Better Coil. Stock works in the Lamination Department. . . . This past month he has had many new jobs placed on his shoulders. . . . Through all of this, he never complained and remained positive. . . . Stock will be given a special parking place, have dinner for two at a restaurant of his choice, and be awarded a

plaque." The Newton County, Indiana, *Enterprise*.

An early associate — In *Bank Dick*, W.C. Fields stumbles on the robber and the bank recovers its money, for which the bank prez extends to Fields, "a hearty handshake and a copy of the bank calendar."

With justice for all — Last year the Manville Corp. got court approval for a phony bankruptcy scheme designed to swindle 15,000 asbestos victims, or their heirs, who had filed suit against the company. Now Manville is emerging from the bankruptcy with a cool billion on hand to be spent on gobbling up other companies.

Grenada rally hails Bishop's role, blasts regime

Continued from back page
artificial arm.

Irwin Williams commented on the setbacks women have suffered under the U.S.-imposed regime. While it was common for women to work in the fields during the revolution, he said few are able to get jobs there now.

The crowd responded with enthusiasm to rally talks by MBPM leaders Terry Marryshow, Einstein Louison, and Kendrick Radix. Shouts of anger could be heard when Louison explained that customs officials seized boxes of Pathfinder books containing revolutionary literature as this reporter attempted to enter the country with them the night before.

Louison introduced Pathfinder representative James Harris from New York, who saluted Bishop's role as a worldwide revo-

lutionary leader.

MBPM Secretary for International Affairs Joseph Charter described the ties the party is developing around the world. Also giving greetings were MBPM leaders from several different parishes. The rally concluded with a short poetry reading.

The next day MBPM leaders Marryshow and Louison discussed the significance of the event.

Following the party convention earlier this year, the organization stepped up its work across the country, including in parishes where they haven't done much work before.

"We have been organizing video shows and rap sessions that bring people up to date on Latin America and the Caribbean. A tremendous amount of work was done to build the October 19 rally," Marryshow

said.

Unemployment in Grenada was some 12 percent at the time of the invasion. Today estimates on joblessness run as high as 40 to 50 percent for the population as a whole and 60 percent among women and youth.

"In the past five years," said Marryshow, "we have seen a widening gap between rich and poor. It's not surprising that many of our rallies are attended by workers and youth — the poor of our country who identify with our party. This is what our party is all about. It's a people's party. In fact it's the only people's party in the country."

Deputy leader Louison said the government's attack on the trade unions is also fueling discontent. Last summer the NNP government reenacted the Essential Services Act, which makes it illegal for electrical, dock, telephone, airport, and other workers to go on strike without first giving the government 30 days' notice.

The MBPM leaders said the government's seizure of books was consistent with other attacks on democratic rights. These include banning Caribbean political activists, including Don Rojas, former press secretary to Bishop, from entering Grenada.

Both Marryshow and Louison are themselves victims of the government's attempt to curtail rights. Marryshow is one of 10

doctors trained at medical schools in Cuba during the revolution. While the others were granted licenses, Marryshow has been prevented from practicing in Grenada.

And the government seized Louison's passport in 1985, claiming he was a national security threat. He has been unable to leave the island since.

Marryshow placed these attacks in the context of broader assaults on democratic rights throughout the Caribbean. He noted that since 1983 it has been impossible for a Grenadian to travel to Jamaica without first obtaining a visa. Delays in getting a visa can take more than three months.

1989 elections

Elections are scheduled to be held in Grenada in 1989. Louison said the U.S. government is maneuvering among the various "right-wing parties." He said Washington has "approached former dictator Eric Gairy. They are juggling with the both the New National Party and the New Democratic Congress," trying to find a proimperialist candidate that will have credibility with the Grenadian people.

"We know for sure, as was demonstrated at last night's rally," said Louison, "people are beginning to look for an alternative. Through hard and dedicated work we will try to convince people that our party is indeed the best party to represent them."

Curtis backers hit cross burning

Continued from back page

always gravitated in life toward people who fight such acts," she said. "I am offended at any suggestion" that the defense committee "had anything to do with what happened."

Nan Bailey, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 4th C.D., expressed outrage at "both the cross burning and the incredible and unbelievable allegation that fighters against racism could be responsible. The cross burning is an attack on everything that Mark Curtis and the Socialist Workers Party stands for," she said. Curtis is a longtime member of the SWP.

Veteran Des Moines civil rights activist Edna Griffin attended the press conference and wrote a message to the defense committee. "This case is not about rape. It is about the issue of immigrant workers," she said, referring to Curtis' record of support for the rights of immigrant workers. "Mark Curtis is a dangerous man, in my opinion, because he speaks Spanish and can communicate with the workers and worked side by side with them in the Swift plant.

"Mark Curtis is an activist and very important to uniting the workers," she added. "The recent burning of a cross into the lawn of the Morris family is provocative and creates confusion."

The defense committee press conference was given prominent coverage on the television news that night.

