

Blacks in Miami rebel against killing by cops



Police arrested 400 people and wounded six during their occupation of Miami's Black community. Miami's rulers are trying to pin blame for conditions faced by Black workers on Latino and immigrant workers.

BY TONY THOMAS

MIAMI, — On the evening of January 16 Miami's Black community rose in rebellion after Miami cops murdered two Blacks, Clement Anthony Lloyd, 23, part-owner of a car wash, and Allen Blanchard, 24, an unemployed construction worker.

Lloyd and Blanchard were riding a motorcycle through Overtown, Miami's poorest Black community, when a police car

started chasing them, allegedly for speeding. When they tried to stop, another cop, William Lozano, who had just stepped out of an apartment building, shot Lloyd at point-blank range.

Lloyd, who was driving the motorcycle, lost control and crashed head-on into a Buick driving in the opposite direction. The shooting barely missed children playing in a nearby park.

Lloyd died instantly. Blanchard died the next day from injuries sustained in the crash.

A crowd of community residents surrounded Lozano and other cops, shouting, "You no-good killers," "Why are white police officers shooting Black men?" and "How can they kill him on Martin Luther King's birthday?"

When Miami Mayor Xavier Suarez and City Manager Cesar Odio came to the scene they were pelted with rocks and bottles. Police in full riot gear beat back the crowd.

Hundreds of Miami and Dade County police rushed into Overtown. Within a few hours more than 140 blocks of Overtown were cordoned off, and reporters were ordered out. Some 400 people were arrested in the first few days. Most of them have been charged with "prowling" or "inciting to riot."

Overtown residents began defending themselves against police attacks with rocks and bottles. Cars, meat markets, groceries, and other buildings were set afire. Cars carrying whites became targets after a white male in a luxury car fired into

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Socialist candidate hits Bush support to Angola contras

CHICAGO — "Working people here and around the country need to raise their voices in opposition to President-elect George Bush's commitment to continue backing UNITA's fight to overthrow the government of Angola," said Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago, in a statement released here January 17.

Musa, a veteran Black rights and union activist, blasted Bush's January 6 letter to National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA) leader Jonas Savimbi. In it, Bush states that until the Angolan government agrees to a negotiated settlement

with UNITA, "my administration will continue all appropriate and effective assistance to UNITA."

A Bush spokesman emphasized that such "assistance" means continuation of existing covert military aid, which has averaged \$15 million a year since 1986. The letter also congratulates UNITA for "its courageous demonstration over more than a decade that solutions to Angola's problems cannot be found through repressive military force."

"UNITA's forces are to Angola what the contras are to Nicaragua," Musa explained, "an armed force that specializes in terrorizing, murdering, and maiming civilians and attacking non-military targets." "The South African- and U.S.-backed UNITA forces have been fighting to overthrow the government of Angola since 1975, when Angola won its independence from Portugal. In the process, they've killed, wounded, and displaced hundreds of thousands."

"It's not an accident that Bush's first foreign policy initiative is to reassert U.S. imperialism's backing — in partnership with the apartheid regime in Pretoria — for this terrorist outfit," Musa continued.

"The Brazzaville accords, signed last month between Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, mark an important step toward ending the war against Angola," Musa said. "But as long as Washington continues its support for UNITA, the war will continue, with devastating results for the people and economy of that country."

The accords Musa cited were signed

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Militant/James Kendrick
Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago.

Mexican gov't attacks oil workers' union

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Joaquín Hernández Galicia, head of the 200,000-member Mexican oil workers' union, was arrested January 10 after government troops staged an armed assault with rocket launchers and automatic weapons on his home in Ciudad Madero. Dozens of soldiers and three helicopters were used in the attack, ordered by the administration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. The 66-year old union leader was dragged off in his underwear.

The Revolutionary Oil Workers Union of the Republic of Mexico (SRTPRM), the largest union in Latin America, organizes workers in Mexico's oil industry, Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), which was nationalized in 1938.

Oil is Mexico's most important industry, accounting for more than 40 percent of national revenue, 40 percent of export earnings, and 10 percent of the country's gross national product.

A spokeswoman for Salinas said the attack on the oil workers' leadership "was a matter of national security." She claimed the federal attorney general's office had uncovered evidence that Hernández was planning to "damage Pemex installations."

Hernández, known popularly as La Quina, was initially charged with illegally stockpiling weapons and ammunition. The government claims to have found 200 sub-machine guns, 30,000 rounds of ammunition, and other firearms in his home. Two days later, charges of resisting arrest and murder were added, for the death of a federal agent killed in the assault.

Eight others were arrested with Hernández, and during the 24 hours that followed, some 40 more union officials and associates were arrested on charges of fraud, tax evasion, and illegal possession of weapons.

Among them was the union's secretary general, Salvador Barragan Camacho. He was put into police custody in a Mexico City hospital, where he had been brought after suffering a heart attack. Union officials have appointed Ricardo Camero Cardiel, a close associate of Hernández, as acting secretary general of the union.

Meanwhile, the government deployed

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Forums focus on Curtis defense

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The stakes in the international political fight to free frame-up victim Mark Curtis will be the centerpiece of a series of public talks by national leaders of the Socialist Workers Party.

Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year jail sentence on false charges of third-degree sexual abuse and first-degree burglary. Curtis is also a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

The speakers will trace the roots of the Curtis frame-up in the developing economic and social crisis of the capitalist system and the resistance to the attacks on workers and farmers by the employers and their government. As a packinghouse worker at the Des Moines Swift plant, Curtis is one of tens of thousands of young workers around the world who have refused to retreat in the face of assaults on wages, working conditions, and rights. This is

why he is sitting in the state penitentiary in Anamosa, Iowa, today.

The forums will discuss the importance of winning thousands of new sponsors for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. The campaign's goals are to maximize the price the ruling class has to pay for railroading Curtis to jail, to bust up the frame-up, and to free Mark Curtis.

The talks will be sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum and will take place in six cities across the United States on three consecutive Saturday nights: January 21, January 28, and February 4. John Gaige, SWP national farm director and SWP organizer in Des Moines; James Warren, SWP organization secretary; and Craig Gannon, SWP administrative secretary, will be the speakers.

The forums will occur during six regional political conferences sponsored by the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information, see the ad on page 3.

Jobless textile workers snatch up Action Program

BY YVONNE HAYES
AND DEVIN OLDENDICK

GREENSBORO, N.C. — "Scott Libin reports this evening on radical politics at the plant gate." This report on the team of socialist campaigners at the gate of Cone Mills Corp.'s Minneola plant in

here, and five textile workers bought subscriptions to the *Militant*.

A massive and ongoing restructuring of the industry, including buyouts and mergers, has left some 4,000 textile workers in the Southeast unemployed since last

April. Burlington Industries, Inc. tossed out 1,200 workers and sold several of its other plants in 1987. Some 1,300 Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) members were dismissed from Avtex in Front Royal, Virginia, last fall. The plant reopened when it obtained \$38 million in contracts from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Air Force.

At its White Oak plant, jobs were eliminated in spinning, whole shifts abolished in beaming and finishing, and weavers and creelers have been stretched out along the line — responsible for more looms than ever before. Over the last year the work force of 1,700 was reduced by 10 percent. Workers in the plant are members of ACTWU Local 1391.

Cone's announcement last October that it would close its Edna and Minneola mills sent shock waves through communities in the area. The closings affected 8 percent of the manufacturing work force in Reidsville. Some 200 of the 4,000 residents of Gibsonville worked at the Minneola mill.

In negotiations with the union, Cone has refused to grant severance pay, earned 1989 vacation pay, and 1988 holiday pay to the Edna workers. At White Oak, the company refused to grant a pay increase in 1988 despite record 1987 profits.

In a letter to employees, Cone Mills Chairman Dewey Trogdon

explained that the bank's holding company loans were satisfied with management's performance.

Cone officials have blamed textile imports and a "soft denim market" for the layoffs. But as of last September the textile trade deficit was down 21.4 percent from the previous year, according to industry publications.

Some textile workers today are more open to questioning the anti-imports campaign of the mill bosses and union officials, which blames workers in other countries for layoffs in this country. The perspective in the Action Program that workers are part of an international working class with a common enemy — the international capitalist class — is an idea workers are willing to consider more seriously than before.

The Action Program's proposal to fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay as an answer to the bosses' layoffs and work load increases generates lively debate in the mills, at union meetings, and on the job. Will the companies grant this demand? What kind of movement is necessary to fight for it?

The Action Program's proposal for affirmative action hiring, training, and promotion programs for women and minorities also generates debate.

Racial discrimination has been prevalent in textile mills throughout the South, especially during the Jim Crow system of legal segregation, which was abolished under the impact of the civil rights movement. To this day the employers exploit the divisions that are the legacy of the past.

At the Minneola plant gate one worker argued that quality suffers when affirmative action quotas are instituted. "That's why Japan and Korea are ahead. They only hire the most qualified workers," he said. After some discussion he decided to buy a copy of the Action Program so he could read it and think about its proposals some more.

Yvonne Hayes is a member of ACTWU Local 1391 and works at Cone Mills' White Oak plant in Greensboro. Devin Oldendick is a member of ACTWU Local 2376 and works at Fiber Dynamic in High Point, North Carolina.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

nearby Gibsonville was the lead item on Channel 8 news here October 27. The socialists also campaigned among workers at Cone's Edna mill in Reidsville.

Nearly 100 copies of the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, proposed by the Socialist Workers Party, were sold here in late October as hundreds of textile workers were laid off.

At the Minneola and Edna plant gates 24 workers snatched up copies of the Action Program. Another 25 were sold in the two rural communities where the mills are located. Five were sold at Cone's flagship White Oak mill

April.

Last year Cone Mills Corp. the largest cotton, denim, and corduroy manufacturer in the world, dropped 1,800 workers. Cone was bought out with \$450 million in

Anti-imperialist organizations solidarize with Cuba

BY DON ROJAS

HAVANA, Cuba — "Cuba's victory is our victory as well," declared a statement issued here January 5 by the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. The declaration saluting the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution was signed by Cheddi Jagan, the former prime minister of Guyana and president of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations.

The organization is made up of 43 political groups from more than 20 countries. Its declaration hailed the example Cuba had set for other oppressed nations by becoming "the first truly free, independent, and democratic country in our Americas."

"We are deeply impressed," it said, "by the array of Cuba's social, economic, and cultural successes over the past 30 years, against enormous odds and in the face of the criminal Yankee economic blockade."

It took struggle, sacrifice, and discipline by the Cuban people to register this "outstanding record," the statement said. And these gains have been "fortified by the revolutionary victories of other peoples and nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America over the past three decades."

Don Rojas is a leader of Grenada's Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement and a Coordinating Committee member of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America.

Today, it noted, "the Cuban [Communist] Party and people are actively engaged in a process of rectifying past errors and shortcomings, a process aimed at improving economic efficiency, eliminating bureaucracy, and further deepening the revolutionary consciousness of the masses." This will "serve to strengthen the revolutionary process in our region," the statement of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations said.

Turning to the arena of world politics, the declaration hailed the Cuban people's "unmatched internationalism", which, it noted, "stems from the basic principles of their revolution."

It is thanks in part to Cuba's internationalist aid that "our sisters and brothers in Namibia will later this year taste the sweet fruit of freedom and independence, and that the republic of Angola's security will be guaranteed by the glorious victories last year at Cuito Cuanavale [Angola] over the racist forces of South Africa."

"For 30 years," the declaration said, "Cuba has said 'No!' to imperialism. In the face of ceaseless attacks Cuba has never bowed its head in shame, has never compromised its revolutionary principles and ideas, has never retreated. Instead, it has fought back and it has won great victories over imperialism, giving us all resounding proof that the empire is not invincible, that we must never be intimidated by its power

and its stolen wealth."

The Anti-Imperialist Organizations cited the example set by Cuban President Fidel Castro, particularly his leadership on the question of the Third World's unpayable foreign debt — "the single most critical problem common to all our countries and peoples."

On the occasion of this 30th anniversary, the statement concluded, "We must celebrate also imperialism's failure not only to roll back the Cuban revolution but to iso-

late it from the family of Caribbean and Latin American nations. At the same time we must condemn the empire's continuing blockade, its occupation of Guantánamo, and its campaigns of disinformation.

"We wish to reiterate our militant solidarity with the Cuban revolution and to reassure the Cuban people that all the anti-imperialist and anticolonialist forces of the Caribbean and Central America will continue to support fully their endeavors to build a truly just and equitable society for all."

Hundreds of infants in United States die from diarrhea every year

Diarrhea, an easily treated illness, kills hundreds of infants in the United States each year, most in the South, according to a study recently released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta.

Diarrhea is the second leading cause of death among children in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, killing an estimated 4.5 million each year. Only respiratory illness has a higher mortality toll.

The CDC study found that 5,539 U.S. children from one month to four years old died from diarrhea in the decade 1973 — 1983. Eighty percent died in their first year. Overall there was an average of 504

deaths a year, with the number declining from 719 in 1973 to 372 in 1983.

The death rate from diarrhea for Black infants is four times that of white infants.

Dr. Mei-Shang Ho, who directed the study, said about 200,000 children under five are hospitalized each year because of diarrhea. Some 10 percent of preventable infant deaths are caused by the disease.

A simple and inexpensive treatment for diarrhea exists called rehydration therapy, which resupplies the body with water, sugar, sodium, and potassium. It is the extensive loss of these elements that accounts for most deaths.

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New York forum celebrates Cuban revolution

Socialist leader hails Cuba's 'place in the world today'

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK — Some 300 people attended the Militant Labor Forum here January 14 to hear Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters report on the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution held recently in Cuba. Most of those attending the meeting came from the area surrounding New York City, including northern New Jersey and campuses in upstate New York. Some came from as far as Boston and Philadelphia.

Waters represented the SWP Political Committee at the celebrations in Cuba. She has reported on the Cuban revolution for the *Militant* and is editor of the Marxist journal *New Internationalist*.

She noted that many articles that have appeared in publications around the world, even by some individuals who consider themselves to be supporters of the Cuban revolution, have questioned its relevancy for today.

"We're here to celebrate tonight. But what we're celebrating is not an event that took place 30 years ago, as important as that event may have been in the history of Cuba, of Latin America, and of working people the world over. We are here tonight because of everything that has happened since then. For what the Cuban revolution is today, and its place in the world today," Waters explained.

Gains of revolution

She reported on the tremendous gains the revolution has continued to make in health care, housing, education, and other social needs, especially over the last two years. "Last year alone, in 1988," reported Waters, "they built the equivalent of eight 600-bed hospitals, and completed them in full and on time, by January 1, to celebrate the 30th anniversary."

Waters noted that there are also those who concede that only the socialist revolution in Cuba made social gains possible but who challenge whether socialism remains valid today. They ask: can socialism produce what capitalist market mechanisms produce? She explained that these critics often point to the "market reforms" being introduced in other countries where capitalism has been overturned.

"Fidel answered this very well in a speech on the 20th anniversary of the assassination of the Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara," Waters said. "He said some people believe human beings are really just nasty little animals and the only way you can make them work is by whipping them with a stick or holding a carrot or a piece of grass in front of their nose."

"Fidel said that anyone who thinks like that can never be a revolutionary, will never be a communist, will never be able to lead working people to accomplish anything," Waters explained.

"As Che Guevara said 25 years ago, and

as the Cubans are discussing again today, if a socialist revolution tries to use capitalist methods, capitalist instruments, what you generate is not capitalist restoration necessarily but capitalist consciousness. You can't use the laws of capitalism, they use you," Waters said.

In 1986 the Cuban leadership began a discussion aimed at correcting the mistaken idea that there is some mechanism — whether it is an economic plan or Cuba's system of democratic representation, People's Power — whose automatic functioning could advance the country toward socialism. The new perspective places the working people themselves, led by the Communist Party of Cuba, at the center of the battle for socialism. That process is known as rectification.

The organization of volunteer work brigades to plan and build new schools, day-care centers, housing, hospitals, bridges, and roads has been a pillar of the rectification process.

The rectification campaign has also given renewed emphasis to Cuba's perspective of internationalist solidarity. Hundreds of thousands of Cuban construction workers, teachers, and doctors have served on internationalist work brigades in Africa and Latin America.

Same spirit

This same kind of spirit, of collective effort, led to the victory in southern Africa last spring, where Cuban and Angolan troops fought shoulder-to-shoulder to defeat South African troops at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, Waters explained. "No single Cuban or Angolan soldier could ever defeat South African imperialism."

Waters' presentation was followed by a wide-ranging discussion. Participants asked about the extent of participation in the work brigades, their impact on the organizations of People's Power, Cuba's policies on nuclear power, and civil liberties and the role of opposition groups in Cuba.

One participant said that while he supported the Cuban revolution, it is wrong to refer to Cuba as a socialist country. Isn't doing so, he asked, a departure from the Marxist view that socialism can only be based on a world economy?

Waters pointed out that V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the October 1917 Russian revolution, referred to the Soviet Union as a socialist country in the early 1920s, a country which had made far less progress in that direction than Cuba has today.

"Lenin said we also have to talk about our course, our direction, where we are heading, what we are trying to accomplish. He said that in that sense it is correct to refer to the Soviet Union as a socialist country. And in that sense I also think it is correct to use the term in relationship to Cuba," Waters explained.



