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## FREEDOM

After 23 years in South Africa's dungeons, Govan Mbeki has been released. The former chairperson of the ANC declared, "The ideas for which I went to jail, I still embrace." **9**

## SHARON KOWALSKI

"The last time I saw Sharon," says Karen Thompson, "she typed, 'Help me, Karen. Take me home with you.'" The two were lovers before an accident left Kowalski a paraplegic and Thompson was forbidden to visit because she wasn't "family." A nationwide support movement is fighting to give these two their right to be together. **4**

# Budget ripoff!

## Big business dictates cuts to Washington Social Security on the chopping block

By Deirdre Griswold

November 11 — You are about to become the victim of a crime. So are your parents, your neighbors, even your children.

Anyone who has worked for a living is about to be robbed. A daring theft is being planned openly. Is there still time to do something about it?

All your working life, you have put aside money every week. At the end of each year, it can amount to a couple of thousand dollars. It's your money, but you never see it. It goes to the Social Security Administration.

It's your nest egg, to make sure you can afford to live when you can't work any longer. It's supposed to be untouchable, just like your savings. Now it's going to be broken into.

Who's behind this Great Social Security Robbery? Is it

just the senators and representatives now negotiating on how to cut the budget?

No, they're being pushed. The powerful pushers can be identified. They sponsored a two-page ad this week in the New York Times and the Washington Post.

The ad called for a "bipartisan budget plan" of cuts that would put "everything on the table." The language was oh-so-fair. It spoke of protecting programs for the poor while "restraining" (not cutting) defense spending. But all that is window dressing.

There's not much left to cut from the poor — most of it's gone already. And both Democrats and Republicans have already agreed on a cut of around \$5 billion in defense — a piddling amount in a \$300-billion defense budget!

No, what was important about this ad was the following sentence: "Cuts must be made

in non-defense programs, especially all the other entitlement, transfer, and subsidy programs that are not means-tested."

That means Social Security. And Medicare. And farm subsidies.

Who signed this ad? The bigwigs of finance and industry. Men like David Rockefeller, Lee Iacocca, J. Peter Grace and George Weyerhaeuser.

In fact, the signers include the heads of 145 of the biggest corporations and banks in the from IBM and Mobil to Boeing, Westinghouse, Xerox, Goodyear, AT&T and Chemical Bank.

These are the super-rich who make and break governments. They have former cabinet members signing with them — William Simon, Harold Brown, John Connally, C. Douglas Dillon, Robert McNamara. They cut across the Johnson. *Continued on page 2*



WW PHOTO: MARY OWEN

## STRIKE ON WALL STREET

When they say that Wall Street is working overtime because of the crash, they don't mean the bankers. Now the workers at the stock exchange are on strike. The main issue is burn-out from the stressful conditions. **6**

## ECONOMY

GM closes Massachusetts plant **▶ 3**

Prices of primary goods: The crisis before the crash **▶ 6**

1929 prescriptions for 1987 collapse **▶ 7**

# New Sec'y of Defense has sordid past

## Frank Carlucci was CIA hit man in Africa, Portugal

By Dee Knight

Frank Carlucci could be "Mr. Clean," to hear the big business media commentators and editorial writers describe him. When he replaced Adm. John Poindexter as Reagan's National Security Adviser last November in the midst of the Iran-Contra gate scandal, he was variously described as a "moderate," "highly trustworthy," "distinguished," etc., etc., ad nauseam.

Now the word is that he is "much calmer, more realistic and less ideological than Weinberger," whom he is replacing as secretary of defense.

Carlucci has been a key imperialist operative for years. As far back as 1962 he won a State Department award for bravery after he was stabbed and beaten by an angry crowd in the Congo, now Zaire, then challenged at bayonet point by Congolese soldiers and threatened with arrest. Why? As political officer in the U.S. embassy he was tagged as a key figure in the assassination of the Congo's president, Patrice Lumumba, a vitally important national leader of the former Belgian colony.

In 1964 Carlucci was expelled from the African island nation of Zanzibar (now part of Tanzania), where as U.S. consul general he was found to be conspiring to overthrow the president of the country. From there he went to Brazil, where he served as the U.S. embassy's political officer during the dark years of military dictatorship following the CIA-backed military overthrow of the progressive Goulart government there.

During the early Nixon presidency Carlucci worked directly with Weinberger at the Office of Management

and the Budget, where the two were known as "Cap the Knife" and "Carlucci the Cutter" for their ruthless hacking away at the social services budget.

**Key counterrevolutionary role in Portugal**  
When the Portuguese revolution broke out in the wake of growing wars of liberation in Portuguese-controlled Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and Angola, Carlucci was rushed to Portugal as ambassador with the job of "saving" the country. The East Berlin magazine Extra charged Carlucci with directing plans for a CIA-backed coup there. And the Portuguese Communist Party published a 167-page "Dossier Carlucci CIA," detailing his counterrevolutionary role.