More than 50 letters of support have been sent to the committee since the cross burning was first reported.

Iowa activists who have responded include: Rudy Simms, Des Moines head of the National Council of Christians and Jews; Carroll Nearmyer, president, Iowa American Agriculture Movement; T. J. Lauritsen, special organizer, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 230, Ottumwa; Paul Dougan, Central America activist, Iowa City; Dan Murphy, Mozambique Support Group, Cedar Falls; Sam Downey, president, United Auto Workers Local 270; G.W. Blakesley, pastor, Scotch Ridge Presbyterian Church, Carlisle; and farm leader Merle Hansen.

Curtis Herron, pastor of the Zion Baptist Church in Minneapolis, wrote, "Slander-

ing consistent antiracist fighters of a racist attack sets a very dangerous precedent. It would be like accusing the civil rights movement of burning crosses. These slanders are deplorable and should be denounced."

Other messages were received from Susan Mnumzana, secretary for women's affairs, African National Congress of South Africa Mission to the United Nations; David Schlein, international vice-president, American Federation of Government Employees; Julie Shayne, national student coordinator, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; Tomás Villanueva, president, United Farm Workers of Washington State; Ray Rogers, director, Corporate Campaign; Kathy Andrade, education director, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25; and Leonard Robinson, director, United Auto Workers Community Action Program for Missouri, Region 5.

Before the afternoon press conference, defense committee supporters fanned out across the city to distribute literature. Few people they met gave any credence to the charge that the defense committee was responsible for the cross burning.

Aid Nicaragua now!

Continued from front page

sponsored war that cost 25,000 Nicaraguan lives and effectively thwarted economic development.

The majority of people in the United States never supported Washington's aggression against Nicaragua, and they will not look with favor on the callous efforts to deny Nicaragua the emergency aid that should be given. Many will speak up in support of the demand for governmental aid to Nicaragua.

Washington should immediately provide large quantities of food, clothing, medicine, seeds, tools, and shelter material to Nicaragua, as well as funds for financing reconstruction work.

Such aid should be genuinely humanitarian — with no political strings attached.

Let Nicaragua live!

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

Nov. 3, 1978

President Carter's Oval Office speech to the nation October 24 was a declaration of war. War against the lives, rights, and living standards of working people.

Carter told American working people it is up to us to end inflation through greater sacrifice. "A time of national austerity," he called it.

He claimed his plan to "restrain" wages and prices, cut federal spending, and eliminate "needless" federal regulations is "fair" and would be "applied equally" to government, business, and labor.

But what is fair and equal about a scheme to limit pay raises to 7 percent — when real wages are already falling?

What is fair and equal about slashing government spending — not by abolishing the inflationary military budget — but by cutting social services and 20,000 federal jobs?

Carter unveiled his plan exactly two weeks before U.S. voters go to the polls to "choose" once again between Democratic and Republican politicians.

But there is an alternative for voters on November 7 — a working-class alternative. In 25 states plus Washington, D.C., the Socialist Workers Party is running candidates.

The socialists' program in the elections is first and foremost one that places human needs before profits.

It calls for a cost-of-living adjustment for all workers.

It calls for defending and expanding affirmative-action plans for women, Blacks,

and Chicanos in jobs and education. It calls for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, and full abortion rights for all women.

It calls for an end to the embargo against Cuba. U.S. out of Africa. Independence for Puerto Rico. And no U.S. aid to Israel, Nicaragua, Iran, and other dictatorships around the world. It calls for a halt to nuclear plants, and nuclear weapons.

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interests of the Working People
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CHICAGO — Tuesday, Oct. 22, was "Freedom Day" in Chicago. It was the day of the biggest civil rights boycott in the nation's history. Almost 200,000 elementary and high school students stayed away from classes. The students, mostly Negroes from the ghettos of the South Side and West Side, were protesting the rehiring of School Superintendent Benjamin Willis, who has stubbornly resisted desegregation demands.

Schoolteachers and Willis himself admitted that the boycott constituted a nearly unanimous show of strength, with 51.4 percent of the elementary students absent (about 51 percent of the city's elementary students are Negro) and 38.4 percent of the high school students absent (about 33 percent of the high school students are Negro).

Some of the students attended "Freedom Schools" set up in 144 churches, union halls and community centers. The classes emphasized Negro history.

Vote Socialist Workers!

Continued from front page

crash either, despite campaign rhetoric about those who have been left out of the current "prosperity." After all, the promise of a depression during his administration wouldn't do much to help his already shrinking chances of getting elected.

While Bush and Dukakis can ignore the meaning of the crash, working people do not have that luxury. They have to confront the prospect of an economic downturn, no matter what happens election day. This is the simple truth that the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president, James Warren and Kathleen Mickells, have been explaining as they've campaigned around the country.

A recent poll in New York City indicates working people in large numbers are concerned about their future in light of the crash. Two-thirds say they are "very" or "somewhat" worried about how the current economic situation will affect their personal financial security. This is higher than a similar poll taken immediately after the stock market crash last year.