Tony Savino

Mary-Alice Waters, who represented Socialist Workers Party at anniversary celebrations in Cuba, speaks at January 14 meeting.

Socialists to host conferences in 6 cities

The Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance will be hosting regional political conferences in six cities in January and February.

Members and friends of the SWP and YSA and supporters of the *Militant* will hear reports on and discuss major developments in international and U.S. politics today. They

will discuss perspectives in the international campaign to defend Mark Curtis, a framed-up Iowa packing-house worker serving a 25-year jail sentence.

Each conference will feature a public talk by an SWP leader on the political stakes involved in the fight to defend Curtis.

Host city	participating	Host city	participating
January 21-22			
Oakland	Portland San Francisco Seattle	Pittsburgh	Baltimore Charleston Cleveland Detroit Morgantown Washington, DC
January 28-29			
Atlanta	Birmingham Greensboro Houston Miami	Chicago	Austin, Minn. Des Moines Kansas City Milwaukee Omaha St. Louis Twin Cities
February 4-5			
Los Angeles	Phoenix Price, Utah Salt Lake City	New York City	Boston Brooklyn Newark Philadelphia

For more information call: Oakland (415) 420-1165; Pittsburgh (412) 362-6767; Atlanta (404) 577-4065; Chicago (312) 363-7322; Los Angeles (213) 380-9460; New York (212) 219-3679.



Tony Savino

New York antiracist march Jan. 16, 1989. Supporters of Palestinian struggle were among 1,000 people who marched on Martin Luther King Day.

Militant Labor Forums

The Political Fight to Free Mark Curtis

Pittsburgh: Hear **James Warren** Socialist Workers Party national organization secretary.

Sat., Jan. 21, 7 p.m. Sewell Center

Robt. Morris Business College, Narrows Run Rd.

Near Days Inn Motel at airport. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

San Francisco: Hear **John Gaige** National farm director for the Socialist Workers Party and SWP organizer in Des Moines, Iowa.

Sat., Jan. 21, 7 p.m. ILWU Local 34 Hall, 34 Berry St.

For more information call (415) 282-6255 or (415) 420-1165.

Chicago: Hear **John Gaige**.

Sat., Jan. 28, 7 p.m. Congress Hotel, Windsor Room
520 S. Michigan Ave.

For more information call (312) 363-7322

Atlanta: Hear **Craig Gannon**, SWP Political Committee

Sat., Jan. 28, 7 p.m. City Centre Hotel, 70 Houston St.

Near downtown and Highway 75. For more information call (404) 577-4065

Prominent Alabama activists back Curtis fight

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving 25 years 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.

More than a dozen civil rights, union, farm, religious, student, academic, and political leaders in Alabama have signed an appeal for support to Curtis.

The jailed packinghouse worker

will be targeted for more such frame-ups. The frame-up of Mark Curtis must not go unchallenged. Any one of us fighting for justice here and around the world could be singled out next."

Signers include: Abraham Woods, Jr., president, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Birmingham chapter; George Paris, farm activist; Fred Shepherd, United Steelworkers of America; Johnny "Imani" Harris, political prisoner; Linda Smith, president, Greater Birmingham Chapter, National Organization for Women; Albert Carson, president, Local 255, Glass, Molders, Plastics, Pottery, and Allied Workers Union; and

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

lived in Birmingham from 1981-85, where he was active in his union and in the local affiliate of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES). Documents the FBI was forced to release showed that Curtis was one of the Birmingham activists who was spied on as part of the government's anti-CISPES campaign.

"Your help is urgently needed to defend a young unionist and political activist, Mark Curtis, who is the victim of a frame-up by the Des Moines, Iowa, police," the letter begins. It was sent with a packet of materials to 175 activists.

"Although the authorities railroaded Mark to jail, they were not able to close people's minds or silence Mark and his supporters. International support has grown since the conviction," the letter continues.

"Police frame-ups of political activists and unionists are nothing new in the United States. As social and economic conditions worsen, working people who fight back

Spiver Gordon, Eutaw city councilman.

Supporters of the Curtis defense effort in Christchurch, New Zealand, got a good response when they set up a table outside the movie *Evil Angels* (currently screening in the United States under the name *Cry in the Dark*). Thirty-six movie-goers signed a petition for Curtis.

The movie tells the story of Lindy Chamberlain and her husband. In 1983 Lindy Chamberlain was wrongly accused of murdering her nine-week-old baby in Australia. Like Curtis, she did not receive a fair trial. She was convicted nonetheless and sentenced to life imprisonment. Her husband was found guilty of being an accessory after the fact.

A public defense campaign eventually forced the Australian government to release the Chamberlains from jail and officially exonerate them.

At the January 7 meeting of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee,



Militant/Eric Simpson

Hazel Zimmerman, secretary of Curtis defense committee, proposed that supporters launch new effort to gain sponsors in the Des Moines area.

committee secretary Hazel Zimmerman singled out Des Moines and the surrounding area as the most important place to organize new support.

She proposed that pairs of defense committee activists, with more experienced members teamed up with newer people, go out and talk to the long list of people that the committee wants to win as sponsors.

Among the many Iowa figures who have already signed sponsor cards are Harold Dunkelberger, American Agriculture Movement, Inc., Pilot Mound; Edna Griffin, civil rights activist, Des Moines; T.J. Lauritsen, president, United Food and Commercial Workers

Local 230; and Anne Johnstone, Iowa organizer, Nicaragua Network.

Denis Stephano, secretary-treasurer of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-234 in Linwood, Pennsylvania, recently sent a letter to the defense committee urging "all workers to support Mark and the committee's efforts in his defense."

Stephano wrote "Anyone who has read the *Militant* knows Mark Curtis. You don't need to meet Mark in person to realize he is innocent and is being victimized by the Des Moines Police Department. I would be very surprised if

the Des Moines police were acting alone in the attack on Mark." Stephano said he met Curtis at the oil workers' union convention in Florida last August.

Curtis described what the holidays were like in the Iowa state penitentiary in Anamosa in a letter to the defense committee.

"We didn't do anything special over the holidays, but we (in all the shops anyway) got a day off for Christmas, and another for New Year's, with pay. The institution gave us all four candy bars for Christmas and we had steak for New Year's. The next holiday we are looking to is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday."

According to Pathfinder sales representative Priscilla March, the New York-based publishing house received a letter from Curtis requesting literature. "Please send me a Pathfinder catalog, and the following books: *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, and volumes 1-6 of the *New International*."

Curtis explained that there is a library of 10,000 books at the prison but very few of them "could help workers and farmers here understand the international class struggle, the nature of capitalism and imperialism, or the road forward to national liberation, an end to racism and sexism, and to socialism."

"I found one book on Nelson Mandela," wrote Curtis, but nothing with the African National Congress leader's writings. Che's Bolivian diary is the only book by Guevara in the library. Curtis intends to donate to the library all the books he gets so they will be available to all inmates.

Felicity Brereton from New Zealand, and Sandra Nelson from Des Moines, contributed to this column.

Mark Curtis wins approval to receive 'Militant'

On New Year's Day, Mark Curtis sent a letter to the *Militant* reporting that "after an initial denial and review by the publication committee, the *Militant* is now an approved publication here at the Iowa Men's Reformatory. I received numbers 50 and 51, and eagerly read them for the first time since I was sentenced November 18. I would very much appreciate back copies since that time."

Curtis explained that he "hoped to introduce others here to the *Militant* although the only sharing of literature can be done in the library. Last night an inmate was given a major report for looking at another inmate's magazine while sitting with him on a bench in the cell house. He is appealing the report. If he doesn't win, he'll go to 'the hole' (solitary confinement)."

"The radio reports this morning that a prisoner at the state penitentiary in Fort Madison has been on a hunger strike since November 23 to protest conditions in the disciplinary detention unit there."

"Thank you for all the excellent coverage on the growing international campaign for justice and my freedom. Your readers are doing an incredible amount of work for my release. Many of them have written to me here, especially over the holidays, and I would like to thank them for their encouragement and all they're doing to reverse this frame-up."

"The holiday appeal for solidarity in your last issue was excellent [*Militant* No. 51]. Those who frame up and jail working-

class fighters hope they will be forgotten and become demoralized, but the *Militant* is helping to make sure that doesn't happen."

"I salute those fighters and also those [prisoners] whose letters were printed in your last two issues. I do not yet have permission to correspond with other prisoners, but they are in my thoughts often. The Af-

rican National Congress, which has had so many of its ranks pass through the iron gates, always reminds its comrades to stay strong. Do the same."

Curtis added a note to readers who want to write to him:

"In lieu of all the gifts your readers have asked to send to me, a contribution to the defense committee or to the *Militant's* Pris-

oner Subscription Fund would be much better. Cards, letters, and photos are appreciated though."

To write Curtis, address letters to: Mark S. Curtis, No. 805338A, Box B, Anamosa, Iowa 52205. His defense committee would like to receive copies of the correspondence. Its address is Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

Iowa meat-packers fear wage cut in takeover

BY JACKIE FLOYD

PERRY, Iowa — On December 23, Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) announced it is buying the hog slaughterhouse here. IBP is the largest meat-packer in the United States. IBP's announcement comes after Oscar Mayer Foods Corp. announced its plans to close the plant on February 3.

"This is great news, especially before Christmas," said C.L. Hawn, acting mayor of Perry. "If no buyer had been found, it would have had a devastating impact on our city."

Des Moines banker John Chrystal, who had business interests in Perry, said the purchase of the plant by IBP "is a wonderful Christmas present for west-central Iowa hog farmers, grain producers, businesses, and labor."

Reactions of workers in the plant, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149, were quite different. "I'm married. I've got kids. I'm buying a house," said Daniel Starr, 28, who makes \$9.45 an hour. "At \$5 to \$6 an hour, which is what they're paying in some places, it's not worth the trouble. You can't make a living." Starr and other workers are concerned that IBP management will impose lower wages, as well as longer hours and unsafe working conditions.

Ralph Sheldahl, 24, said, "IBP kind of scares everybody. I'm not going to work in

there and get carpal tunnel syndrome for \$6 an hour." Carpal tunnel syndrome is a debilitating injury caused by repetitive hand motions.

Roy Essing, 55 years old, has worked for Oscar Mayer for 25 years. "It used to be when you were hired on with a company, the longer you were there the more respect you got. It seems now, the longer you are there, they want to get rid of you so they don't have to pay for the longer vacations or the pensions," said Essing.

This is not the first time that workers at Oscar Mayer have faced the prospect of lower wages and worse working conditions. Over the last several years the company has used the threat of a plant shutdown to wrest concessions from the workforce. Oscar Mayer has imposed wage cuts, wage freezes, medical benefits cuts, a three-tier wage scale, and a steady increase in production and line speed. Newly hired workers are paid \$6 an hour. It takes them two years to earn the base pay of \$9.20.

Workers' hatred of IBP is based on the meat-packing giant's record of attacking wages and working conditions in the packinghouses it owns. Of the 14 IBP plants, only four have unions. In July 1987 the company was fined \$2.6 million for under-reporting injuries. In May 1988, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration

fined IBP \$3.1 million for injuries in its plants.

Most workers at the Oscar Mayer plant, particularly those planning to apply for jobs with IBP, want to keep the plant union organized. They say this will be the only way to exercise some control over wages and working conditions.

Some workers have tended to blame IBP's employees for the low wages and brutal conditions.

One example is the complaint that IBP will bring "low-class" people to Perry, willing to work for \$6 an hour. Racist slurs, particularly against workers born in Mexico, are combined with denunciations of IBP. Of the 600 production workers at Oscar Mayer, only about 20 are Black, Mexican, Southeast Asian, or other oppressed nationalities.

Ted Leonard, who has worked in the plant for two years, responded, "This and other divisions have thrived because of years of pursuing the dead-end strategy promoted by the union officialdom of 'protecting my job, in my plant, in my town.' To win the fight to keep a union in this plant will take solidarity among all working people."

Jackie Floyd is a member of UFCW Local 1149 and works at Oscar Mayer in Perry, Iowa.

'Militant' Prisoner Fund

The *Militant's* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who need help paying for the paper. Please send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Jordan and the Palestine national liberation struggle

BY HARRY RING

(Second of two parts)

Our previous article sketched how the country of Jordan was created in 1921 by British imperialism, which installed King Hussein's grandfather, Abdullah, as its ruler.

From the outset, Abdullah sought an accommodation with the capitalist leaders of the Zionist settlers moving into neighboring Palestine, then still ruled by the British.

In 1947 the British colonialists, recognizing they could no longer hold onto Palestine, turned over responsibility for the country to the United Nations.

That body partitioned Palestine, granting some 55 percent of it to the Jewish minority for its "homeland."

On May 14, 1948, British troops withdrew, and that same day the Jewish National Council proclaimed the state of Israel. U.S. government recognition came within hours.

Zionist military forces, already in place, stepped up a bloody drive to conquer more land and clear it of Palestinians, driving 700,000 of them out.

On May 15 the neighboring Arab governments, including Jordan, went to war against Israel.

Grabbed 50 percent more

When a UN cease-fire was established on Jan. 7, 1949, Israel had increased its originally assigned territory by 50 percent.

Meanwhile, Jordan's Arab Legion had occupied the West Bank of Palestine and the Palestinian sector of Jerusalem. These areas then came under the rule of the Hashemite monarchy.

Prior to and during that war, Abdullah persisted in his efforts to get an accommodation with Israel.

A *Political Dictionary of the Middle East*, published by the New York Times Book Co., states:

"Prior to the Arab-Israeli war of 1948, Abdullah sought a peaceful solution with the Jewish leaders. . . . When he felt compelled to join the war, he avoided attacking the areas earmarked for the Jewish State, and the fighting centered on Jerusalem (designated as an international enclave.)"

The Jordanian annexation of the West Bank was roundly condemned by the Arab world as a blow to the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

More Palestinians arrive

Meanwhile, some 600,000 of those driven from Israeli-occupied Palestine made their way to the West Bank. Many continued across the Jordan River to the capital city of Amman.

This huge influx of Palestinians meant a profound social and political transformation for Jordan. Virtually overnight, the majority of those under Hashemite rule were Palestinian.

As they still do, large numbers of the arriving Palestinians lived in wretched refugee camps administered by the UN.

But the Palestinians, inside and outside the camps, quickly made their political presence felt in Jordan. They were soon granted Jordanian citizenship. Half the seats in the parliament were allotted to them.

The Palestinians began to press for greater democracy. They demanded that the king's power be curbed, including that the cabinet be answerable to parliament.

Rumors of Abdullah's secret negotiations with the Israelis fueled Palestinian opposition to his rule. This continued to build until his assassination in Jerusalem in 1951.

His son Talal succeeded him.

Deferring to Palestinian pressure, Talal approved a constitutional change making the cabinet responsible to parliament. And he modified Jordan's foreign policy, seeking to mend fences with the other Arab regimes.

Within a year, Talal was declared mentally ill and removed from the throne. His

son Hussein succeeded him and remains king today.

Hussein ascended the throne in 1953, at a time of resurgence of nationalism throughout the Arab world.

Adapting to this, he moved toward ending his dependence on Britain and improving relations with Egypt and Syria.

Baghdad Pact

At the same time, Hussein attempted to join the Baghdad Pact with Iraq and Turkey. The reactionary pact was initiated in Washington.

This touched off a storm in Jordan. Massive demonstrations forced the ouster of Hussein's cabinet, and a new one quickly decided that Jordan would not join the imperialist-sponsored alliance.

In 1956, Hussein finally removed the British commander of the Arab Legion. Later in the year, the opposition National Socialist Party won the Jordanian elections, and Hussein had to appoint its leader prime minister.

In early 1957, he followed up by abrogating the British-Jordanian treaty of 1948. Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia agreed to make up for the lost British subsidies.

Hussein also decided at that point to establish diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union and to accept Soviet aid, including military aid.

Then he launched a harsh internal crackdown. He claimed he had bared a plot against him sponsored by Syria and Egypt. He booted out the cabinet.

Protest demonstrations broke out, and in response, all political parties were outlawed and remain so to this day.

At this critical point, Washington moved to prop up his regime. In April 1957, President Dwight Eisenhower dispatched units of the Sixth Fleet to the area in a show-the-flag demonstration of support for Hussein. The following year, after a Hashemite monarchy was toppled in neighboring Iraq, 2,000 British troops arrived in Jordan to secure the monarchy.

U.S. military and economic aid began to flow into Jordan.

Hussein continued his precarious balancing act in the region, making and breaking alliances with the various Arab regimes.

Birth of PLO

In 1964 Hussein faced what was for him a new crisis of historical dimension — the birth of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Hussein had always regarded the Palestinian people as a threat to his rule. He realized that the emergence of a movement capable of leading a massive struggle for Palestinian liberation from the Israeli rulers will galvanize the nearly 2 million Palestinians in Jordan. Hussein's rule would be doomed.

His treacherous record in relation to the PLO confirms that he sees the Palestinian people as a greater threat than the Israeli regime or its mentors in Washington.

When the PLO was established, Hussein recognized it only reluctantly, and permitted it to open an office in Jerusalem. Two years later he shut the office down, charging it was engaged in "procommunist propaganda."

In June 1967 came Israel's six-day war against its Arab neighbors.

About to launch the attack, the Israeli government sent word that if Hussein stayed out of it, Jordan would not be hit. But the king joined the other regimes in responding to the aggression.