Immediately after the abortive rightwing coup of March 1975, the deputy chief of the Portuguese military said, "It would without a doubt be preferable for Mr. Carlucci to leave Portugal for his physical security. . . ." But Carlucci stayed on until he was satisfied that the tender shoots of Portuguese popular power were all crushed and Portugal was restored to NATO and the European Common Market.

In case there was any doubt about his spy role by this time, it was cleared up when he returned from Portugal in 1978 to become Deputy Director of the CIA — the agency's highest operational post. While there he tried to get a law passed that would exempt CIA records from Freedom of Information Act requests. He was awarded the Distinguished Intelligence Medal in 1981.

When Weinberger returned to Washington as defense secretary under Reagan, he immediately signed Carlucci on as his right-hand man, to un-

dertake the biggest military buildup in human history.

As Deputy Secretary of Defense Carlucci also worked closely with Gen. Richard Secord, then Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East, and later one of the arms dealers forming part of Reagan's shadow government. Both men dropped out of the government at about the same time — Carlucci as president of Sears World Trade, which according to the June 25, 1984 issue of Fortune magazine was rumored to be a front for U.S. intelligence activities abroad.

Carlucci is expected to tell Congress early next year that he will accept a

far lower figure for military spending than is currently planned. If this turns out to be true, it has nothing at all to do with any differences in policy with Weinberger or the other Reaganites. It's because of the completely new situation caused by the stock market crash.

As one military expert said, the current budget situation "calls for absolutely major fundamental changes." As a loyal operative in the basic U.S. policy of counter-revolution throughout his 30-year career, Carlucci can be trusted to do everything in his power to hold back the tide of history as long as possible. In the end, his job may turn out to be impossible.

## — Budget hoax

*Continued from page 1*  
Nixon, Ford and Carter administra-

tions.  
They're all telling Congress: "Cut Social Security! CUT SOCIAL SECURITY!" They want to start by limiting the cost of living adjustment (COLA).

They know that inflation is coming. That's what the falling dollar means. How will people on Social Security be able to handle higher prices without the COLA? They're already getting hit with a higher cost for Medicare. And what about the losses suffered by those with pension plans tied to stock prices?

These corporate fat cats say the cuts are necessary to save "our economy, our standard of living." Whose standard of living? The folks who'll be starving in their old age? The farmers who've been in a depression for years?

The laid-off workers whose jobs have been snatched away by these very same corporations?

These thieves want to save their standard of living — their fabulous super-profits, their control over the wealth of society.

These cuts will hurt millions of workers but they won't turn around the growing economic crisis. Wall Street's been living high for years. What's trickled down to the rest of us has been layoffs, homelessness, wage cuts. Now that the financial structure is sinking, they're jumping on our shoulders to stay above water.

The answer? Not one penny cut from Social Security! It belongs to the workers; we paid for it. Let the corporate crooks pay for their own crisis — and they can start by cutting the swollen profits of the military-industrial complex!

## NEWS BULLETIN: People's Paper Appeals for Help to Avert Eviction

Workers World is caught in the housing crisis that's sweeping the country. Our lease runs out in 1989 and we have to find a permanent home to escape real estate created by the greedy real estate and bankers. That's why the **Workers World 30th Anniversary Building Fund** aims to raise the many hundreds of thousands of dollars — it could take as much as \$1 million — needed to buy a new home for Workers World. For your future. And the future of humanity.



Please mail your check today to the WW Building Fund. For more information write to WW Building Fund, 46 West 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010. Or call us at (212) 255-0352.

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### Workers World

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# GM stiffens auto workers with new plant shutdown

## After promising 'job security' in auto contract

By David Sole  
Detroit

With the ink barely dry on the new contract between the United Auto Workers (UAW) and General Motors Corporation, GM has already shown how little the job security provisions will be worth to the workers.

On Nov. 4, GM announced the indefinite closing of its Framingham, Mass., assembly facility and the layoff of 3,700 workers as of Nov. 30. GM also will eliminate one shift of 2,700 at its plant in Oshawa, Ontario.

The recently negotiated 1987 contract went into effect on Oct. 26 after being voted for by a majority of UAW members. Top UAW leaders sold the contract to the membership by stressing that except for 19 plants already set to close, "there would be a moratorium on plant closings." Some local union leaders, however, had warned that these promises were full of loopholes. It now appears their reservations were correct.

Auto industry analyst Gary Glaser,

with the firm of First Boston in New York, revealed that this was no real surprise and there are more to come. "I think it's reasonable to assume there will be significant production cutbacks for the industry as a whole over the next six months," he said.

GM workers already on layoff got some bad news, too, with the announcement that supplemental unemployment benefits (SUB) are being reduced by 20% for those with less than 20 years seniority. SUB, which is supposed to provide up to 95% of a worker's take home pay for up to two years, is based on a fund that is rapidly being depleted.

Laid off workers who had less than five years seniority at GM already are losing 3.33 credit weeks for every week they collect SUB. This means that instead of two years of benefits, they would only get 30 weeks.