A big factor that weighs on workers' minds is the knowledge that conditions have actually worsened for many during the current upturn. Unlike the economic boom of the 1960s, millions of workers have been pushed down during the last six years of "prosperity."

Tens of thousands of farmers have been forced off the land, squeezed by the banks, government, and agricultural monopolies.

Recent "low" unemployment figures represent some 7 million workers without jobs and are higher than most years from 1941 to 1975. And these figures mask millions of other workers who are simply not counted in the statistics.

Today, one-third of wage earners are paid less than \$5 per hour.

There are an estimated 735,000 homeless people in this country, and their numbers are growing. Nearly a quarter have jobs, but are too poorly paid to afford housing.

Some 13.5 percent of the population lives below the government-set poverty level of \$11,811 per year for a family of four.

Medical care is out of reach for at least 37 million people not covered by health insurance and without resources to pay for astronomical medical costs. One recent study indicates the direction things are headed: the United States now has the highest infant mortality rate among 20 industrialized countries — 10.4 infant deaths per thousand.

Moreover, the gap in living standards between Blacks and whites is widening.

The poverty rate for Blacks now stands at 33.1 percent, two and a half times the rate for the population as a whole. The unemployment rate is 12 percent for Black workers, and nearly 35 percent among young people who are Black.

Most Black workers remain trapped in segregated neighborhoods, forced to send their children to segregated, inferior schools.

Conditions for Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and Asian-Americans have also worsened during the crisis. And immigrant workers from many countries come here hoping to find some relief from economic hardships only to find themselves squeezed the hardest by the employers — when they can find work.

For the toilers of Latin America, Africa, and Asia, the crisis is already much more severe than for even the worst-off workers here, Warren and Mickells explain.

The \$1.2 trillion foreign debt owed by countries in the semicolonial world to banks in the United States, France, Britain, and other imperialist countries has not only precluded real development in much of the world — it has pushed conditions backward. Extreme poverty, malnutrition, disease, and illiteracy are the reality of life for hundreds of millions of fellow working people around the globe, and these are a preview of the future capitalism has in store for millions more of us.

The anniversary of the 1987 stock market crash was the occasion for a flood of articles in the media discussing the event. The October 19 *Wall Street Journal* sounded a common theme. "Somehow the Second Great Depression failed to arrive on schedule," the editors say. "On the anniversary of Black Monday, the economy is humming along in the 71st month of a record expansion."

Some economists try to assure us that no necessary connection exists between the stock market plunge and

the future of the world capitalist economy. Others claim that technical adjustments in the way stocks and bonds are traded can prevent future crashes.

But most working people know, like night follows day, that the current boom will come to an end, and a downturn will follow. What makes this prospect more ominous than the "normal" ups and downs of the business cycle is the stock market crash, which indicated that the next downturn will not be normal or routine. It will usher in the most severe depression since the 1930s. Nothing has happened in the last year to alter this judgement.

The pressures that have been mounting in the world capitalist system since World War II continue to build, fueled by the decline in the average rate of industrial profit. This is at the root of the intensified competition among the imperialist countries; overproduction of commodities and excess industrial capacity; declining capital investment in plant and equipment; mushrooming speculation and the vast expansion of debt; stepped-up bank and business failures; a farm crisis in the imperialist countries; the decline of real wages and worsening of working conditions; growing unemployment; and the devastation of countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

Since October 1987, none of these pressures have eased.

Working people are very vulnerable in the face of the coming economic downturn. As factories close and banks fail, millions of workers and farmers will be thrown onto the streets.

The meager social insurance that exists now will be washed away.

Unemployment funds — which even now, cover less than one-third of workers out of jobs — will disappear, along with welfare benefits.

The small savings that some workers and farmers have — supposedly protected by government insurance — will be gone. The current crisis of the savings and loan associations indicates how vulnerable the banking system as a whole is. Nearly one-sixth of all S&Ls are insolvent. What will happen if there is a full-scale breakdown of the banking system?

How can working people respond in face of the social and economic crisis that looms ahead?

As they've spoken around the country, the Socialist Workers Party candidates have been discussing several proposals raised in the SWP's proposed Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis.

The Action Program's starting point is that workers' strongest weapon in defending ourselves against the capitalists' onslaught is the recognition of our common interests as an international class. And the Action Program puts forward several proposals the labor movement can begin to fight for now to forge the unity our class will need in the battles ahead.

Fighting for jobs for all workers by shortening the workweek to 30 hours with no cut in pay can help overcome the biggest division the working class faces — between those of us who have jobs and those who don't. A shorter workweek would create jobs for the millions of workers who are currently unemployed and the legions of others who will join them as the economic crisis deepens.

The power of our class is also sapped by the race and sex divisions that the capitalists promote and maintain. The entire working class needs to take up the fight to end discrimination against workers who are Black, Latino, Asian-American, immigrant, or female. This means championing the demand for affirmative action in hiring and upgrading, as well as special protection during times of layoff.