Israeli planes struck at the Egyptian air force, wiping it out.

Hussein's army was shattered, and his air force, too, was destroyed.

Hussein was later able to rebuild his forces with aid from Washington.

Meanwhile, the victorious Israelis grabbed the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Egypt's Sinai Peninsula (later returned in the wake of a 1979 treaty with Egypt), and the Gaza



Arab Information Center
Palestinian refugees crossing Jordan River into Jordan after June 1967 war in which Israel seized West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Strip, which had been administered by Egypt. The Golan Heights area of Syria was occupied and later annexed to Israel.

The impotence of the Arab regimes in the face of the Israeli assault gave a big impetus to the PLO, particularly in Jordan where a major new immigration of Palestinian refugees took place after the defeat.

When Fatah guerrillas fought off an Israeli attack on Karameh, Jordan, in 1968, there was a massive surge of support for the Palestinian fighters. The PLO was able to set up its headquarters in Amman and soon asserted its leadership in the swollen refugee camps.

Entire areas of the long Jordanian border with Israel were controlled by the PLO, which launched commando attacks into Israel and shelled various areas.

Hussein was compelled to deal with the PLO on a power-to-power basis.

The PLO agreed not to recruit deserters from Hussein's Arab Legion or youth eligible for the draft. In return, the Hashemite monarch agreed the PLO could issue its own ID cards and that he would not interfere with the passage of weapons to the guerrilla forces.

Almost symbolically, across from Hussein's palace stood a sprawling camp with 70,000 refugees. Dubbed "The Republic of Palestine," it was outside Jordanian control. The camp was governed by the PLO.

Inevitably, conflicts developed between Hussein's forces and the PLO. Agreements to moderate the tensions were made, broken, and renewed.

Hussein attacks

In June 1970 a battle erupted. Hussein's forces bombarded refugee camps outside Amman and attacked PLO centers in the capital. The guerrillas seized control of several districts of the capital.

The Palestinian fighters won a truce and by agreement between Hussein and the PLO, the various Arab governments established a committee to mediate between the two forces. The agreement, in effect, gave the PLO equal status with the Jordanian monarch.

In September Hussein moved to crush the Palestinian forces. On September 16 he declared martial law and dismissed his government, replacing it with military commanders.

A murderous assault was launched on the Palestinian camps. Resistance was fierce, but the Jordanian forces, heavily armed by Washington, prevailed. Casualties were estimated as high as 20,000.

A cease-fire was declared after 10 bloody days in what became known as "Black September." Throughout the Middle East, Hussein was condemned as a butcher.

It was later confirmed that Richard Nixon's administration had a contingency plan in place to dispatch U.S. troops to Jor-

dan if it appeared that Hussein might be toppled.

PLO forces, driven from Amman, established themselves for a time in hills and wooded areas in northern Jordan. But by the following summer, Hussein's forces had driven them from these positions too. The PLO was compelled to withdraw its forces from Jordan, regrouping in Lebanon.

In recent years, the Jordanian economy and infrastructure have become more developed. There have been some road building and electrification projects. Universities have been established and some schools and hospitals opened.

Apart from outside aid, Jordanian capitalism is largely dependent on its principal export — Palestinian labor.

In 1980, 52.9 percent of the work force — mainly Palestinians — was employed outside of Jordan, mostly in the oil fields of the region.

The world glut in oil production has cut into that export. In 1984 Jordanian citizens working abroad sent home \$1 billion dollars. In 1985, it dropped to \$898 million.

The Middle East, a book edited by Michael Adams, assesses the Jordanian situation this way:

"As oil prices tumbled in 1985-86, the return of several thousand Jordanian citizens from the Gulf countries, where they were no longer needed, presented a serious social problem with political as well as economic overtones . . . concurrently, economic prosperity widened the gap between rich and poor, which had been hardly noticeable 30 years earlier. The refugee camps too still stood as witness to a tragic and as yet unresolved problem."

Meanwhile, Hussein has continued on his reactionary course. When Iraqi forces invaded Iran in 1980, he threw his support to the Iraqi regime as a means of containing and weakening the Iranian revolution. Jordan's principal port played a key role in the shipment of supplies to Iraq.

In 1985, in a renewal of relations, Hussein and the PLO agreed to a joint approach to negotiations with the Israeli regime, including a proposal for a future confederation of Jordan and Palestine. When the PLO refused to accede to Hussein's demand that the struggle against Israeli rule end, however, the agreement broke down the next year.

The basic record of the Jordanian regime was summed up in an article in the October issue of *Commentary* magazine. The writers, Daniel Pipes and Adam Garfinkle, are associated with the Foreign Policy Research Institute and are supporters of the Israeli government.

They describe Hussein's regime as "the Arab government that for three generations has done the most to accommodate its [Is-

Continued on Page 12

Bush presses for further lifting of homework ban

BY FRED FELDMAN

President-elect George Bush has urged the Department of Labor to prepare a measure lifting the ban on work at home in the women's apparel industry. Reagan administration Secretary of Labor Ann McLaughlin said December 22 that the Department of Labor plans to issue an official notice of the change and hold hearings on it in February.

Bush acted after the Reagan administration lifted a 46-year ban November 10 on work at home in the production of gloves and mittens, buttons and buckles, embroidery, handkerchiefs, and jewelry. In 1984, the government ended the prohibition on homework in making knitted outerwear.

The January 6 *Wall Street Journal* hailed the measure, portraying homework as enabling people to work "at their own pace in their own homes."

In spite of the ban, hundreds of thousands of workers have been engaged in homework. They are paid well below the legal minimum wage and are denied medical and other benefits. The work assigned and rates paid often aim at imposing working hours well beyond legal maximums. As hired workers tire, their children are expected to pick up the slack.

"They keep children up until all hours in the night," wrote a report on homework in the August 21 *Providence Journal*, a Rhode Island daily. "In one home, we found a child in a high chair putting backs on earrings."

Several women homeworkers described the conditions they faced at September

hearings held by the House Subcommittee on Labor Standards.

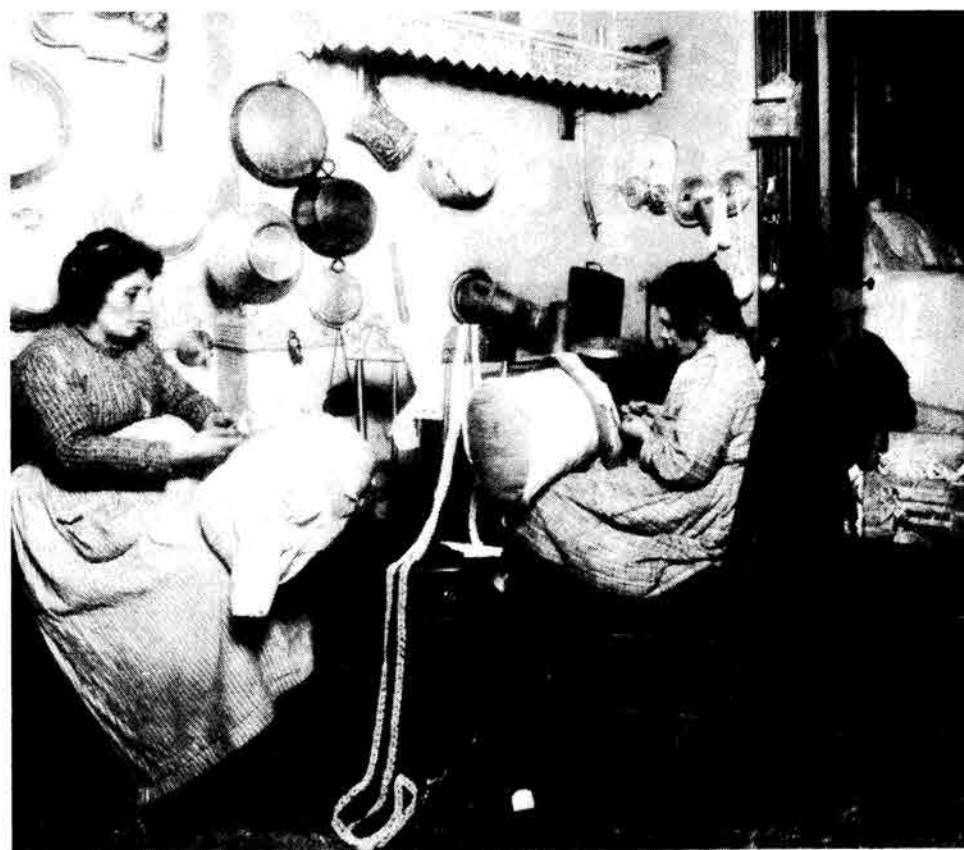
Juana Pérez, a worker who came from El Salvador in 1983, described earning an average of \$1.60 an hour. To meet production quotas, she regularly relied upon her 12- and 16-year-old daughters.

Another described earning less than \$1 an hour. Connie Jorgensen, a farmer forced to hire out to make ends meet, had to draw on her husband and eight-year-old daughter to meet production requirements and earn between \$1.50 and \$2.25 per hour.

The company required her to produce when she was ill. "Several times the owners brought me new pieces at 11:00 PM or midnight to be finished by 6:00 AM. But I received no overtime or extra benefits."

Government officials claim there will be strict enforcement of wage and hour laws as homework expands under the new rules. An internal investigation by the Labor Department concluded, however, that the department had been unable to enforce wage and hour laws among homeworkers in the knitted outerwear industry since the 1984 rule change.

On January 7, a suit was filed to block the most recent moves to legalize homework. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union filed the legal action, joined by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, Service Employees International Union, three apparel industry employer associations, and the state governments of New York and Pennsylvania, where homework is still officially banned.



New York, 1910. Bush wants to bring back the days when women garment workers and their children worked long hours doing piecework at home. Lewis Hine

Union protests dragnet staged by steel bosses

BY CAROLYN ALLEN
AND MIKE CHAMBERLAIN

PITTSBURG, Calif. — "Hey, hey, ho, ho, POSCO's spies have got to go," steelworkers chanted outside the gate of the USS POSCO steel mill here December 1. About 100 people, including representatives of the Contra Costa County Central Labor Council and Building Trades Council, were protesting the company dragnet

being carried out in the mill against members of United Steelworkers of America Local 1440 and other workers.

USS POSCO President A.E. Roskovensky announced the dragnet at a November 21 meeting of employees. The operation had included electronic surveillance and private detectives posing as steelworkers. The purpose, Roskovensky claimed, was to root out drugs, theft, vandalism, and other "misconduct."

Beginning the week before Roskovensky spoke, dozens of workers had been brought in for questioning. At least 26 workers are expected to be fired.

"The union believes that more than 70 workers were interrogated," declared a statement by Local 1440 President Joe Stanton that was distributed at the protest. They were "not told their rights: the right to union representation, the right to know what you are being accused of and what evidence is being used against you, the right to remain silent," he wrote.

"The company attempted to blackmail these workers into informing on their co-workers," the local president continued.

"They were led to believe that it would 'go easier' on them if they gave names of other employees who they thought were guilty of some wrongdoing."

"The reason for this raid is not 'safety' or company concern over substance abuse," Stanton declared.

He concluded: "The company is trying to intimidate all workers at the mill. The company is trying to divide us — to pit union member against union member. A scared and divided work force is easy to manage. A scared and divided union is easy to bust."

In 1987 Local 1440 accepted a concession contract, under threat that the plant would be shut down. The new contract divided the work force into "modernization trainees," other "permanent" workers, and temporary workers.

The modernization trainees, chosen without regard to seniority, spend their work hours in company classes.

"Temporary" workers are new hires who have had to sign an understanding that they are being hired for 36 months, at the end of which time the company has the option of rehiring them.

The mill is now being rebuilt. When this is completed, the new facility is slated to operate with less than half of the current work force of 1,100.

Unionized production workers are currently outnumbered 2 to 1 by 2,000 non-union construction workers who are rebuilding the mill. These are employed by BE&K, which provided replacement workers for the company in the Jay, Maine, strike against International Paper.

Officials demand socialist candidates turn over names of their contributors

BY MARK WEDDLETON

SAN FRANCISCO — Two local socialist candidates in the recent elections face a January 30 deadline for turning over the names of their campaign contributors or risk possible criminal charges.

Joseph Ryan and Sylvia Weinstein were the Socialist Action candidates for San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Board of Education respectively in the November 1988 elections. The local district attorney's office is demanding they turn over records of all those who contributed to their election campaign. January 30 is the deadline for filing the final campaign financial reports.

Ryan and Weinstein have vowed to protect the right to privacy of their supporters.

Socialist Action has fielded local candidates for public office since 1984. Until now the local authorities have left unchallenged their right to keep the names of their contributors confidential. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled, most notably in the case of *Brown v. Socialist Workers Party*, that political parties with dissident viewpoints like Socialist Action have the right to be exempted from this aspect of campaign disclosure laws to protect their members and supporters from harassment and political victimization.

Last October Assistant District Attorney George Beckwith sent the two candidates a letter demanding they provide the government with a list of the names. In a phone conversation with Socialist Action representatives, Beckwith declared that there is no political victimization of those holding dissident viewpoints in San Francisco so the socialist candidates do not qualify for the exemption.

Ryan and Weinstein have responded by pointing to evidence of such victimization on a national level. They have also provided the District Attorney's office with a documented list of examples of city, federal, and private harassment of political activists in the San Francisco Bay Area, including the 1985 bombing of the headquarters of the Humanist Party.

In fact, a few days after the November elections a grand jury investigating the beating of United Farm Workers Vice-president Dolores Huerta by San Francisco police not only whitewashed the police brutality, but called on the cops to step up spying on local protest groups. Huerta was attacked by the cops at an anti-George Bush demonstration in September while she was passing out leaflets promoting the farm workers' grape boycott.

Also in November a memo by Morgan Lynn, the author of a study of the San Francisco Police Department commissioned by a federal court, declared "I cannot emphasize enough how deeply ingrained racism and sexism are in this department." The memo was intended to be kept secret but was accidentally released to the public.

Customs raids Vietnam-tour agency

BY FRED FELDMAN

Armed with a court order authorizing them to seize correspondence, contracts, and other information, U.S. Customs Service agents staged a search October 6 at the offices of Lindblad Travel Inc. in Westport, Connecticut.

The raid came after Lars-Eric Lindblad appealed to the Tourism Policy Council, part of the federal U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration, for help in rescinding a prohibition on his sale of tours to Vietnam.

The agents also took passport information and names and addresses of persons booking tours to Vietnam and Kampuchea, and a folder titled, "Cambodia — requests for information."

The firm is accused of violating provisions of the Trading with the Enemy Act by organizing tours to Vietnam and Kampuchea in violation of regulations set by the Federal Office of Foreign Assets Control. This agency is designated under the act to regulate travel to countries that the U.S. government has officially designated as "enemies" — Vietnam and North Korea.

Assistant District Attorney Beckwith has said he is studying the evidence provided by the Socialist Action candidates before deciding on whether to proceed with the case.

The American Civil Liberties Union has agreed to represent Ryan and Weinstein in their fight to get the government to withdraw its demand for disclosure of their campaign contributors and not file any criminal charges they might face for refusing to disclose the names.

Ryan and Weinstein are asking that messages of protest be sent to George Beckwith, District Attorney's Office, 732 Brannan St., San Francisco, Calif. 94103. Copies should be sent to Socialist Action, 3435 Army St., Suite 308, San Francisco, Calif. 94110.

Kampuchea is included on the grounds that Vietnamese troops are stationed there.

Violations are punishable by up to 10 years in prison and \$50,000 in fines.

The court order, coming after a five-month undercover investigation of the travel agency, was based on testimony provided by a customs service agent. Impersonating a would-be traveler and using the name Maryann Ambrose, the agent claims to have been signed up for an October 16 trip by an employee of the agency.

The government says that Lindblad's license to organize travel to the two countries expired in October 1987.

The moves against Lindblad for fostering travel to Vietnam and Kampuchea are part of a pattern of restrictions on travel to various countries. Last summer, actor Robert Redford received a letter from the Treasury Department demanding that he explain a trip to Cuba that he had recently made. The letter asked whether he paid his own expenses or whether they were paid by Cuba or a third country, and how and where he entered the country.

Beauty contests return to Nicaragua

BY THERESA DELGADILLO

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The year 1988 saw a revival here of beauty contests, which had virtually disappeared since the triumph of the revolution in 1979.

For some Nicaraguans, the development was a welcome one, representing a victory over "dogmatic" thinking. But for others it was a step backward in the fight for women's rights.

Of last year's two well-publicized beauty contests, the first, Miss Maja (Miss Elegance), was part of an international contest sponsored by the tourist industry. It was held here on August 28 under the auspices of hotels, restaurants, airlines, and the Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism.

Then, in October and November, a Miss Juventud (Miss Youth) contest was sponsored by the Sandinista Youth (JS-19), the Sandinista People's Army, and the Sandinista Television System. Candidates for the title of Miss Juventud were elected in schools and workplaces across the country leading up to the final event on November 26.

Miss Juventud was a major activity of the JS-19, which viewed the contest as an important recreational activity for the nation's youth, especially young men in military service. Organizers of the event considered it a break with the "elitism of Miss Nicaragua contests in the past, where only the daughters of the bourgeoisie participated and which were purely commercial."

In the Miss Juventud finals, 25 candidates from around the country briefly donned traditional Nicaraguan dress. The contestants then modeled swimsuits for most of the remainder of the evening, while the judges made their selection.

'Square schemas'

The reappearance of beauty contests was accompanied by a lively discussion, some of it in the press, that touched on questions ranging from *perestroika* to the place of women in Nicaragua.

The discussion had been touched off in July by a columnist for the progovernment newspaper *El Nuevo Diario*, who described the first Miss Moscow contest in the Soviet Union, and encouraged Nicaragua to do the same. The columnist, Adolfo Miranda, wrote, "Steps taken by the Soviets to break from the prejudices they harbored for years against everything from the 'West' or 'capitalist' is a stimulus to those in the rest of the world to break with 'square' schemas."

There are people in Nicaragua, he added, whose "political education was very dogmatic, from the manuals. A product of that education is that it created prejudices against many things, including religion, the market economy, and beauty contests."

"Unfortunately, Cuba, which has not been as much of a *perestroika* enthusiast as other socialist countries, is lagging behind the times and its influence is felt among some Sandinistas."

Another column in the paper, signed by W.V.G., also supported the idea of a Miss Nicaragua contest. This writer said that "a beauty contest in a capitalist country is one thing, but a contest of this type in a socialist country or revolution where the aim is not one of profit, commercialization, or accumulation of capital is different."

These positions, however, weren't shared by everyone. Ligia Álvarez wrote in *El Nuevo Diario* that the Miss Maja contest wasn't "much different than those that were common in the Somocista past." Álvarez said that despite efforts to try to give the event a new look, "it continues to be degrading for us as women."

Some young people at the Central American University here shared this view in relation to the Miss Juventud competition. "Given the new ideology that the Nicaraguan people are developing, it should have been a contest to choose a cultural representative for our country, rather than focusing on beauty," Alicia Molina, a student of social work at the university, told the *Militant*.

Raquel Salcón, also a student, said, "Considering that one of the principles of the revolution was to eliminate that type of contest here, it seems highly contradictory that this is happening now. I don't agree with it."

Image of women

Barricada, which is published by the Sandinista National Liberation Front,

sought to balance its enthusiastic coverage of the bathing beauty contests with articles featuring women participating in tasks of the revolution.

One, subtitled "The Everyday Miss Maja," described Ligia García Vanegas, 22, who answered a call for teachers in the countryside. Over family objections, and in spite of the war dangers, she spent two years teaching in a rural area and was determined to stay on.

A second article discussed the challenges faced by Lt. Mirna Fabri, director of the Advisory Section of the Department of Criminal Investigations of the Ministry of the Interior.

Both articles centered on the dedication of these women to their tasks in the revolution, and the self-confidence, independence, and fulfillment they have gained in return. They reflected some of the gains won by women since the triumph of the revolution.

The public criticism voiced during the Miss Maja contest, sponsored by the tourist businesses, was largely absent at the time of the second contest, held under the banner of the Sandinista Youth. Nonetheless, the discussion is continuing.

On January 5 *El Nuevo Diario* published yet another column by Miranda answering some unidentified critics. He said, "Of course, the winner in these events is not meant to be the 'model woman,' just the prettiest. If women are awarded for heroism and intelligence, why not for beauty?"

And after the Miss Juventud contest, *Ventana*, the cultural supplement to *Barricada*, applauded the pageant's success as a blow against "prejudice."

Ventana said that the Miss Juventud '88 contest surpassed all other events in popularity, "bringing frowns to the faces of the dogmatic and orthodox individuals who refused to support this festive and youthful activity."

It looks like the debate will continue in 1989.



Youth mobilize to combat illiteracy

BY THERESA DELGADILLO

JALAPA, Nicaragua — It seems as if the whole town is contributing to the battle against illiteracy here.

On Monday mornings, young people hitching rides dot the roads out of Jalapa as they head back to the farm settlements where they work and teach. Pickup trucks already packed with passengers stop to make room for these literacy volunteers.

The youth are participants in the first phase of the "Manuel Ruiz Sánchez Literacy Operation." They teach reading and writing on seven settlements in the area.

These settlements are communities of people who either fled or were evacuated from remote areas during the war. They are organized into cooperatives and collective farms.

The current phase of the Jalapa literacy campaign involves 234 *brigadistas*, most of whom are between the ages of 13 and 20. They have put aside their own studies to live, work, and teach in the communities for five months.

The brigadistas have volunteered their efforts, and they don't get paid. They work in the fields three days a week in addition to teaching five evenings a week.

Illiteracy on the rise

With the National Literacy Crusade in 1980, illiteracy in Nicaragua was reduced to 13 percent. However, it has been on the rise again. Ministry of Education officials in Jalapa estimate that it is up to 25 percent on the settlements.

Ramón Peralta, who is assistant director for the campaign, explained that the literacy drive in Jalapa goes hand in hand with an effort by the Ministry of Health to reduce infant mortality.

"The more secure military situation that exists now in this area and the existence of the cooperative movement serve as the foundation for these campaigns," he said.

"First we did a census to find out how many people were illiterate. Then we did surveys to find out what people were interested in learning about," said Peralta.

"Based on that, we wrote up a textbook that includes information on agriculture and health problems. It is different from the text used in the national campaign in 1980. We mimeographed the whole thing here."

In an interview here, three young brigadistas on the Tauquil settlement described the campaign. Carla Ruiz is 13, while Indira Ruiz and Santiago Alberto Díaz are 14.

'Objective, to eliminate illiteracy'

"The Ministry of Education came to our school to recruit volunteers and we signed up," said Carla Ruiz. "Our objective is to eliminate illiteracy, share the life of the farmers, and learn from them."

"Already I've learned about medicinal plants — because I got sick. At first, we felt really strange and we wanted to go home. But after a little while we got used to it, and now I think it's great."

"We've been out to pick coffee — something none of us ever did before," said Santiago.

These three brigadistas are teaching basic literacy skills and first grade. Most of their students are between 14 and 25 years old. "They are eager to learn. They don't care that we're younger than they are," said Carla.

Carla, Indira, and Santiago are confident that their students will be able to read and write at the end of the five-month campaign.

One thing they have had to get used to is the periodic shelling from Honduran troops on the other side of the border. "It hasn't come this close, but when the alarm sounds we all run to the command post to take up our positions," said Santiago.

"The first time it was really scary, but we're ready to defend ourselves."

Melania del Rosario, 18, and Sonia Elizabeth Matute Arce, 21, are teaching at the Santa Cruz settlement. Although the work in the fields isn't something new for them — their high school works a bean

field — it is more difficult than they are used to. Nonetheless, both are enjoying the experience.

There are a total of 1,337 people receiving instruction as part of this campaign. The literacy workers have an average of five students each.

No material resources

The brigadistas have virtually no material resources to count on. Peralta explained, "In the 1980 campaign, we were able to provide some basic supplies and clothing to the brigadistas, such as lanterns, boots, and rain gear. But this time we have no budget."

Makeshift chalkboards were put together using cardboard treated with battery fluid, cement, and plaster. The John XXIII Foundation in Managua donated 7,000 pencils, and the education ministry sent 10,000 notebooks.

But items such as kerosene, gasoline, chalk, clothing, soap, and toothpaste are still lacking.

"Some assistance we were expecting is now being sent to the Atlantic Coast, where the need is greater because of the hurricane," said Peralta.

The brigadistas have helped to organize collections and fund-raising parties on the settlements for the victims of Hurricane Joan, which hit Nicaragua last October, causing widespread destruction.

Peralta hopes that improving the level of organization on the settlements will contribute to plans already under way to follow up this campaign with further adult education and primary school classes so that illiteracy doesn't increase again.

The brigadistas will return home in late February, when this stage of the campaign ends. But the effort will continue into 1990 throughout the area.

"Nicaragua is going to free itself of illiteracy region by region, town by town," said Peralta. "This is part of the Sandinista National Liberation Front's historic program, and we must carry it out."

'Help us break the silence on the Cuban revolution'

An interview with 'Areíto' editor Andrés Gómez

BY CINDY JAQUITH

In the spring of 1987 a magazine began appearing in community centers, at shopping malls, and on doorsteps in Miami's Cuban community.

A bright yellow flag on the magazine's cover declared: "Good morning, Miami! We're back again."

The magazine was *Areíto*, published in Spanish four times a year by Cubans living in the United States.

Supporters of the Cuban revolution, *Areíto's* staff members seek to educate about what is happening in Cuba today and to promote a free and open discussion in the U.S. Cuban community. They favor a dialogue between Cuban-Americans and the people and government of Cuba and normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuban governments.

Areíto first began publishing in 1974 in New York. It was suspended in 1985 and

April to September 1980. They are quite different from the earlier post-revolution immigrants politically and in their class composition, Gómez stressed, a point he would come back to later.

There are also Cubans in their twenties, thirties, or early forties who came to the United States as very young children after the revolution, and youth born here after their parents left Cuba.

"And we musn't forget that in 1959 there were already about 80,000 Cubans living in the United States who had come here before the revolution," Gómez added. "They were mainly people who had never had any economic opportunity in Cuba, working-class or middle-class people, who came here in search of work."

The wealthy Cuban counterrevolutionaries who came to Miami in the early 1960s established political control of the Miami Cuban community. They collaborated with

formed. Gómez became one of its leaders.

The brigade, made up of young Cubans in the United States and Puerto Rico, continues to bring groups of Cuban youth living outside Cuba to visit the island. It also carries out educational work in support of the Cuban revolution and for normalization of relations with the U.S. government, as well as participating in political discussion and activities in the U.S. Cuban community.

The December 1977 visit to Cuba that led to the brigade's formation was quite important, Gómez explained. "The revolution for the first time had extended the bridge of reconciliation to the exiles. You have to understand that over the previous 17 years the Cuban people had suffered terribly from the consequences of U.S. policy. So it was very difficult for the majority of the Cuban people to accept the return of those they considered traitors."

Dialogue opens up

The dialogue between Cubans in the United States and in Cuba began to broaden, to include U.S. Cubans who did not support the revolution.

Two conferences took place in Havana in 1978, attended by prominent Cubans living in the United States who wanted to establish a dialogue with the Cuban government on such questions as reuniting families.

The result of the meetings was a decision by the Cuban government to release, between 1978 and 1980, 10,000 prisoners who wanted to be reunited with their families in the United States. The arrangements were made through the U.S. Cuban forces who had gone to Havana. This group became known as the Committee of 75.

"It was not the counterrevolutionary leadership that did this," Gómez stressed, "but the Committee of 75, even though within the committee there were some who had once been members of the paramilitary groups."

The Cuban government also took the initiative to relax immigration restrictions so more Cubans from the United States could visit the island. Gómez estimated that 100,000 Cubans visited Cuba between 1978 and 1980. "One hundred thousand!" he emphasized. "The counterrevolution has never been able to mobilize that many people in the 30 years of the Cuban revolution!"

New wave of terror

The counterrevolutionary Cuban forces in the United States reacted sharply against the growth of reconciliation sentiment in the Cuban community here. A wave of terrorist attacks — including bombings and assassinations — was carried out. In April 1979, Carlos Muñoz, a member of the national committee of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, was gunned down in Puerto Rico, where he lived. In November 1979, Eulalio Negrín, who belonged to the Committee of 75, was murdered in Union City, New Jersey. In September 1980, Félix García, an attaché at the Cuban Mission to the United Nations, was shot dead in New York.

This was coupled with the February 1980 resignation of one of the members of the Committee of 75, Manuel Espinosa, who suddenly claimed that the reconciliation effort was in reality a Cuban government plot to infiltrate the Cuban-American community.

These developments within the U.S. Cuban community were part of broader world events taking place. In 1979, workers and farmers in both Nicaragua and the Caribbean island of Grenada overturned hated dictatorships and established popular revolutionary governments. The U.S. government responded by greatly stepping up its militarization of Central America and



the Caribbean, including its military threats against Cuba, and intensifying its propaganda aimed at isolating the Cuban revolution.

Many Cuban-American figures who had favored the dialogue with the Cuban government began to retreat out of fear or demoralization, said Gómez.

Over the next five years, he said, "the sectors of the Cuban community in the United States who had favored this opening pulled back and so did Cuba. Cuba also reduced the number of individuals who had left Cuba after 1959 who could return for a visit."

Shifts in situation

But the breakdown of the dialogue and atmosphere of discussion proved short-lived. In 1985, Felipe Riguerro, a leader of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, agreed to debate Gómez on a Miami radio station. The Cuban Nationalist Movement has been directly linked to terrorist attacks on supporters of the Cuban revolution around the world.

"What was important about the debate," Gómez explained, "was two things. First, that a debate would take place between me, representing a position completely in favor of the Cuban revolution, and Riguerro, a principal representative of the straight-up anticommunist position. And second, that it would be the most-listened-to radio program of the year."

Then in 1986, a group of 1,500 counter-revolutionaries physically assaulted 2,000 people peacefully protesting the U.S. war in Central America on a downtown Miami street.

A big outcry protested the thugs' action.



Militant/Nancy Cole

Antonio Maceo Brigade, made up of young Cubans in United States, is organizing special trip to Cuba in summer of 1989.

resumed publication in the spring of 1987 in Miami.

As the editorial in the spring 1987 issue explained, *Areíto* "will serve as a forum where the matters that concern and affect our community can be analyzed and discussed — from the different political positions that exist, right to left — in an atmosphere of respect."

Noting that there are forces in the Cuban-American community who oppose open discussion on Cuba and politics in general, the editorial stated that "the majority in our community is in favor of a real discussion in which we all have an equal right to participate."

"The need to know about Cuba and what is happening on the island is basic for all of us living abroad. *Areíto* will continue analyzing the revolutionary process of the Cuban people," the editorial pledged. "Help us break the silence."

Areíto editor Andrés Gómez spoke with the *Militant* last fall in Miami about the results of *Areíto's* reappearance on the political scene in that city and the changes in the Cuban community in Miami over the last three decades.

Post-1959 immigration

He began by describing the contradictory political and class character of the Cuban community, and how successive waves of immigration to the United States since the 1959 victory of the Cuban revolution have affected this.

"The first immigration after 1959 was mainly composed of the Cuban bourgeoisie, professional sectors, businessmen — those who in reality were running the country before 1959," he said.

"What we could consider a second immigration was made up of middle-class elements, including professionals, and some remaining bourgeois elements, who came from 1965 to 1972."

The third big immigration, often called the Mariel immigrants, arrived here from

the CIA to set up paramilitary organizations with the goal of overthrowing the Cuban government.

These terrorist outfits were quite influential in the community until the mid-1970s, when, says Gómez, Cubans in the United States realized "that the Cuban revolution wasn't going to be overthrown, that it was going to be permanent, that it enjoyed majority support in Cuba."

At about the same time, he continued, "a group of us living here began rethinking our role, as Cubans, in the Cuban revolutionary process. We were young. Most of us hadn't belonged to any of the counter-revolutionary political organizations, although we had all been surrounded by the counterrevolution's politics through our families, social life, and because we were part of the immigration."

"For the first time since the 1959 immigration, groups arose that took a public position of support to the Cuban revolution."

All along there had been older Cuban supporters of the revolution in the United States, Gómez noted, people who aided the July 26 Movement, led by Fidel Castro, in its struggle to overthrow the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship. These veterans never retreated from publicly supporting the revolution. "They kept this position alive" in cities such as New York and other places, he said, singling out Casa de las Américas, a Cuban-American political center in New York that sponsors activities in defense of Cuba and in support of anti-imperialist struggles around the world.

Areíto was founded in 1974, uniting those Cubans who wanted to support the Cuban revolution, and opening up a debate within the Cuban community.

Antonio Maceo Brigade

The widening discussion led to the organization of a trip to Cuba by Cuban youth living in the United States. The tour took place in December 1977. After that trip the Antonio Maceo Brigade was

In December '88 issue of

areíto

- Come With Us on a Contingent to Cuba
- The True Story of AIDS in Cuba
- The Visit to Cuba by the Special Delegation of the Commission on Human Rights
- Interview With Sergio Ramírez
- An Analysis of Unemployment Among Puerto Ricans in New York
- The Dominican Community in Manhattan

Subscriptions: \$12 a year, United States and Puerto Rico; \$18 other countries. Write to *Areíto*, P.O. Box 44-1403, Miami, Fla. 33144.



Militant/Lou Howort



Militant

Left: 1980 protest in New York against U.S. attacks on Cuba. Above: 1987 demonstration by Miami Cubans against Washington's Radio Martí.

"They lost politically," said Gómez. "This was the culmination of a whole period in which they had dictated who could meet, and who couldn't, who could speak out and who couldn't. And they didn't just dictate to the Cuban community, but to everyone: North Americans, whites, Blacks.

"You weren't allowed to speak about certain topics, not just Cuba, but also Nicaragua, the Ku Klux Klan, and other social questions. Up to the point of this demonstration, no one had confronted them on this. And we did. Ever since, they've been ceding more ground."

He gave as an example a struggle that took place in the spring of 1988 over whether the Cuban Museum of Art and Culture in Miami should display works by Cuban painters who support the revolution. The majority of the museum's board, made up of wealthy Cubans in exile, decided to spurn the demands of the board's minority that the works of Amelia Pelaez not be shown. Pelaez was a prominent painter who died in the 1960s. She never left Cuba after the revolution's triumph.