The Action Program also explains that working people here and in other imperialist countries have a big stake in backing the fight of toilers in Latin America, Asia, and Africa to cancel the foreign debt and eliminate unequal trade relations.

These three proposals also point the road forward to the struggle for political power by the toilers, led by the working class, in order to establish socialism — the only lasting solution to the horrors of capitalism and its crises.

The Socialist Workers Party, the Young Socialist Alliance, and their supporters will be campaigning and winning support for this perspective long after the elections are over. One of the most important tasks is to continue circulating the Action Program to as many workers and farmers as possible in the coming months. And the most effective way to participate in these discussions, and the class battles that lie ahead, is as a member of the Socialist Workers Party or the Young Socialist Alliance. Join us!

What kind of state is the Soviet Union?

BY DOUG JENNESS

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his supporters contend that their proposals for modernizing the economy and spurring more productivity out of workers and farmers is in the best interests of the *Soviet Union* and the *Soviet people*. The evaluation of these measures in the capitalist press also tend to be in the framework of how they will affect the Soviet Union and the Soviet people.

But these are abstract terms. There is, of course, a place on the map called the Soviet Union where people

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live and one can travel to on an Aeroflot jetliner.

In matters of economic and social relations, however, concrete reality is more complex. There are different strata of the Soviet population, with diverse and conflicting interests, who will be affected quite differently by Gorbachev's attempts to use market methods, reprivatize farming, and implement other such measures.

In assessing the implications of Gorbachev's proposals, we need to know what we mean by the Soviet Union.

From the outset, it's important to recognize that capitalist political rule and economic domination were eliminated in that country more than 70 years ago. The industrial and financial capitalists were expropriated by the workers and peasants and have never reestablished themselves.

Economic planning was introduced and has been maintained in the country's basic investment decisions.

A state monopoly of foreign trade was established, which closes off opportunities for capitalists to reassert themselves.

These characteristics are common to all countries where capitalism has been abolished and make it impossible for world capitalism to significantly organize and exploit labor in them. In order to go back to capitalism these basic conquests have to be reversed, which can only be done through a counterrevolution.

This is what makes peaceful coexistence with capitalism impossible on a world scale. The conflict between states based on two opposing property systems ultimately places limits on what can be achieved through political means — summits, treaties, detente, and so on.

That's why the 1986 program of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, drafted under Gorbachev's leadership, offers a utopian pipe dream when it concludes that "historical contention between the two opposite social systems, into which the world is divided today, can and must be settled by peaceful means." Far from being able to be resolved peacefully, the chasm between these two systems is unbridgeable.

Expropriating the capitalists, economic planning, and monopoly of foreign trade also get rid of the most dominant features of capitalism.

Gains in labor productivity, for example, are not necessarily tied to periodic massive layoffs or the growth of a permanent reserve supply of unemployed labor, both of which have marked industrial capitalism since its birth.

There is no need for business cycles or the strangling domination of the international paper economy expressed in the stock, bond, and commodity futures markets of the capitalist world.

All of this provides a foundation on which workers can organize the economy and move toward communism. In fact, it is a prerequisite to being able to do so. It is in this sense that describing these states as "workers' states," and therefore progressive in contrast to capitalist states, has meaningful content.

These workers' states, however, have a particular vulnerability compared to capitalist countries. Capitalist economies operate automatically. Their basic laws function without conscious intervention. Business cycles, for example, with their periodic upturns and recessions, are an inevitable part of capitalist life. They are not organized by the capitalist class.

Labor productivity advances as part of the automatic workings of this system, although at tremendous human cost and misery as massive layoffs periodically occur and the ranks of the reserve labor supply grows.

But economic development in the Soviet Union and other workers' states doesn't happen automatically; it needs to be consciously organized. There is no built-in or automatic bias of state property and economic planning that will advance labor productivity or lead toward the construction of socialism.

Underdeveloped countries such as China today or the Soviet Union in the 1930s can achieve relatively high rates of economic growth and make gains in labor productivity by drawing a big reserve of peasant labor into manufacturing industries and emulating many capitalist methods.

But these quantitative increases are not enough to economically overcome the advanced capitalist countries or pave the way toward socialism. Conscious communist leadership that helps develop the political understanding and self-confidence of working people is required to do that.

'Team concept': speedup, erosion of union power

Choosing Sides: Unions and the Team Concept, by Mike Parker and Jane Slaughter. Boston, South End Press, 1988. \$16 soft cover, 229 pages.

BY JANET POST

For the last decade, the "team concept" has been a weapon in the worldwide drive by the capitalist owners of industry to squeeze more production out of workers. Highly publicized "teams" in auto plants have become models for thinly disguised speedup in other industries as well.

With the team concept, workers are organized into groups set up to compete with each other for production goals. They must learn all of the jobs in each group and

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are rotated at the bosses' discretion. The work pace is increased to its outer limits, while job classifications and seniority rights are pared back or eliminated.