The Pelaez exhibition came off, and the opponents attempted to picket the museum. But only 15 protesters turned up. "They had to call off their demonstrations so people wouldn't see how little support they had," commented Gómez.

In October 1988, just a week before the *Militant* interview with Gómez, 1,700 Cubans had met in Miami to demand that the U.S. government take steps to improve relations with Cuba, particularly around immigration policy. The desire for normal relations with Cuba has also been coupled with more Cubans in this country feeling they can express pro-Cuba views.

"There are more Cubans here who support the revolutionary process than we have seen so far," Gómez noted. "Interestingly enough, many are older people, people who lived in Cuba before the revolution, for a while after the revolution, and today, outside of Cuba.

"Many of them are women. They may have come here with their husbands; that is, their husbands wanted to leave Cuba even though the wives didn't.

"Many of these are women who have watched their children grow up in U.S. society," Gómez said. "The children have gained consciousness and have helped their mothers realize it was a mistake to leave Cuba. Some of them are today more conscious than their children.

"Then there are those — men and women — who have seen their children destroy themselves in this society, through drugs or by developing the kind of social attitudes this society promotes.

"We have others who left Cuba for political or economic reasons," he continued, "who were antigovernment, but in the course of entering the work force here, experiencing the class contradictions of this society, have regained their consciousness or gained it for the first time.

"This occurs for the same class reasons among young Cuban workers, those who feel themselves to be exploited, or who sense that others are exploited. There are

also students who begin to question the political nature of this society. And as part of this questioning process, they come to see the necessity of understanding what Cuba is."

'Areíto' distribution

This openness is reflected in distribution of *Areíto*, said Gómez. Since no distributor in the Cuban community is willing to take the magazine, its supporters pass it out for free. About 7,500 copies of each issue get out this way.

"We pass it out to people in the shopping malls on Saturdays and Sundays," he explained. "Or we leave it in restaurants, in coffee houses, funeral parlors, wherever. With our July 1988 issue, which dealt with the question of religion in Cuba, we left off copies in the stores that sell religious articles.

"In about 80 percent of the places where we ask to leave the magazine, they say yes.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Andrés Gómez: "We have to win over the majority of exiles for the good of Cuba, rather than leave them in the enemy's hands."

Only 20 percent say no. But even if it were the other way around — 20 percent saying yes, and 80 percent saying no — it would still be a victory."

The changing political climate has also benefited the Antonio Maceo Brigade in organizing trips of young people to Cuba. In addition to the brigade trips, they have organized special visits for young Cubans who are less politically committed so far, "who virtually know nothing about Cuba."

This kind of trip has been successful, Gómez said. "Not in the sense that they return and join a political organization, but that they return and talk about what they saw."

Mariel youth

Gómez took up specifically the situation of those Cubans who left in 1980 from the

port of Mariel. "Many of these were young people, and they didn't come from a bourgeois background. They were born into the revolution and grew up in the revolution. In their majority they are completely different politically from those Cubans who emigrated earlier. Now some of them want to go back."

The Mariel immigrants, he pointed out, have many of their close relatives still in Cuba, and they maintain strong ties. "For this reason they don't want to see anything happen to Cuba," Gómez explained. "They don't want it to undergo a war, or suffer any more from the consequences of the U.S. economic blockade.

"These people know quite well what the Cuban system is. And even if perhaps the majority don't want to live under that kind of system, they know the system is different than the Cuban counterrevolutionaries make it out to be."

Gómez said that some of those who left Cuba in 1980 are today members of the Antonio Maceo Brigade. "These are sisters and brothers who over the years have demonstrated their commitment to the revolution, despite their grave error in leaving. After leaving they realized that the reality here is not what they thought, and they have had the courage to correct their mistakes and support the revolution.

"So some of these have come around the Antonio Maceo Brigade and joined, and others have joined other organizations, not as political as the brigade necessarily, or they have joined North American political organizations. Immigrants from 1980 have done likewise in Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Spain."

'This is political work'

In light of these political opportunities, Gómez said, *Areíto* supporters have urged the Cuban government to remove what they consider unnecessary barriers to greater dialogue between Cubans inside Cuba and outside. In particular, they have suggested that immigration fees be lowered and the number of tourist visas be increased.

All along, Gómez said, the immigration question "has been a very delicate process, a very complex one. We knew there would be many contradictions.

"There would be people who aren't in favor of the revolution but who want to go back to visit their families. There would be people who really are part of the counter-revolution, but who are ready to go to Cuba to see their family and will take advantage of the circumstances to provoke tensions in Cuba. Just as there are individuals who are neutral in terms of politics, whose sole interest is in their family. Such people want to see normalization of relations because it means they can visit Cuba and stay there a little longer."

The idea of increasing Cuban visits to the island has not gotten a favorable reception from everyone in the Cuban government, Gómez continued. Some think those who left Cuba "behave like the enemy, so

let's treat them like the enemy. But this is political work, political work over an extended time period. What we have to do is try to win over the majority of the exiles for the good of Cuba, rather than leave them in the hands of the enemy.

"Fortunately, we've won the support of influential sectors of the Cuban government at the highest levels who understand what we're trying to do, who agree with us."

Since the *Militant* interview with Gómez, the December 1988 issue of *Areíto* has appeared. Featured in its editorial is the November 1988 decision of the Cuban government to modify immigration policy to permit more Cubans residing in the United States to return for visits.

The change includes granting visas, for the first time, to those who left Cuba after Dec. 31, 1978. The government will issue visas to 260 of these persons a year, or five a week. In addition, Cubans aged 30 or less who left Cuba after 1978 may now visit the country with the Antonio Maceo Brigade.

Areíto's editorial called the new policy "a historic step." It urged young Cuban readers to sign up for the Antonio Maceo Brigade's trip next summer to Cuba, which was announced shortly after the new immigration policy was adopted. The three-week trip will be the first to include youth who left Cuba after 1978.

Areíto called the contingent "perhaps as important as the first contingent [in 1977] in terms of showing the Cuban people that here those of us defending their rights and

For more information on the Antonio Maceo Brigade and its summer 1989 contingent to Cuba, contact the brigade at P.O. Box 248829, Miami, Fla. 33124; or P.O. Box 20219, Greely Square Station, New York, N.Y. 10001.

interests grows larger every day." And it predicted that the brigade "will be received with affection and joy" in Cuba.

The editorial placed the new opportunities for visits to Cuba in the context of the changes in the Miami Cuban community Gómez described above. "The people have lost the fear of speaking out, of expressing their opinions, of discussing — especially those who came from Mariel, who up to now have been treated as second-class citizens by those who dominate politics and the media in our community," the editorial said.

"Now, those of us who want to reunite with our families on the island, who favor normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba, who are fed up with such inhumanity against our people, who want them to be allowed to develop their country in peace — we need to organize ourselves better to make our voices heard and our efforts felt.

"We are the majority, we know it."

Dozens arrested as Mexico gov't attacks oil workers' union

Continued from front page

army troops to guard refineries and trucks delivering fuel, and the navy was reported guarding Pemex installations on the Gulf of Mexico.

As news of the arrests spread, thousands of oil workers walked off the job. Some 6,000 striking oil workers and supporters demonstrated at the National Palace in Mexico City January 10, and wildcat strikes spread to seven of Mexico's nine oil refineries. On January 12 a demonstration of 20,000 oil workers and supporters again took place at the National Palace.

The oil workers' union took out a full-page ad in several Mexico City dailies to build the demonstration and demand release of the union's leaders. The arrests, the ad said, are part of "the agreements the government has established with the international banks to guarantee payment of interest on loans and, at the same time, hand over the nationalized oil industry to foreign capital." The loans referred to by the union are the \$104 billion debt owed by Mexico to banks in the United States, Britain, Japan, and other imperialist countries.

Mexico's main union federation, the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM), also condemned the government's actions and demanded the release of those arrested. The oil workers are part of the 5-million-member CTM.

While the strikes were reported to be largely over by January 12, demonstrations demanding the release of the union leaders continued in the central plaza of Ciudad Madero, a port city and oil-refining center some 300 miles northeast of Mexico City. "We're going to stay here until La Quina gets out of jail," said oil worker Carlos Alberto Torres. "It doesn't matter if it takes one month or two or three months. We're going to stay here until he's free."

Crisis in PRI

Salinas' attack on the oil workers' union is the latest example of the pressures building on the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) as a result of the country's deepening economic crisis.

The PRI has been Mexico's ruling party for the past 60 years. During that time, it has governed based on a consensus of support from the country's ruling industrial,

agribusiness, and banking capitalists, along with the backing of official PRI-backed unions and peasant organizations. For decades, the PRI won every election for president, governor, and senator.

The oil workers' union — the largest in the CTM — has been among the PRI's most important bases of popular support.

During the national elections held last July, however, significant opposition to the PRI developed for the first time, reflecting the growing polarization taking place in the country under the impact of the worsening economic situation.

There were reports that oil workers' union leader Hernández opposed the choice of Salinas to run as the PRI's nominee for president, and that he backed Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas instead, candidate of the National Democratic Front. The front is a bloc of nationalist and left-wing parties formed after Cárdenas split from the PRI in 1987 over the party's refusal to hold primaries to nominate its presidential candidate.

(Cárdenas, a former PRI governor of the state of Michoacán, is the son of the late Lázaro Cárdenas, president of Mexico from 1934 to 1940. During his presidency, Cárdenas carried out a substantial land distribution and nationalized the railroads and British and U.S. oil operations in the country.)

In October, the oil workers' union publicly charged that a former director of Pemex and ally of Salinas', Mario Ramón Beteta, was involved in a multimillion dollar fraud scheme.

Economic crisis

Mexico's working people have been hit hardest by the country's economic stagnation and decline during the 1980s. The country's dependency on revenues from oil exports has made it especially vulnerable to the fluctuations in world oil prices.

Between 1982 and 1987, real wages of Mexico's workers declined by about half, while inflation soared and unemployment and underemployment grew. In early 1988, almost three-fourths of Mexico's workers earned at or below the \$5-a-day minimum wage.



Soldiers follow gasoline trucks as part of show of military force connected with arrest of leader of oil workers' union. Crackdown on union came soon after Mexican Congress earmarked 60 percent of 1989 budget to meet payments on foreign debt.

When inflation hit 160 percent at the end of 1987, then-president Miguel de la Madrid announced an "Economic Solidarity Pact" aimed at stabilizing the economy by devaluing the peso and instituting a series of austerity measures. The pact, which included a wage freeze, was in place throughout 1988.

In December 1988, newly elected president Salinas announced a revision of the pact, including an 8 percent raise in the minimum wage. The country's inflation rate is now about 52 percent, according to Mexico's central bank.

On December 29, Mexico's Congress approved a \$107 billion 1989 federal budget. Nearly 60 percent of it is earmarked for debt service, an even higher percentage of the budget than last year.

The Salinas government is seeking \$6 billion in new loans for 1989. In October Washington made a direct loan of \$3.5 billion to Mexico. New loans are needed because of the country's growing trade deficit, caused in part by low oil prices and the flood of imports into Mexico since tariff barriers were lowered a year ago. The tariff reduction was made when Mexico joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Two-thirds of Mexico's imports come from the United States.

Salinas, who served his apprenticeship

as minister of budget and planning under the previous administration of Miguel de la Madrid, is one of the architects of these austerity, debt-repayment, and anti-inflation policies.

Salinas is also an advocate of continued privatization of Mexico's state-owned companies, which could include some of Pemex's operations. Since 1985, some 400 state-owned enterprises have been sold, merged, or liquidated.

Glee

Washington and Wall Street can scarcely contain their glee at Salinas' attack on the oil workers' union. "It is difficult to overstate the importance and significance of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's arrest" of Hernández, said the *Wall Street Journal* in a January 12 editorial titled "Corralling La Quina."

A column that appeared in the paper the same day was even more blunt. "If Mr. Salinas succeeds in breaking Latin America's largest union," it said, "... he would be in a better position to press his economic reform program of austerity, privatization of state-owned companies, and trade liberalization. He might also gain the stature needed to wrest concessions from creditors in negotiations over Mexico's \$104 billion foreign debt."

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Int'l campaign demands release of kidnapped Mexican activist

An international campaign is being organized to demand that authorities in Mexico release political activist José Ramón García Gómez. García was kidnapped from his hometown, Cuautla, December 16 and has not been heard from since.

García was the candidate of the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) for mayor of Cuautla, near Mexico City, during the Mexican elections last July. Since then, he had been harassed and warned repeatedly by government authorities and police because of his political activities, which included involvement in protests against the outcome of the presidential vote.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari, candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has governed Mexico since 1929, was elected president, defeating three other candidates. The voting results, however, were widely disputed.

On the day of García's disappearance, two unmarked police cars sat outside his house all morning, while agents questioned neighbors about him.

He was kidnapped from his car, a Volkswagen, in front of eyewitnesses, who reported that his assailants were from the Ministry of Interior's national security police.

On December 18, demonstrations demanding García's release were held in Cuautla and Cuernavaca. Six days later, a

march of 4,000 was held in Cuautla, led by Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, former presidential candidate of the National Democratic Front; Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, presidential nominee of the PRT; and Ana Santander de García, García's wife. A rally was also held at the Mexican parliament, and a number of deputies have asked that the Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Commission take up García's disappearance. A petition campaign is being organized, as well as other activities.

The governor of Morelos, the state in which Cuautla is located, initially responded to the case by denying any knowledge about what had happened to García and threatening those trying to win his release. Under pressure of the campaign on García's behalf, however, the governor named a special investigator for the case December 30.

Telegrams and messages demanding García's immediate release should be sent to Embassy of Mexico, 2829 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Until a new ambassador is appointed, the chargé d'affaires there is Jorge Pinto.

Protests can also be sent to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Palacio Nacional, México, D.F., Mexico.

Copies of messages and telegrams should be sent to the National Front Against Repression, Medellín 366, Col. Roma Sur, 06760 México, D.F., Mexico.

Negotiators discuss future of Kampuchea, Vietnam's withdrawal

BY FRED FELDMAN

The pace of negotiations for a political settlement concerning the future of Kampuchea is accelerating. Steps toward an agreement began to quicken in December 1987, when Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen first met with Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Sihanouk, formerly the hereditary ruler of Kampuchea, has often served as head of the coalition of three armed antigovernment forces backed by Washington.

Last July the first meeting between representatives of the Kampuchean government and leaders of the three opposition groups took place in Jakarta, Indonesia. Another round of talks involving Hun Sen and Sihanouk occurred in November.

Over the weekend of January 14, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem held talks with Chinese officials, the first direct talks between the two governments in nine years. The Chinese government reportedly agreed to reduce its aid to the Khmer Rouge, the militarily strongest opposition group, as Vietnamese forces withdrew from Kampuchea.

In addition to China and Vietnam, the governments of the Soviet Union, United States, and the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have been taking an active, although formally indirect, part in the negotiations. ASEAN is a bloc of semicolonial regimes that includes Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

Early withdrawal

The Vietnamese and Kampuchean governments, which had previously announced that the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea would be completed in 1990, have now offered to complete the process by September 1989. Early withdrawal is conditioned on reaching an agreement on the political makeup of the Kampuchean government and on a cutoff of U.S., Chinese, Thai, and other aid to antigovernment forces based in Thailand.

The Kampuchean government has called for establishing a "national reconciliation" council with Sihanouk as its head. It demands the central leaders of the Khmer Rouge be barred from the reshaped government.

In November, Hun Sen announced that one central leader of the Khmer Rouge, Khieu Samphan, was welcome as a participant in the negotiations. "These past 20 years we have misjudged Khieu Samphan," Hun Sen said.

Washington and Peking provide military and other aid, by way of Thailand, to the coalition of opposition groups.

The groups maintain military bases and are allowed to control refugee camps in Thailand, and to carry out raids and other guerrilla operations inside Kampuchea. None has been able to hold territory inside Kampuchea.

Despite this, Washington and its allies have been able to impose diplomatic and economic isolation on Kampuchea. The United Nations General Assembly has continued to recognize the Khmer Rouge, with the coalition serving as a fig leaf, as the official representative of the country. This stance was reaffirmed in November in a 122-19 vote.

Origin of groups

The opposition groups represent forces from Kampuchean regimes that ruled prior to the establishment of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in 1979.

Norodom Sihanouk heads one group. He became hereditary ruler of Kampuchea in 1941, when it was a French colony. He headed the government from the winning of independence from France in 1954 until he was toppled by a coup in 1970.

Washington backed the coup because Sihanouk had resisted pressure to give full backing to its war against liberation movements in neighboring Vietnam and Laos.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front is another component of the coalition. It stems from the Khmer Serei bands that were backed by the CIA before the overturn of Sihanouk. The Khmer Serei

supported the U.S.-dominated regime of Gen. Lon Nol, which succeeded Sihanouk.

After the coup, the U.S. military invaded Kampuchea in 1970 and carried out years of saturation bombing to counter a broad resistance movement that included the Khmer Communist Party and Prince Sihanouk. The CP-led peasant guerrillas were known as the Khmer Rouge.

When the U.S. war was defeated and Lon Nol fell, one wing of the Khmer Rouge took power, headed by Pol Pot. Sihanouk briefly served as chief of state under this regime.

Claiming to be communist, the Pol Pot regime carried out mass executions and other policies that were responsible for the deaths of well over 1 million Kampuchians.

The Kampuchean population is now estimated at more than 7 million.

Beginning in 1977, Pol Pot's regime launched all-out attacks on southern Vietnam. By the end of 1978, 30,000 Vietnamese had been killed, scores of villages destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of peasants had fled the area.

Pol Pot was toppled by a joint operation of Vietnamese troops and Kampuchean resistance fighters, who captured the capital city of Phnom Penh on Jan. 7, 1979. The resistance fighters proclaimed the People's Republic of Kampuchea, naming Heng Samrin as president.

Pol Pot's forces fled to the border with Thailand where they were rearmed with assistance from the Chinese government and provided with bases and military protection by the Thai regime.

In the years that followed, the PRK made strides toward repairing the damage done by the U.S. war and the Pol Pot regime. Rice production this year is expected to come close to pre-1970 levels.

The widespread hunger that Kampuchians suffered under Pol Pot and the near-famine that struck the country after the collapse of his regime have been overcome.

But the country faces massive problems, stemming from the destruction wrought by nearly two decades of U.S. aggression, civil war, and aid and trade embargoes. The average per capita gross domestic product is estimated by the United Nations at only about \$80 annually.

Policy changes

In what is described as an effort to further spur production and trade, the government has recently announced several policy changes aimed at encouraging capitalist investment and other forms of private enterprise.

Authorities in the provinces have been given permission to trade directly with foreign countries. Highway checkpoints have been removed, making it easier for farmers to engage in trade and also lifting some obstacles to the extensive quasi-legal smuggling along the Thai border.

The U.S.-organized economic embargo against Kampuchea has begun to fray. Japanese capitalists are now building a sawmill on the outskirts of the capital of Phnom Penh.

Economic recovery, in a context where capitalist relations predominate in trade and agriculture, has been accompanied by some increase in social tensions. "The gap between the rich and the poor is growing," one international aid worker in Phnom Penh told *Far Eastern Economic Review* correspondent Murray Hiebert.

"For us socialism means we have to improve the living standard of the people," an official told Hiebert concerning the recent changes in economic policy. "We must try to develop a strata of businessmen to build our economy, while the state tries to protect the poorest people."

The military situation remains tense. Since early 1985, when Vietnamese and Kampuchean forces forced the antigovernment forces to abandon their camps just inside Kampuchea and set up others in Thailand, the opposition has been unable to establish new bases in Kampuchea. They have been restricted to terrorism and hit-



and-run attacks.

The number of guerrilla actions against the regime in 1988 dropped 50 percent from 1987 according to the *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

The Phnom Penh government says that the Pol Pot group has 20,000 troops; other estimates range as high as 40,000. The Kampuchean government estimates its own troop strength as 40,000. They are supplemented by village militias.

Pres Samsour, deputy governor of the

province of Kompong Cham, told the *Far Eastern Economic Review* that about 1,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas still operate in his district.

Across the country, he said, they have been able to kill between 7,000 and 8,000 people over the last 10 years, including up to 2,000 civil servants.

The Vietnamese government says that its troops have suffered 25,000 deaths in the last 10 years — many from malaria and other illnesses.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Haitian priest expelled from Salesian order

Havana Radio Reloj Network has reported that Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a priest and one of the Haitian popular movement's most prominent leaders, has appealed his expulsion from the Salesian order. Aristide's appeal is supported by more than 90 Haitian priests who issued a strongly worded message criticizing the Salesians.

Aristide's expulsion was made public in a statement by the Salesian order from the Vatican. The statement accused the priest of being a "destabilizing" influence, and that he instigates "violence" and "class struggle."

Last October Salesian officials attempted to transfer Aristide from Haiti to Canada. The directive order was met with a massive wave of demonstrations in Haiti. Aristide ignored the transfer order.

Aristide is one of the foremost opponents of the various military regimes that have ruled Haiti since the dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled the country in 1986. Last September rightist gunmen attacked Aristide's church as he was saying mass and burned it to the ground. At least 13 people were killed and nearly 80 wounded. Aristide escaped only by seconds.

Following that attack, noncommissioned officers supported by troops overthrew the regime of Gen. Henri Namphy and replaced him with Gen. Prosper Avril. In late November, Aristide called on the poor to crush the powerful and called Avril's military government unfit.

Moscow imposes rule in Armenian region

The Soviet government placed Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian region of the Azerbaijan republic, under its direct rule on January 12. Nagorno-Karabakh has been the scene of widespread protests by Armenians demanding that the region be annexed to the neighboring Armenian republic.

The Soviet news agency Tass said, "The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in keeping with the USSR constitution, found it expedient to introduce temporarily in the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region a special form of administration with Nagorno-Karabakh re-

taining its status as an autonomous region incorporated in Azerbaijan."

Throughout the protests last year, Soviet government officials labeled the Armenians' demand as "antisocialist." Last March Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said the Armenians' demand would not be approved. Large numbers of militia troops were sent to the region with instructions to restore order.

S. African businesses fear sanctions

Fearing sanctions and protests, South African business is being tight lipped about its overseas companies. "The simple fact that you are born in South Africa is a mark of Cain," complained Donald Gordon, chairman of Liberty Life Association of Africa Ltd. Gordon has been a major figure in the insurance business in Britain for two decades.

To help cover up this mark, the South African government introduced legislation that exempts companies from having to disclose anything about their foreign operations, on the grounds that such information could harm the national interest. The government is so concerned that it won't even disclose anything about the nondisclosure law.

"I won't comment on why we do it, how we do it, when we do it, and when we don't do it," says J.F. van Rensburg of the Registrar of Companies, which administers the nondisclosure law.

A favored technique for concealing South African-owned foreign companies is to buy controlling interest in a small company, perhaps British-owned. Then all other foreign investments are stashed under that company. "That way," said one South African businessman, "when we expand it will be as a British company."

Altron Ltd., a South African electronics firm did just that when it expanded last year. Altron bought controlling interest in Telematrix PLC, a small British company listed on the London Stock Exchange. Bill Venter, Altron's chairman, said that within 18 months he would build an international electronic group with sales exceeding \$100 million.

"If we say, yes, our operation is doing such and such, the next day we'll have a demonstration outside that office," says Jacques Sellschop, an Altron spokesman. "A certain clandestineness has been forced on us," he explained.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Abortion Rights Under Attack. A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 28, 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Mississippi Burning: Is This the Real Story of the Civil Rights Movement? Speaker: Nelson Blackstock, participant in the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer, former staff member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Sat., Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco and Berkeley

Defend Abortion Rights. Stop Operation Rescue. In January antiabortion activists will be blocking clinics that provide abortion and other services. To join the prochoice movement: January 21 help on clinic defense to keep them open; meet 6:30 a.m., Ashby BART (Berkeley) or 6:30 a.m., Church St. Station (San Francisco). January 22 march and rally to celebrate legalized abortion; meet 11 a.m., Lafayette Park (Gough and Sacramento, S.F.), rally 2 p.m. at Federal Building. Sponsor: Bay Area Coalition Against Operation Rescue. For more information call (415) 824-8562.

Vietnam: Photographs of Life After War. Photographer Adam Kufeld with slideshow of his recent trip to Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Mekong Delta. Also speaking, Bill Eisman, U.S.-Vietnam Friendship Association. Thurs., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Donation: \$5. Also Fri., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. The Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission St., S.F. Donation: \$5.

FLORIDA

Miami

Defend Abortion Rights! A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Fight for Abortion Rights! Speakers: Mary Lee Box, vice-president Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 144, member Coalition of Labor Union Women; Delores Piña, member National Abortion Rights Action League; Olga Vives, National Board member, National Organization for Women; Robin Trilling, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 1608. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 21, 6 p.m. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Abortion Rights Under Attack. A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. Showing of five Cuban-made videos with presentation by Shelton McCrahey, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 28. Pathfinder Bookstore open house and video short program 11 a.m.; forum and complete video pro-

gram 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

New Stage in the Palestinian Struggle. Panel of Palestinian and U.S. speakers. Sun., Jan. 22, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

A Victory Against Apartheid. Showing of Cuban TV documentary "The Response to the South African Escalation," on the Angolan and Cuban victory over South African troops in Angola. In English and Spanish. Sat., Jan. 21, 6 p.m. 5534 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 444-7880.

St. Louis

Free Nelson Mandela: The Freedom Struggle in South Africa. Speakers: Charlene Adamson, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers; Veronica Jones, president Association of Black Collegians at University of Missouri; Jonathan Taylor, member Association of Black Students at Washington University. Sat., Jan. 21, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Abortion: A Woman's Right. Speakers: Elizabeth Stawczynj, state coordinator, National Organization for Women; Arlene Katzman, prochoice advocate; Lacy Hansen, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Stop Threats Against Libya. Speaker: Nick Gruenberg, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

The Frame-up of Mark Curtis: An Injury to One is an Injury to All. Sat., Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation. Speaker: representative of Palestine Solidarity Movement and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Abortion is a Woman's Right. Speakers: Ann Rothharp and Shari Gilbert, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

UTAH

Price

Celebrate 30 Years of the Cuban Revolution.

Speaker: Dave Prince, Socialist Workers Party visited Cuba 1968-69 and 1981. Sun., Jan. 29, 5 p.m. 253 E Main. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Defend Abortion Rights. A panel of speakers including representatives from National Organization for Women, Wasatch Women's Center, Socialist Workers Party, others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Why the Minimum Wage Should be Raised.

Speaker: Deborah Lazar, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 14287. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

77th Anniversary of the African National Congress.

Hear update on struggle to release Nelson Mandela. Speakers: Aubrey Mokoena, chairperson Release Mandela Campaign in South Africa; Dr. Ben Chavis, United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice; entertainment by Shirley Scott trio. Sun., Jan. 29. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7 p.m. Howard University, Cramton Auditorium. Sponsor: African National Congress, South Africa Women's Day Committee, Howard University African Students Association. For more information call (202) 882-1817.

CANADA

Toronto

No to the New Laws Against Refugees!

Jordan and the Palestinian struggle

Continued from Page 5
rael's] interests."

"The two major Jordanian monarchs, Abdullah and Hussein," they continue, "consistently sought decent relations with the Zionists, and they worked over many years with Israel in endeavors of mutual interest."

"In a manner symbolic of the two states' mutual needs, their leaders have met secretly with each other about 20 times since 1947."

In our first article, we cited a *New York Times* guest column by Shimon Peres, then Israeli foreign minister and now finance minister. In that article, Peres opposes the idea of an independent Palestinian state.

Peres argues that such a state would artificially divide the Palestinian people, demagogically pointing to their national identity with the Palestinians now living in Jordan.

Refugees and children of refugees, Palestinians do in fact constitute a majority of the population of Jordan.

Peres avoids mentioning another "artificial" separation of Palestinians — that of the 645,000 "Israeli" Palestinians. They live within Israel's pre-1967 border, where they are citizens, relegated to second-class status.

Thousands Threatened With Deportation.

Speakers: Nancy Pocock, coordinator, Quaker Committee for Refugees; Tom Clark, Interchurch Committee for Refugees; Hani Samber, chairperson Legal Defence Committee for Mahmoud Mohammad, Palestinian facing deportation; Tom Leys, Revolutionary Workers League, striking member United Steelworkers of America. Special guest: representative of Black Action Defence Committee. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Voice Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Palestine Uprising Enters Second Year: What the Palestinians Are Fighting For.

Speaker: Abdullah Abdullah, Palestine Liberation Organization representative in Canada. Fri., Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Voice Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

How Do Workers Confront the Economic Crisis. A meeting and discussion forum. Sat., Jan. 28, 10:30 a.m. Pathfinder Bookstore, Klappartíg 26. For more information call (91) 17513.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Cuban and Angolan Victory Over South Africa. Cuban documentary video on the Angolan and Cuban victory over apartheid regime's troops in Angola. Sun., Jan. 29, 15:00 in Medborgarhuset, rooms 403 and 404. T-bana Medborgarplatsen. In English and Spanish. Sponsors: Cuba-Sweden Friendship Society, Stockholm Africa group, Pathfinder.

Like Hussein, Peres sees a united Palestinian people as a mortal threat.

Neither Hussein nor Peres are paranoid in this respect. Further development of the Palestinian liberation struggle, and of the class struggle throughout Israeli-held Palestine, will topple the status quo in the area.

Advances in the fight will lead toward unity. And as the Palestinians' unity and strength increase, so will their links with Jewish workers and farmers, whose consciousness will develop as Israel's social and economic difficulties deepen into full-scale crisis.

Palestinian success in wresting control of the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem from the Israeli rulers — which the PLO has declared as its current goal — would mark an advance in this process.

These developments go in the direction of replacing the reactionary Israeli regime with a democratic, secular Palestine where Palestinians and Jews can live in peace and fraternity.

As that chapter in history is being written, the Hashemite rule will continue to be weakened and eventually swept away. The overturn of Israeli capitalist rule will open the road for the people of Jordan to unite with their brothers and sisters in all of Palestine.

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SWEDEN

Stockholm: P.O. Box 5024, S-12505 Älvsjö. Tel: (08) 722-9342.

Side benefit — A Massachusetts entrepreneur is marketing red contact lenses for chickens. They will assertedly make the chickens happier since red is supposed to



Harry Ring

pacify them. Also, incidentally, they'll eat less and lay more eggs.

Not as dumb as he looks — Despite the Quayle family fortune, Danford takes care of himself.

Like the \$6,000 bite on the Republican National Committee toward his skiing vacation. Or that he would like donations to fix up the vice-presidential mansion. Plus getting himself on the White House transition-office payroll until he starts collecting as veep.

Housing tip — Zsa Zsa Gabor's Bel-Air estate, just around the corner from the Reagan's new pad, is for sale. "We're giving it away for \$15 million," said the broker.

Just getting their act together — We reported the British government tried to conceal a 1957 nuclear accident that contaminated milk at some 800 farms. Actually,

the contamination figures were issued the next year — after new permissible-level standards were designed to show the fallout wasn't dangerous.

Hey, no problem — The Du Pont company, which manages the Savannah River nuclear weapons plant in South Carolina, acknowledged that the installation is sitting atop an earthquake fault at least 20 miles long. Company scientists assured it wasn't big enough to cause a major earthquake.

Things are tough all over — "At F.A.O. Schwarz, high-priced items such as \$5,000 stuffed giraffes just aren't selling as well as in the past, says Peter Harris, the toy

chain's president." — *Wall Street Journal*.

The military way — The Pentagon is replacing the communications system at the Cheyenne Mountain "early warning" center. The new system's wiring is incompatible with other electronics at the installation, which the air force knew when it ordered it. The solution? The wiring throughout Cheyenne Mountain will be changed to work with the new system.

Not his money — "Whatever it costs, it's worth it." — U.S. Air Force Secretary Edward Aldridge on the B-2 Stealth bomber that will cost more than a half billion a piece,

the most expensive military plane yet.

But not to worry — "Some of the chemicals used in cosmetics and hair products have been linked to cancer, birth defects, nervous system disorders, and other illnesses. The dangerous ingredients are rarely banned. In fact, the Food and Drug Administration has no authority to test cosmetics for safety before they are marketed." — Columnist Jack Anderson.

The world's richest country — The United States is falling far short of objectives established in 1979 for infant mortality. Of 13 goals set for 1990, only three are likely to be met.

Cop killing sparks revolt in Miami Black community

Continued from front page

a crowd of Blacks, wounding one person. Overtown resident Tom Scott expressed the community's sentiment when he told the *Miami Herald*: "We've been victimized all our lives, and now they're treating us like animals with no respect, and especially on this day, Martin Luther King Day." That same day, some 60,000 people had marched in Miami to celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday.

The rebellion continued on the following

day, spreading to Liberty City, Miami's largest Black community, and to the Black section of Coconut Grove. More than 700 cops from Miami, Dade County, and nearby cities and the state police invaded the Black communities. Florida Gov. Bob Martinez has placed 500 National Guardsmen on alert.

Police blocked off 170 blocks of Liberty City. More than 200 people were reported arrested that night, and at least three people were reported shot by police.

In Overtown on the night of January 17 this reporter saw scores of police with riot shields, shotguns, truncheons, and gas masks riding into the community in police cars and big armored wagons. Police helicopters with searchlights droned overhead.

An Overtown resident who said he was on his way to the homeless shelter for a meal, explained, "The problem is so much land and too little jobs."

He pointed to the fancy new sports arena built on the edge of Overtown and to Miami's multi-colored downtown skyscrapers just beyond it. He then pointed to Overtown's unpainted, barracks-like housing, its garbage-strewn streets, and the homeless women and men camped under the neighborhood's overpasses. City Manager Odio estimates that 10,000 homeless persons live in Miami.

Despite the "new image" of Miami being promoted in publicity for the Super Bowl football game to be held here January 22, unemployment, low wages, bad working

conditions, rotten housing, homelessness, and poverty still afflict Overtown and other Black and Latino communities.

The unemployment gap between Blacks and whites has risen dramatically in Dade County. According to Bureau of Labor figures, the unemployment rate for Blacks rose from 9 percent to 10.4 percent between 1981 and 1987. For whites it dropped from 6.9 percent to 4.7 percent. Unemployment rates for Latinos dropped from 8.7 percent to 5.8 percent during the same years.

According to city officials, unemployment in Overtown is 55 percent. And the average yearly income is \$7,000.