The groups are encouraged to become involved in making production decisions, including the criticism and discipline of coworkers. In some plants teams are forced to eat meals together and participate in social activities outside of working hours.

One aim of the team concept is to bring the work force into line with the bosses' drive for productivity. Another aim is to erode the power of the unions by both undermining workers' solidarity and weakening collective bargaining agreements.

Choosing Sides exposes some of the results of teamwork in auto plants in the United States, Japan, Mexico, Britain, Sweden, Belgium, and Canada. Half of its chapters are devoted to case studies quoting from workers' experiences on shop floors. Sections of union contracts relating to teams are also included.

Slaughter and Parker write that owners of U.S. companies hoped implementing the team concept would put U.S. industry "back on the fast track of world competition."

The concept, however, is not popular with workers. *Choosing Sides* points out that workers have never demanded the team system in any plant.

In plants without unions, speedup under the team concept becomes even more brutal. At the unorganized Nissan plant in Smyrna, Tennessee, one assembly line worker is quoted in the book, "You don't have time to unwrap

a piece of chewing gum and stick it in your mouth until the line stops." Another adds, "You feel like you've done three days' work at the end of a shift."

The bosses at Nissan recently asked the workers to "restrict their intake of liquids before the shift begins so they won't have to take breaks."

Team productivity is boosted by increased surveillance and control by the bosses, who are aided by "team leaders." Originally presented as coordinators for workers' self-autonomy, the team leaders' real function as tools of the foremen soon became obvious.

In the 1800s, Karl Marx explained the role of bosses and their overseers. "An industrial army of workers under the command of a capitalist requires, like a real army, officers (managers) and N.C.O.s (foremen, overseers), who command during the labour process in the name of capital." (*Capital*, Vintage Books, New York, Vol. 1, p. 450.)

The team concept is used to encourage workers to think and act like labor overseers. Those who do are accorded special privileges for their loyalties.

An article on "The Union's Early Days" by Nelson Lichtenstein (author of *Labor's War at Home: The CIO in World War II*) is one of several by other authors included in *Choosing Sides*.

Lichtenstein compares team leaders with the "straw bosses of the 1920s-30s." Straw bosses were hourly workers appointed by foremen to be working leaders. Because they had some disciplinary powers they were hated by the workers.

He writes that when the United Auto Workers (UAW) first organized the River Rouge foundry in Detroit, "90 straw bosses were eliminated in one day."

Lichtenstein also compares the "team productivity drive" with the institutionalization of piece work in the 1920s, "where the men might not only internalize the production goals of the company but take steps to enforce those goals on their workmates."

Choosing Sides is broadened by its inclusion of experiences from workers outside the United States.

The Ford plant in Hermosillo, Mexico, is one of 36 Big Three-owned auto plants now in northern Mexico.

The workers at Ford are organized under "concepto de grupo." They go through role-playing sessions where they decide what to do with a "lazy worker," who should get days off, and punishment for workers who make mistakes.

In Japan, where the team concept has been in practice longer, the "workers are as much victims of this system

as U.S., British, and Mexican workers are now coming to be."

A chapter called "The Japanese at Work: Illusions of the Ideal," by British social psychologist Pamela Briggs, breaks down some of the myths about working conditions in Japanese factories.

Briggs explains that British workers, like those in the United States, are led to believe that work in Japan is made more humane through methods such as the team concept. The author cites numerous examples showing that this is not true.

For solutions to the team concept, Slaughter and Parker primarily look to union educational campaigns, strengthening contractual language, and building a "union involvement and action program." This includes filing grievances that companies using the team concept claim are "inappropriate."

The authors cite examples in the United States and other countries where concessions such as the team concept have been beaten back. They argue that the first step toward "political and economic power" is to rebuild the labor movement at the very base of its power — on the shop floor."

Choosing Sides points to the Congress of South African Trade Unions as an example of a union federation with "principled policies" such as "democratic structures which involve the rank and file and ensure that the leadership acts on their mandate."

But *Choosing Sides* stops short of spelling out the broader political problem and thus the broader political solution to attacks like team concept.

There's nothing wrong with working in teams, per se. It is when teams are used within a capitalist framework that they inevitably result in increased exploitation. All of the book's examples of the team concept are from capitalist countries, which Parker and Slaughter fail to mention.

Comparing teamwork in a U.S. or Japanese auto plant with voluntary work brigade teams in Cuba illustrates this point.

Teams of Cuban workers can make decisions collectively because the workers have a stake in what they are producing. Unlike in capitalist countries where production is for private profit, production in Cuba is for the benefit of society as a whole.

Janet Post is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1238.

LETTERS

Antidebt protest

I attended the massive demonstration and rally held in West Berlin September 25 to protest the meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank taking place in the city that week.

The route taken by the march was from the "fashionable" Kurfürstendamm area, through shopping and residential districts, to Kaiserdamm, near the site where the IMF-World Bank meeting was about to convene. Slogans shouted included "IMF and World Bank make this world sick," "IMF-murder meeting," "Cancel the debt — the rich should pay," "Long live international solidarity," and "German weapons, German money, are used for murder in the whole world."