The shooting of Blanchard and Lloyd is part of a long series of incidents of police brutality against Blacks in the Miami area. Eighteen Blacks were killed and hundreds injured in 1980 when a massive rebellion in Liberty City protested the acquittal of the cops who murdered Black businessman Arthur McDuffie. Like Lloyd, he was accused of a motorcycle traffic violation.

In 1982 a rebellion shook Overtown when Miami cop Luis Alvarez gunned down Nevell Johnson, Jr., in a video arcade just blocks from where Lloyd and Blanchard were killed. Overtown and Liberty City erupted in 1984 when Alvarez was acquitted.

In 1988 Miami cops launched a series of brutal "drug raids" against innocent Blacks, including a Baptist minister and his three children and a young Black mother.

Last month eight cops beat to death an unarmed Puerto Rican in front of his neighbors and family.

In December the *Miami Herald* exposed an incident in which a judge hushed up a cop beating of a Black "suspect," Alfred Lee, who turned out to be a Dade County police officer. The judge claimed that he feared publicity around the case could lead to a "riot."

A Dade County officer who participated in arresting Lee admitted seeing about 20 Miami cops punch and kick Lee in the face and strike him about his body repeatedly. Lee was in handcuffs throughout the beating.

In an emergency session January 18, the City Commission voted to set up a citizens' review panel to investigate the shooting of Lloyd. The police department, the local prosecutor, and the U.S. Justice Department are also investigating the killing.

Similar investigations over the past 10 years have cleared cop after cop.

Miami officials try to bar Nicaraguans

The number of Nicaraguans in Miami has grown to about 100,000 over the last 20 years. Central Americans comprised fewer than 1 percent of Latinos in Miami in 1970, but now total almost 17 percent, most of them Nicaraguans.

A federal court order in effect until January 31 in Brownsville, Texas, will allow thousands of immigrant workers to travel inland from the Mexican border while their requests for political asylum are weighed. Many of the immigrants are Nicaraguan.

Dade County officials have said that since the ruling, the pace of immigration to the Miami area has increased to between 150 and 200 a week. Many arrive with only a handful of personal possessions. The city is housing 260 Nicaraguans in a baseball stadium.

The Dade County government has dispatched officials to Brownsville to spread the word that unless Nicaraguans have friends or relatives to support them, they should stay away from Miami.

Miami

What's Behind the Miami Rebellion

Speaker: **Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers Party**

Thurs., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Translation to Spanish and French

137 NE 54th St.
\$2 donation

Candidate: 'No aid to UNITA!'

Continued from front page

after months of negotiations, agreed to by the South African regime only after it was defeated, along with UNITA, in a major battle at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, last March.

"Together, fighters from the Angolan and Cuban armies, and from the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia, dealt a smashing military blow to South Africa and UNITA. That's what forced Pretoria to withdraw from Angola and start negotiating," Musa said. The agreement calls for independence for Namibia, withdrawal of South African troops from that country, and noninterference in the internal affairs of the countries of southwestern Africa. An agreement between Angola and Cuba provides for the phased withdrawal of Cuban internationalist fighters from Angola.

"Now is the time to step up pressure on Bush to end U.S. support for UNITA and recognize the government of Angola, as Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos recently called for," Musa said.

A report issued last August by the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice gives an idea of the human and economic damage done by UNITA, Musa explained. The report was based on a fact-finding trip by Black church and community leaders, lead by political activist Ben Chavis.

"They found that children, women, men, and the elderly have become the main targets of UNITA," the socialist candidate said. "In the last year especially, the report

notes, UNITA has 'willfully and purposely targeted the civilian population,' in violation of international law. Some 20,000 women and children have been mutilated by land mines. Between 15,000 and 20,000 children have been orphaned and abandoned because of UNITA attacks. Children have been forced to watch the murder of their parents and friends, and the destruction of their homes.

"The health situation is deteriorating, infant mortality is soaring — and health centers are among UNITA's targets," Musa continued. "Sabotage of communications, mining farming areas, stealing cattle, and destruction of villages that refuse to back UNITA are the kinds of atrocities UNITA carries out — not to mention killing and wounding tens of thousands of people."

"UNITA's real record makes Bush's praise for its 'courageous' role all the more repugnant," said Musa.

The socialist candidate has been actively campaigning now for several months. Musa has spoken to high school and college audiences, campaigned at plant gates and at street-corner literature tables, and in Chicago's low-income housing projects. Some 2,500 pieces of campaign literature have already been distributed, in both English and Spanish.

The general election is April 4. The Democratic and Republican primaries are set for February 28.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign headquarters in Chicago is located at 6826 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60649. Telephone (312) 363-7322.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWS WEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Jan. 26, 1979

Deserted by his imperialist supporters and despised by the Iranian people, Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi fled into exile January 16. The tyrant ended his dark and bloody reign without even waiting for his rubber-stamp parliament to confirm his choice of Shahpur Bakhtiar as Iran's new prime minister.

As news of the shah's departure spread, the *New York Times* reported, "hundreds of thousands of people poured out of their homes shouting 'Shah raft!' (The Shah is gone!)"

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

Jan. 27, 1964

Price 10¢

ATLANTA, Ga. Jan. 21 — Racial protests continue here daily as high school and college students sustain their struggle to make Atlanta an "open city."

Seventy-eight demonstrators were arrested Saturday night, January 18, after an

integrated group of students tried to get into a Krystal hamburger stand in downtown Atlanta. Ten hooded, white-robed Ku Klux Klansmen had occupied the seats at the counter in a move to prevent a sit-in. But they didn't scare anybody, and the student demonstrators organized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights chanted and sang outside. Some of their number attempted to enter the restaurant, and the police began arresting them.

Other demonstrators lay down beneath the wheels of a patrol wagon and were themselves arrested. SNCC Chairman John Lewis and SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman were among some 30 persons arrested outside the restaurant.

The next day, SNCC Chairman Lewis announced a demonstration for January 24 for the edification of a delegation from a human rights subcommission of the United Nations. The group is headed by Morris Abram, formerly of Atlanta. Lewis said Abram had asked SNCC not to demonstrate while the UN committee was in Atlanta because that would "embarrass the nation."

In announcing the demonstration, Lewis said Negroes had been embarrassed a long time by segregation.

Halt cop violence in Miami!

The explosion of outrage in the Black communities of Overtown and Liberty City in Miami, sparked by the latest cop killing of two innocent Blacks, has its roots in the sharply worsened conditions of life now faced by whole sections of the working class — conditions that bear down with disproportionate weight on Black and Latino working people.

Despite the recent upturn in the capitalist business cycle, reported record low unemployment, and assurances from politicians, the media, and other capitalist mouthpieces that times have never been better, for millions of working people, including many in Miami, times have never been worse.

Growing and permanent joblessness, segregated housing and education, declining health care, increased homelessness, decaying social services — this is what working people in Overtown and Liberty City have to face.

Workers in Miami who are Black have more than double the unemployment rate of white workers, and just slightly less than double the rate for Latino workers. This is a significant change from just a few years ago, and the gap is continuing to widen. For Black youth, decent jobs are next to impossible to find. And those lucky enough to get jobs have to get by on less — \$7,000 a year for the average Overtown resident.

More Black working people, and their families, have been pushed out of their homes and apartments. The streets of Overtown and Liberty City are where many of Miami's 10,000 homeless working people are now living. Those who still have a roof over their heads are forced to put up with dilapidated housing and deteriorating city services.

Overtown and Liberty City residents, like millions of other Black workers, have to send their children to inferior schools and bear the brunt of slashed social services.

The decline in Blacks' life expectancy for the second consecutive year, while that of whites continues to rise, underscores the impact on Blacks of the decay in medical care and the overall weight they bear as inequality in the work force grows.

Part of the deepening oppression and exploitation of working people who are Black and Latino is the escalation of police violence against them, especially the most impoverished workers who make up the long-term unemployed. Under growing social pressures, cop brutality against these workers is mounting in Miami, New York, and other cities. Recent killings of Blacks by cops in Toronto show that this trend is far from confined to the United States.

Millions of people who saw the video on national television news of a California off-duty police officer, who is Black, having his head shoved into a plate-glass window in an utterly unprovoked assault by other cops got a glimpse of the kind of savage treatment Black and Latino workers and youth face every day.

The cold-blooded killings of Clement Lloyd and Allen Blanchard that triggered the rebellion in Miami were the latest in a long series of cop brutalizations suffered by the Black community of that city. For years, incident after incident of humiliating abuse, beatings, jailings, and killings have been part of routine police functioning — despite "community relations" seminars and "stress counseling" for overly barbaric members of the force.

As one person testified at the Miami City Commission meeting January 18, "People see the police as executioners. We get shot, and that's it."

The bankers, capitalists, and real estate speculators who run Miami are anxious to put a lid on the growing anger at these increasingly oppressive economic and social conditions.

At the same time, Miami's rulers are putting in overtime trying to pit workers who are Black against those who are Latino in an attempt to deflect the anger in the Black community and deepen divisions in the working class as a whole. Latino workers, especially immigrants from Central America and in particular Nicaragua, are being blamed for the conditions workers in Overtown and Liberty City face. Immigrants, it is said, get favored treatment at the expense of Blacks.

This turns reality on its head. Immigrant workers in Miami, from Latin America and other parts of the world, face many of the same conditions that Black and U.S.-born Latino workers do — discrimination, low wages, high unemployment, denial of social services, and violations of democratic rights. Immigrant workers who are Black, such as those from Haiti, are among the worst off.

A Black woman told the January 18 Miami City Commission meeting, "We know what the problems are. What we need is solutions." Those solutions don't lie in keeping more immigrants out, as the powers-that-be in Miami have proposed by throwing up a "stop" sign to more Nicaraguans seeking to come to that city.

The road forward lies rather in a common struggle by Miami's working people — Black, Latino, and white, immigrant and U.S.-born — against the oppressive conditions created by the capitalist system.

A fight by working people throughout the city demanding an end to racist police brutality, a halt to the occupation of Overtown and Liberty City, and that the cops responsible for Lloyd and Blanchard's deaths be brought to justice is the place to start.

This can be an impetus to forging a united struggle to protect working people from the worsening conditions of this system, especially the lack of jobs. Jobs for all can be achieved by shortening the workweek with no cut in pay. The city's unemployment statistics prove that affirmative action also has to be a central part of the struggle, to overcome the special discrimination faced by workers who are Black and Latino. Another part of the battle must be a common defense of immigrant workers and their rights. The rebels of Overtown and Liberty City have shown that they will be among the most determined in moving forward along this road.

Latin American labor under fire

The efforts of Latin American governments to keep up interest payments on the \$430 billion they owe to financial institutions in the imperialist countries are creating a social and economic catastrophe for working people. This fact was driven home by two recent events — the attack by Mexico's government on the oil workers' union and the imposition by Brazil's government of new, anti-working-class austerity measures.

The attack on the oil workers' union, the largest union in Latin America, is a deadly threat to working people throughout the Americas. It comes at a time when the Mexican and other governments are imposing creditor-dictated austerity programs, which center on devastating cuts in real wages and social services. The January 10 and 11 arrests of oil workers' officials is aimed at silencing opposition to these and other measures, including privatization of Mexico's nationalized oil industry.

Mexico's foreign debt stands at just over \$100 billion, and 60 percent of this year's budget has been earmarked for the international bankers.

The Brazilian government has announced a currency devaluation and an indefinite wage freeze, and barred cost-of-living raises included in many union contracts. These measures are aimed at curbing inflation that last year hit 934 percent. While a price freeze is nominally included in the plan, Brazil's toilers can expect that inflation will continue to slash their standard of living.

Brazil has a foreign debt of \$115 billion — the largest among the debt-burdened semicolonial countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Last year a total of \$9.2 billion was transferred out of the country to wealthy creditors in the imperialist countries.

The interest on the debt — much less the principal — can never be paid. The Venezuelan government, considered a "model debtor" because it has made more payments on the principal since 1982 than any other debtor country, announced December 31 that it would halt such payments. Venezuela's debt is \$30.3 billion.

Workers and farmers in the United States and other imperialist countries have a vital stake in supporting the resistance of our brothers and sisters in Latin America to debt-driven austerity and antiunion assaults.

The wage reductions, cuts in social services, large-scale unemployment, homelessness, and desperate poverty bearing down on working people in Mexico and the rest of Latin America are a more savage version of what is already happening to some sectors of the working class in the United States, Canada, Britain, and other countries — and will become generalized with the next sharp economic crisis.

Driving down the standard of living of workers and farmers in Latin America makes it easier for the employers to step up attacks on wages, living standards, and union rights elsewhere. If the Mexican government gets away with its attack on the oil workers, the U.S. employers and government will be in a stronger position to attack unions here.

The labor movement and farmers' organizations around the world need to throw their full backing behind the working people of Latin America in the defensive struggles they are waging. We should join them in demanding that the unpayable and inhuman debt be canceled now.

Lenin on abortion and population control

BY DOUG JENNESS

The revolutionary workers' and farmers' regime in Soviet Russia was the first government to permit abortions at the request of the woman involved. Along with other measures, including liberalizing divorce and marriage laws, this showed the Bolshevik-led government to be a pioneer in advancing the emancipation of women.

One of the results of adopting the 1920 law was the sharp decline in the number of deaths resulting from

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

botched abortions conducted by women themselves or by back-alley abortionists.

Before the Russian revolution, abortion was considered murder and could be performed legally only if the woman was dangerously ill and only if approved by more than one licensed doctor. Persons performing illegal abortions were severely punished, including with loss of medical licences, long prison terms, or even in some cases the death penalty.

But these harsh measures of the tsarist government didn't prevent women from seeking abortions as a means of birth control. And in the first decades of this century the number of illegal abortions was rapidly rising. The inevitable result was the death of many women.

Doctors were among those who began taking a stand in those years for legalizing abortion. In 1913, for example, at a meeting of the Pirogov Society of Doctors, the principal medical association in tsarist Russia, a long debate was held on the question. A resolution was adopted with a majority agreeing that abortions should not be punishable.

In addition to the medical considerations, however, an important element in the debate was the role of abortion and contraceptives as a means of population control.

The Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin entered into this discussion in the June 16, 1913, issue of *Pravda*, the Bolshevik party's paper. He expressed support for "the unconditional annulment of all laws against abortions or against the distribution of medical literature on contraceptive measures, etc." These laws, he said, "are especially painful for the oppressed masses."

But "freedom for medical propaganda and the protection of the elementary democratic rights of citizens, men and women, are one thing. The social theory of neomalthusianism is quite another."

Neomalthusianism was the view that contraceptive measures should be used to restrict births in order to control population growth. It was based on the false proposition of Thomas Malthus, put forward in 1798, that population growth would inevitably outstrip the earth's capacity to provide food.

Lenin emphatically rejected the linking of reactionary population control policies with the progressive demand for legalizing abortion. He singled out a sarcastic comment by one of the participants in the Pirogov Doctors' conference, who said, "We have to convince mothers to bear children so that they can be maimed in educational establishments, so that lots can be drawn for them, so that they can be driven to suicide!"

The implication was clear: It is better not to have children than to bring them into this terrible world with all of its problems.

Lenin argued that this was not the standpoint of class-conscious workers, but a middle-class view. The middle-class neomalthusian, he wrote, "protests as the representative of a class that is hopelessly perishing, that despairs of its future, that is depressed and cowardly. There is nothing to be done . . . if only there were fewer children to suffer our torments and hard toil, our poverty and our humiliation. Such is the cry of the petty bourgeois."

In response to the Pirogov doctor, Lenin added, "Bear children so they can be maimed" . . . For that alone? Why not that they should fight better, more unitedly, consciously, and resolutely than we are fighting against the present-day conditions of life that are maiming and ruining our generation?"

The Marxist leader said, "Yes, we workers and the mass of small proprietors lead a life that is filled with unbearable oppression and suffering. Things are harder for our generation than they were for our fathers. But in one respect we are luckier than our fathers. We have begun to learn and are rapidly learning to fight. . . . Our children will fight better than we do, and they will be victorious."

Lenin added that the working class in Russia was not perishing, but growing in size, becoming politically stronger, and steeling itself in battle.

He contrasted the optimism and self-confidence of workers as they developed class understanding with middle-class couples who mistakenly identify their own hopelessness with that of the country's future and "who whisper in scared voices: 'God grant we manage somehow by ourselves. So much the better if we have no children.'"

LETTERS

Death penalty

Those who support the death penalty to prevent the killing of law enforcement officers should take a look at the 1988 statistics on the killing of police officers.

In 1988 153 police officers were killed in the line of duty. Most were killed in states having the death penalty. The three states leading the list and accounting for more than a third of all the killings were California with 23, Texas with 21, and Florida with 13. Texas also leads the nation in the number of executions, with 27, and 276 on death row, followed by Florida, which has executed 18 and has 289 awaiting execution. California has 233 on death row.

Jim Murphy
Director, New York State
Coalition for Criminal Justice
Albany, New York

Nicaragua

In a visit to the Berta Calderón Hospital for women in Managua last April it became clear to me that a big problem is the consequences of botched abortions. Abortion is illegal in Nicaragua.

About 20 women arrive at the hospital every day suffering the results of incomplete abortions. And between one and three women die every month from abortion-related infections.

The hospital lacked the equipment necessary to complete the abortions. Further surgery, such as hysterectomies, could have been avoided if adequate instruments had been available.