The march, and week-long protests in Berlin, were intimidated by the West German Senate, which wanted to show that its "fair city" was capable of hosting a successful bank meeting, and by the West German government, which sent 10,000 riot police with truncheons, automatic rifles, and bulletproof shields to the city (one policeman for every eight demonstrators). During the week, several protesters were beaten up, hosed, and arrested by the cops, who assumed a very provocative stance during the march. A few demonstrators who climbed onto nearby buildings for a better view of the rally were summarily arrested.

The demonstration was one of the largest seen in West Berlin in recent history, illustrating the importance of the debt question in Germany. People from all walks of German society participated, despite the massive intimidation apparatus of the German ruling class. The demonstration struck massive blows to bring German

public opinion around to the demand of cancellation of the criminal Third World debt.

Raj Kumar
Berlin, West Germany

Homeless demonstration

A group of 50 people recently engaged in a sit-in at the University of Texas at Austin that completely blocked the hallway outside the university president's office.

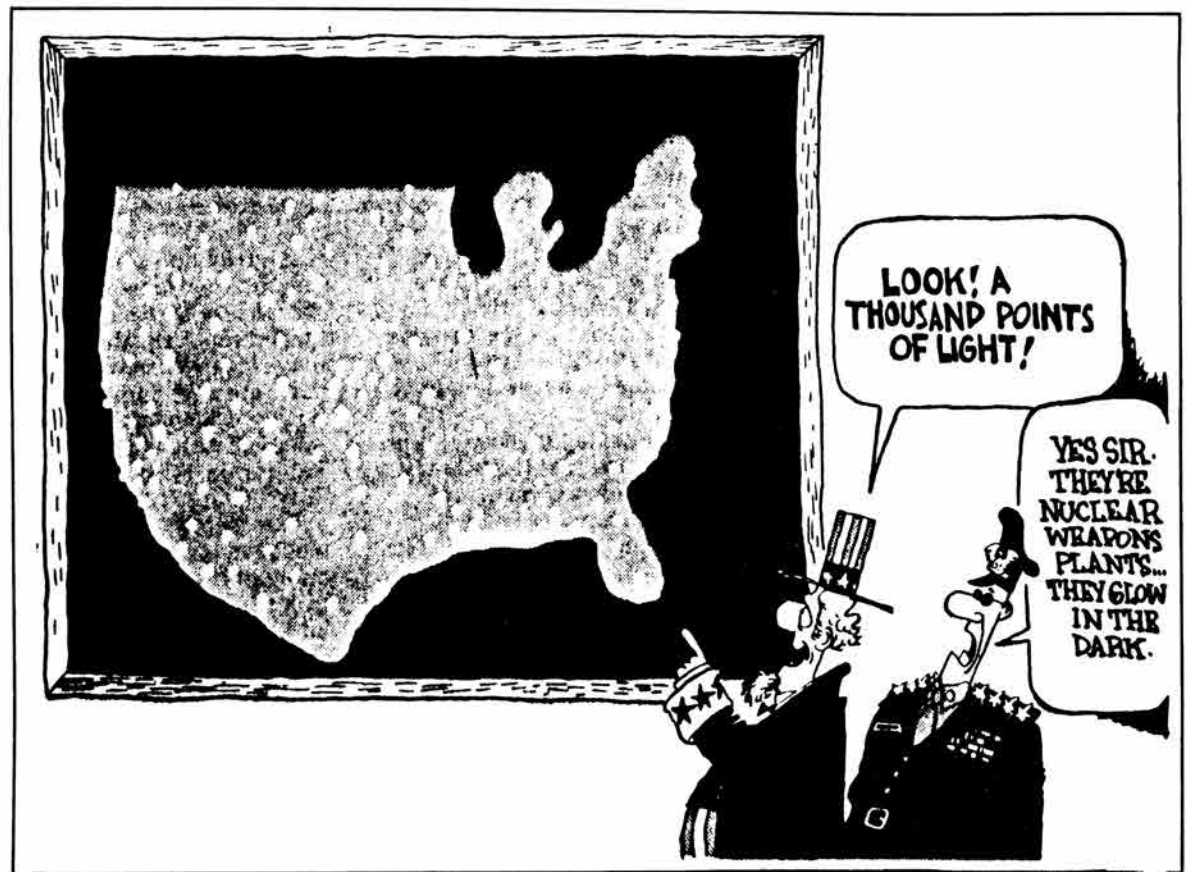
Protesters demanded "University of Texas out of Blackland, feed the homeless now!" The action included a lunch served to more than 150 homeless and hungry students and residents.

The protest expressed solidarity with the homeless and the Blackland neighborhood of East Austin. It was organized by a coalition of students, Blackland Neighborhood Association activists, and homeless organizers of the Street People's Advisory Council (SPAC).