When I returned to the United States, I wrote a grant to the Nicaragua solidarity organization Madre asking for \$2,000 to buy equipment. I received the grant and in November took the equipment to Nicaragua. I taught a course to residents and staff physicians on its use.

The director of the hospital came to observe and decided to make this the new method of treatment at the hospital. The new procedure was even filmed by a television news program.

Regula E. Burki, M.D.
Salt Lake City, Utah



The Wizard of Id

Alberto Aranda

Alberto Aranda, a longtime political activist in the Texas Department of Corrections, has been framed up by the state of Texas to serve 40 more years in prison. He was due to be released soon, having served his present sentence, and was ready to return to his family and political activities outside prison.

Aranda is a leading member of Prisoners United for Revolutionary Education. He is known throughout the Ellis I Unit as one of the most active jailhouse lawyers — prisoners who defend other prisoners in court and/or denounce the prison system's corruption and lawlessness.

Aranda's conviction is for alleged "aggravated assault" of guard Peter Miles.

Out of 44 potential jurors, 14 were tied directly to the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC). Despite protests, Aranda's jury had no less than seven TDC guards in it. Yet the judge denied a change of venue.

Aranda was denied the right to represent himself. Up to the last minute, the court ignored his protests. Then all of a sudden he was granted self-representation and given three days to prepare the case. His motions for continuance, to get some more time, to have his requests for evidence complied with, etc. were all ignored.

Peter Miles is the same guard who in 1983 orchestrated the murder of prisoner activist Johnny

"Awali" Swift at the hands of death row prisoner Demouchette.

The only reason Aranda was sentenced to 40 years, and not to the usual "deuce," is his militancy as a political activist, as a prisoners' rights activist. He deserves our help.

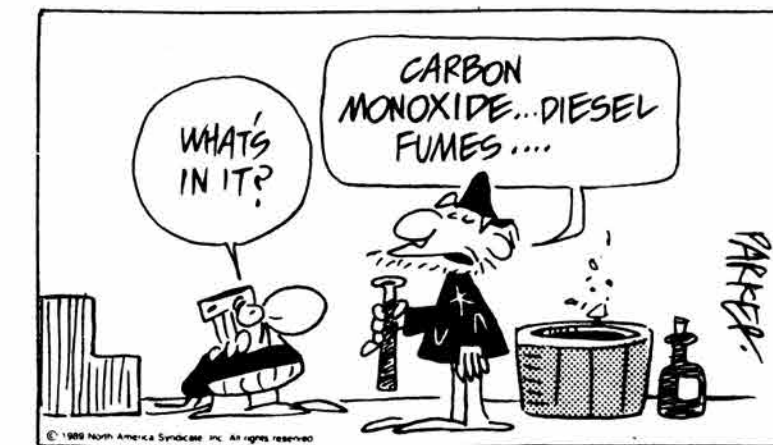
Letters of support can be sent to: Alberto Aranda, TDC No. 300823, Ellis I Unit, Huntsville, Texas 77343. Letters of protest to: Jim Lynaugh, Director, TDC, P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, Texas 77343 and Judge Jerry A. Sandel, 278th Court, 1100 University Ave., Huntsville, Texas 77340. Please send copies of letters to Aranda.

Ana-Lucia Gelabert
Prisoners United for
Revolutionary Education

AIDS

The editorial "Too little, too late" in the January 20 *Militant* spells out the cold-blooded facts in the rising human toll from AIDS in New York City — 9,000 dead and counting. The article correctly places blame on the corporate owners, Wall Street bankers, and politicians of the Republican and Democratic parties in New York City, who have shed crocodile tears while thousands die because of the government's criminal neglect.

But the editorial refers to people with AIDS as victims. This term is used by the government and big-business press to imply that people who have AIDS are not capable of fighting back. The idea that you



can be sick and still organize a militant fightback campaign against the "health-care for profit" system is new. "Victims" aren't supposed to do that.

"People with AIDS" is what the leadership of the fightback against AIDS has chosen to call itself. The largest magazine in New York City for people with AIDS is called *PWA Coalition Newslite*, published by and for people with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions. It isn't called *AIDS Victims' Newslite*. The editors of the *Militant* should be sensitive to this.

George Kontanis
New York, New York

Ethiopia

As a reader I'd like to inform you that the *Militant* has been an insight in understanding the realities of life in America and the world.

Yet there is no information on the revolution in Ethiopia. I hope that in 1989 the *Militant* will do a full-scale update on the Ethiopian revolution. What is the current relationship of President Mengistu and Cuba? How much has the Dergue made Ethiopia Marxist-Leninist?

If you have a book or pamphlet on the Ethiopian revolution, or the interview with Fidel Castro, *Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*, I wish you would forward it to me. As a prisoner my funds are not up to par.

A prisoner
Dannemora, New York

Haitians' struggle

I recognize your effort to help workers' struggles go forward. I can say from the bottom of my heart, I am with you.

I am without work and cannot get a subscription and send money to buy a book. Please continue to send me the *Militant*. In this way, you help the Haitians' struggle because I share them with friends.

Y.L.
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

The people's book

Thanks for having my article put in the paper to help awaken the consciousness of our people. Again I'm back in solitary confinement. Therefore I have a lot of reading and study time.

Revolutionaries reach excellence from discipline and hard study, from love for the people. Can you send me the book *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*? I really want to study this "people's book."

A prisoner
Lawrenceville, Virginia

Skinheads and KKK

Recently I attended a class on fascism at the Pathfinder bookstore in Los Angeles. With the spread of the skinheads and the Ku Klux Klan, I strongly believe more should be done organizationally in this area.

Personally I feel the working class, particularly Blacks, Jews, gays, and other targeted groups, should be willing and ready to defend themselves.

Richard Mote
San Francisco, California

My important education

I'm a 43-year-old Puerto Rican comrade doing life in Folsom. I'm a former captain of paratroops and I have six years of college-level work. But my important education came about as a result of independent study and communication with other brothers and sisters in the struggle.

A prisoner
Repres, California

Struggles of world

Not long ago I had the privilege of being able to penetrate *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*.

I've found myself caught up in the struggles of the world, which I will be caught up in until a change is brought about. I am interested in the books *Cointelpro*, by Nelson Blackstock, and *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*, by Joseph Hansen and Evelyn Reed.

A prisoner
Trenton, New Jersey

Ruling class

I am a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1781 in San Francisco. I work as a ramp serviceman at United Airlines. I am a supporter of the *Militant* newspaper.

A coworker and myself have been able to sell 20 to 25 Action Programs and a few *Militant* subscriptions at work.

In the course of our discussions about these documents a question has come up. Many of us understand that this country, like other capitalist countries, is run by a handful of superrich. We would like to see an article in the *Militant* that identifies this ruling class. Who are these people and how do they exercise their power through the government in this country?

Wayne Schiller
San Francisco, California

A sister comrade

Revolutionary greetings! Your material here behind these oppressive bars is highly guarded and cherished at all times.

I have a sister comrade who is doing time in a ladies' concentration camp and I have attempted to share my paper with her. But the mailroom won't allow me to send it to her. So if you would please place her on your mailing list, I would appreciate it.

A prisoner
Tennessee Colony, Texas

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

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.

From a Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 defendant

I want to thank you for your support and solidarity for the past three years, and especially this past year, with the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 and the struggle for independence for Puerto Rico.

The past year has been rich in experiences for our case and the struggle in general. We've had big victories, as well as defeats, and have learned a lot from them. We successfully concluded our campaign to win bail for all of the defendants, demonstrating that if we're tenacious enough, we can win no matter how difficult the battle appears to be.

We commemorated the third anniversary of the Aug. 30, 1985, arrests with activities in almost all cities where we have support committees, including mass events in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Hartford, Connecticut. Thousands of our compatriots, people from progressive-minded sectors of the United States, and other struggles mobilized in support and solidarity. We continue to carry out protests every month in front of the federal court building in Puerto Rico and the prison in New York.

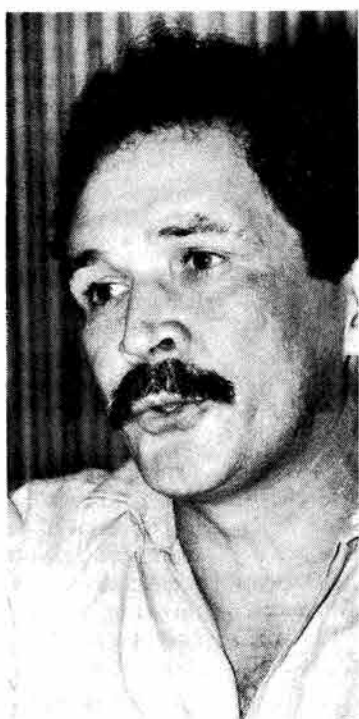
We forced the court to suppress part of the tapes obtained illegally by the FBI in Puerto Rico. This meant the trial of

nine of the defendants was postponed. The government was forced to acknowledge indirectly that, three years after the arrest of the nine, it was not prepared to bring them to trial. At this moment we are awaiting the decision of the Second Circuit Court on the government's appeal regarding these tapes. We hope to win, with your support and solidarity.

Without a doubt, the rearrest of Filiberto Ojeda and the conviction of Luz Berrios have been significant blows by the government. We must continue to fight for the freedom of both.

Next year will bring more struggle and victories. The trial under way for five of the defendants will conclude, and there will be a decision on whether the trial of the nine remaining defendants will begin. We must redouble efforts to better organize ourselves to be able to successfully meet this challenge. We must continue the education campaign directed to the people of the United States and progressive sectors on the real situation in Puerto Rico and the effects of colonialism in our country.

Today we are stronger than we were yesterday. More people know about our case and give us their solidarity and sup-



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Elías Castro

port. No matter how difficult the present can be, we know that victory will be ours and Puerto Rico will have a splendid future of freedom, work, and justice for everyone. History is on our side.

Elías Castro Ramos
Puerto Rico/Hartford 15
defendant
Hartford, Connecticut

Toronto cops indicted in Blacks' deaths

Protests demand cops face murder charges

BY GEORGE A. ROSE

TORONTO — Two cops who shot and killed Blacks in separate incidents last year have been indicted for manslaughter.

The polarization over police violence deepened dramatically January 15 as the cop association held a meeting of more than 2,000 to protest the charges.

That evening, in the Toronto suburb of Mississauga, several hundred Blacks and other opponents of cop violence gathered at a memorial service for slain Black youth Wade Lawson. The service became a demonstration of solidarity with Black Action Defence Committee (BADC) leaders who are vowing to continue protests to demand charges of murder — not just manslaughter — and an independent civilian investigation into the killings.

'Whitewash'

This confrontation has been building up during several weeks of revelations and protests. "I think this is a whitewash," Lawson's mother, Evelyn Lennon-Lyon, told a candlelight vigil on January 8. The vigil marked one month since Lawson was shot in the back of the head by police in Mississauga. Lawson, 17, was unarmed.

Constable Anthony Melaragni was charged on January 4 with manslaughter in Lawson's death; his partner, Constable Darren Longpre, with aggravated assault.

"The charge of manslaughter assumes it was an accident," said Akua Benjamin of the BADC. "When so many of our Black brothers are being killed, it is no accident. It is racism. We will not rest until we have justice."

Protests have also kept a spotlight on the police killing of Lester Donaldson last August. Donaldson was alone in his rooming-house bedroom when four cops entered and

one, David Deviney, shot him at point-blank range. Donaldson had been harassed by police for some time. In fact, cops had shot him once before, leaving him disabled.

On January 11 Deviney was charged with manslaughter.

The manslaughter charge carries a lesser penalty than murder, and it removes from a jury's consideration the issue of the intent of the cops.

The BADC's Dari Meade points out, however, "When you leave your house with a hollow-point bullet, that is a premeditated act." Police sources have unofficially confirmed to the media that Wade Lawson was killed with an illegal hollow-point bullet, which expands on impact to cause maximum damage.

Barge into church

Anger against police brutality was further fueled when shotgun-wielding Metro Toronto cops barged into a church service January 8 to arrest four Blacks and one South Asian, including a 13-year-old girl. The cops said the five were suspects in a robbery. Church deacon Harold Brown said the cops were "shoving and grabbing people and using foul language." All five youths were later released; the police say it was a case of "mistaken identity."

Even the limited charges of manslaughter have enraged the cops, who are threatening "job actions" such as refusal to patrol or hand out tickets. Art Lymer, head of the cop association, warns that cops will "be reluctant to arrest Black people, and they'll just take over the city and you'll be back to Detroit."

More plausible are thinly veiled threats of more cop violence. "If they [Blacks] provoke violence, violence is going to be



Militant/George A. Rose

Joyce Ewers, aunt of Wade Lawson, speaking at December 17 Toronto rally protesting Lawson's killing at hands of police. Activists are demanding an independent civilian investigation into cops' killing of Blacks.

provoked against them," said Lymer. "And if they put somebody's life in danger, their life is going to be put in danger."

Harassment of protest leaders may well be stepped up. Already, over the New Year's weekend, cops arrested BADC

member Rico John and held him overnight — supposedly because of an outstanding marijuana possession warrant from 1985. John hosts a radio program called "Blackline" and has played an important role in publicizing the facts in the cop killings and calling for murder charges.

Meanwhile, the big-business news media as well as the cops are campaigning to isolate the BADC. Columnists in the *Toronto Sun* rail against "the self-appointed spokesmen for a small, highly politicized segment of Metro's black community" and warn that "the criminal element in the black community surely will take advantage of such a dangerous situation."

The media have especially sought out pro-cop political figures who are Black who will join in condemning the BADC as "extremists" and a "vocal minority."

The January 15 memorial service for Lawson gave a powerful rebuff to these attacks. The 300 people who attended cheered as speaker after speaker urged unity behind those who have taken the lead in protesting cop violence.

New York meeting builds March actions against U.S. role in El Salvador war

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — Efforts are being stepped up to make a planning meeting for the upcoming March actions against the U.S. war in El Salvador as broad as possible.

The gathering — set for 7:00 p.m. January 24 at the United Church of Christ building, 132 West 31st Street in Manhattan — was initiated by the New York City affiliates of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) and the Central American Refugee Center. The initiative is in response to a national call signed by more than 160 organizations and individuals — from Central America solidarity groups and religious organizations to union officials and political officeholders.

Invitations to the meeting have been sent out to more than 130 New York-area organizations, New York CISPES leader Scott Bradwell said in an interview at the group's office.

The January issue of the New York Nicaragua Solidarity Network newsletter highlights the planning meeting and March actions, as well.

"The response to our mailing has been very positive," Bradwell said, with early commitments from two dozen organizations to send representatives to the meeting.

These include El Salvador and Nicaragua solidarity groups; organizations based in the Puerto Rican, Dominican, Salvadoran, and Haitian communities; church committees; Vietnam veteran organizations; campus antiwar groups; and political organizations.

On January 10 Hunter College professor John Hammond was kidnapped by Salva-

doran army forces while on a human rights mission in Usulután province. "Our phones rang off the hook," Bradwell said, as protests were relayed to elected officials, the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. embassy in El Salvador. Hammond was freed within 48 hours of his capture.

Bradwell said the January 24 New York meeting will discuss proposals for a March 18 demonstration in Times Square and nonviolent direct action at the Federal Building March 20.

Concert to boost Nicaragua hurricane relief

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — Recording artists Herbie Hancock, Ruben Blades, Regina Bell, Kris Kristofferson, and Richie Havens will share billing at New York's 2,700-seat Beacon Theater in a major benefit concert for Nicaraguan hurricane relief. The concert will be Tuesday, February 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Hurricane Joan devastated Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast October 22 leaving 230,000 people homeless while inflicting over \$1 billion in economic and agricultural damage.

The New York City concert will refocus attention on the impact of the hurricane and the need for continued massive emergency relief.

It is sponsored by After the Storm: National Hurricane Relief for Nicaragua, a nationally coordinated coalition that includes Madre, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, National Central

American Health Rights Network, and Walk in Peace.

The aim of the benefit, Madre staff member Martha Swan said, is to "generate unprecedented support for Nicaragua at this time" and to "hopefully be the first of such events that can spark similar, grassroots efforts across the country."

A Nicaragua solidarity group, Madre and its activities have focused on projects related to Nicaraguan women.

The New York Hurricane Relief Fund, a broad, citywide coalition spearheading local relief efforts has decided to make promotion of the concert its top priority for the next month.

The hurricane relief fund campaigned to send a tractor-trailer load of clothing and medicine to Nicaragua, along with \$50,000 in financial assistance, immediately following the disaster.

Both goals were surpassed by their early December deadline.

Since then, contributions have continued

to come in at the rate of 10 to 20 donations daily. These contributions have raised an additional \$32,000, bringing the total to \$93,000.

The New York Hurricane Relief Fund has embarked on a new, six-month campaign to raise an additional \$100,000 in aid by July 19, the 10th anniversary of the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution. Activists are continuing to sort and pack overflow material-aid donations to send a second 10-ton shipment of medicine and clothing to Nicaragua.

This work will be wrapped up with a packing session and party at the Church World Services warehouse, 637 West 125th Street in Manhattan on January 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tickets for the February 7 hurricane relief benefit concert may be purchased at Ticketmaster outlets, or at the Beacon Theater box office, 2124 Broadway (at West 77th Street) for \$25 and \$40.

To volunteer to help in these activities telephone (212) 769-4293.