These groups united after the university destroyed 19 homes on lots it owns in Blackland as part of a "scorched earth" policy for the purpose of building a new parking lot for its baseball stadium. This occurred after members of SPAC squatted in two houses to demand their use by the homeless.

Blackland is a predominantly working-class Afro-American community on the east side of rigidly segregated Austin. It has been under siege by the university since the 1960s when part of it was purchased by force of eminent domain to build a graduate school and the baseball stadium. The university has persistently refused to allow unoccupied houses to be renovated for use by the homeless.

The protest followed two months of well-attended forums and film



Bob Englehart

showings that documented the struggle to save Blackland and to assist the 3,000 homeless of Austin.

Robert Ovetz
Austin, Texas

Governor of Puerto Rico

The governor of the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico, who is up for reelection November 8, is illegally using National Guard helicopters as a personal taxi service.

The accusation appeared in a story by Barbara Cornell in the October 9 *El Nuevo Día*, a Spanish-language daily with the biggest circulation in Puerto Rico.

The National Guard is part of the U.S. military and is made up of part-time soldiers in units that

can be activated during wars. It is organized in each of the 50 states and in U.S. colonies such as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The governor of each state or colony holds the title of "commander-in-chief," although this exists more on paper than in reality.

Department of Defense regulations specify clearly the circumstances in which a governor can ride in National Guard aircraft: "when travel is for official duty connected with National Guard activities."

"Events that even appear to benefit selectively, endorse, or favor a political organization or are associated with the solicitation of votes in a political election," are barred.

The article in *El Nuevo Día* esti-

mated that Gov. Rafael Hernández Colón has made 125 trips in the last year on National Guard aircraft.

On August 28, for example, he flew from San Juan to Luquillo, to promote the government's antilitter campaign at a music festival. Newspapers in San Juan ran photos of the trip the next day, calling it a campaign activity.

Ron Richards
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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.

Rally in Grenada hails Bishop's role

Protests 'five years of backwardness' since U.S. invasion

BY NORTON SANDLER

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — Youth began gathering at a corner of the market square here in Grenada's capital city in the late afternoon on October 19. Some listened to a tape of a speech by Maurice Bishop.

A short while later these young working people began crowding into minibuses that traversed the island's steep hills to attend a rally at Ski Hi Junction near Grenville.

The rally was organized by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) to commemorate the assassination of Bishop.

Bishop and other leaders of Grenada's revolutionary government were gunned down by troops loyal to Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard on this date five years ago.

A few days before the killings, Coard staged a counterrevolutionary coup that toppled Grenada's revolutionary government, which had been in power since 1979.

On Oct. 25, 1983, U.S. troops invaded the island, installing a proimperialist government that is today headed by Herbert Blaize and his New National Party (NNP).

Unable to ignore the high esteem in which Bishop is held by the Grenadian people, Blaize's NNP government was forced, for the first time this year, to organize a token ceremony of its own on October 19 and to call for a National Day of Prayer.

The first minibuses arrived at Ski Hi Junction just after dark. Less than 100 people

were on hand, and it appeared as though the rain earlier in the day was going to hold down the size of the crowd.

Rally organizers erected a stage on a flatbed truck parked at the spot where two roads meet to form the junction. It was draped with a banner reading, "After five years of backwardness, MBPM for progress."

A stream of minibuses began arriving. Other working people came in the back of pick-up trucks. But the majority of the crowd walked to the rally from nearby villages or from Grenville itself.

By 7:30, all four sides of the junction were packed with more than 1,000 people. It was the largest event the MBPM has organized in Grenada's second-largest city in the past five years. Most of the crowd was young, but it spanned all generations. About 25 percent were women.

Life under Blaize

Waiting for the rally to start, MBPM activists discussed life under the Blaize government. Alexis Simon, 22, was part of the crowd of 15,000 to 30,000 who had helped free Bishop from house arrest on Oct. 19, 1983. Simon's arm was shot off when Coard's troops opened fire on the crowd. A short time later Bishop was assassinated.

Despite numerous promises, the government has refused to provide Simon with an

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Militant/Norton Sandler

Leaders of Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement laid wreath October 19 on monument to leader of 1979-83 revolution in Grenada. Bishop was murdered Oct. 19, 1983.

Cree Indians in Canada win fight for piece of land

BY ROGER ANNIS

LITTLE BUFFALO, Alberta, Canada — The 478 Cree Indians of Lubicon Lake, Alberta, have won a stunning victory for land rights. On October 20 Alberta Premier Donald Getty gave in to the Lubicons' claim for a 95-square-mile homeland.

The Indians have won outright control of 79 square miles. They will control surface rights on another 16 square miles. Negotiations are continuing over the Lubicons' demand for a share in the management of a much larger adjoining area. They are also demanding financial compensation for the hundreds of millions of dollars in resource wealth taken from their land over the past years.

The deal must now be ratified by the federal government in Ottawa, which has jurisdiction over Aboriginal affairs in Canada.

Cheers and raised fists from the hundreds of Little Buffalo residents and their supporters greeted the announcement of the victory. Little Buffalo is the principal settlement of the Lubicon Cree and is 300 miles northwest of Edmonton. Native leaders from across Alberta and Canada had made their way here to support the Lubicons' fight. So too did representatives of the 170,000-member Alberta Federation of Labour, church leaders, and students.

At a victory rally on the evening of the settlement, Lubicon Chief Bernard Ominayak said, "I'd like to thank all the people who've come here to join us in this fight. If it hadn't been for you people, we'd still be struggling. We all have common enemies in both levels of government."

"As the first people of this country," he said, "we are subject to all the problems and the racism that's here in this country. I think we're going to beat that one of these days. We've shown today that as a united front, there's not too much that can stop us."

The Lubicons first applied for land in 1933. This has remained the central issue in their long fight. Ottawa has sat on the request for decades.

In 1970 the Alberta government decided to open up the Lubicons' traditional territory to exploit its rich oil and timber resources.

Some 370 oil wells were sunk by dozens of oil companies. Trapping lines were bulldozed to service the wells or to lay pipe lines. The wildlife that the Lubicons depended upon for food and livelihood were driven away.

While oil worth \$1 million was being pumped out each day in recent years from Lubicon land, the band was driven into deep poverty and onto welfare rolls.

Earlier this year, the Lubicons took their case to the winter Olympics in Calgary, Alberta. While the Canadian government urged citizens to "share the flame" of the Olympic torch, the Lubicons urged people to join protests demanding that the Alberta and federal governments "share the shame."

As the Alberta and Canadian governments continued to drag their heels, the Lubicon decided on action. In a move that startled Canada's rulers, the band declared on October 6 it would assert its sovereignty over its land. Henceforth, it would not recognize the jurisdiction of the Canadian government or courts over its lands.

Barricades

On October 15 the Lubicons erected barricades and set up checkpoints on the four roads leading into the 4,000 square miles of its traditional hunting territory. Oil companies were advised that they must apply for permits from the Lubicons to service their wells.

Supporters from across Canada and Europe began pouring in to bolster the blockade. The Lubicons' fight became one of the broadest mobilizations ever in defense of Native rights in Canada.

Then on October 20, in the cold, early morning hours, a large paramilitary force of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) invaded the Lubicon homeland. With sharpshooters in a helicopter, and SWAT teams with dogs and machine guns

patrolling the surrounding woods, scores of RCMP officers, armed with shotguns and chain saws, destroyed the four blockades and arrested 27 of the peaceful, unarmed protesters.

This, however, failed to stop the protest. Several Indian communities throughout Alberta made plans to bus people into Little Buffalo to join the Lubicon in future actions. The Grand Council of the Crees (of Québec) rushed a telegram to the United Nations secretary general requesting an immediate investigation of the Canadian government for systematic and gross violations of human rights.

At that point, Canada's rulers gave in. As Bernard Ominayak explained it three days later, "He [Prime Minister Getty] saw we have people supporting us here in this region, in Edmonton, across Canada, and

in Europe. He knew it was only going to get bigger."

The Lubicons' victory marks an important milestone. Hundreds of Natives and Metis (people of mixed Indian and European heritage) who have similarly been denied recognition and land rights, will now redouble their struggles.

One of the younger band members, Dwight Gladue, summed up his feelings on the night of the victory rally October 22. "There are two things that I feel good about tonight," he said. "One is the land we won. But the other is the support we won from all across Canada. It's not a matter of us having used people — this is a victory for everybody in Canada to share."

Roger Annis is a garment worker in Toronto and was one of the 27 protesters arrested at the Lubicon blockade on October 20.

Mark Curtis Defense Committee blasts racist cross burning

BY SANDRA NELSON

DES MOINES, Iowa — An October 22 news conference and protest meeting attended by 30 supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee expressed outrage at a recent cross burning on the lawn of a Black family here and rejected any attempt to link the defense committee to the incident.

Mark Curtis is a packinghouse worker, unionist, and political activist who was convicted on September 14 on trumped-up charges of rape and burglary. He is currently serving time in the Marion County Jail in Knoxville, Iowa, waiting to be sentenced.

On October 19 the father of the woman Curtis was charged with raping reported to the police that a cross had been burned on his lawn. He told the press he suspected the defense committee was involved.

Defense committee leader and packinghouse worker Kate Kaku told the news conference that the "cross burning last

Wednesday was aimed against the Black community, all fighters for social justice, and especially at those around the world fighting for justice for Mark Curtis.

"It is impossible," Kaku stressed, "that anyone involved in defending Mark Curtis would have anything to do with a cross burning. Mark Curtis was victimized for fighting against racism. He was beaten in the city jail by racist cops who called him a 'Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds.'"

She called for "an immediate and thorough investigation by the authorities to get to the bottom of this incident and to apprehend anyone responsible for such a racist act."

Julia Terrell, Curtis' neighbor and a defense committee activist, told the meeting that because one of her husband's parents was Black, her family had lived under the constant threat of cross burnings. "I have

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