Workers who were counting on the plant closing moratorium or on the safety net of benefits may soon be ready to renew the fight for a real

moratorium against plant shutdowns and layoffs.

### Karmazin Steel strike

Fifty members of USWA Local 13765 continue to walk the picket lines at Karmazin Steel in Wyandotte, Mich., after eight months, despite scabs in the plant and police harassment of strikers. Karmazin had demanded that workers take wage cuts

of up to \$3.30 an hour. In 1984 the union had given concessions of \$50 an hour, four paid holidays and their cost of living benefits.

On Nov. 6, in response to local president Gloria Ruffner's appeal, picket lines were beefed up by supporters from other unions. Dozens of members of USWA Local 1299 and UAW Local 15 joined the line in solidarity with this bitter strike.

## Framingham, Mass., to suffer 3,700 layoffs

By Frank Neisser  
Boston

November 5 — The General Motors Corporation announced yesterday that it would close its Framingham, Mass., car assembly plant on Nov. 30, throwing 3,700 workers on the unemployment line. A shift was also closed down at a Canadian GM plant.

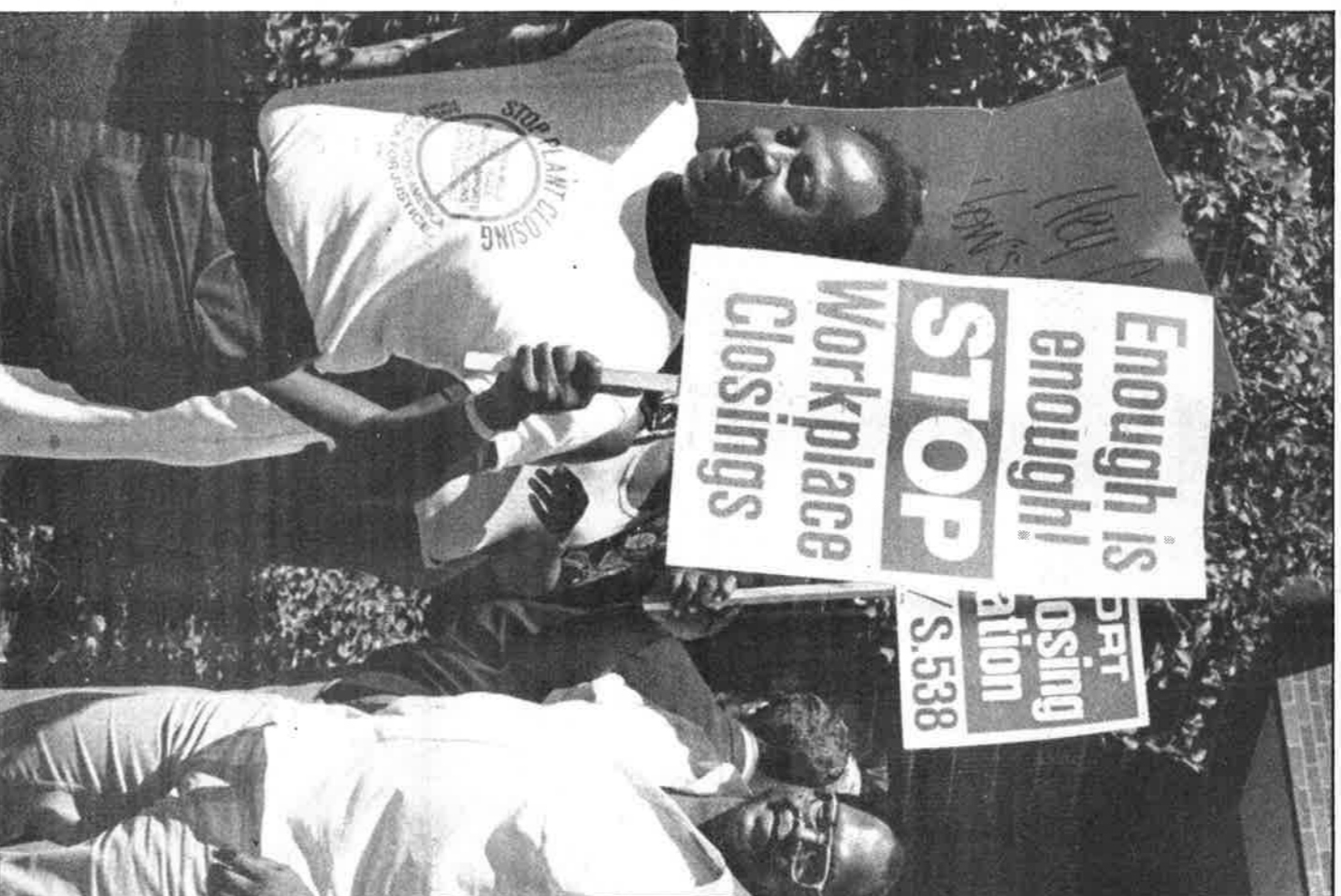
The closing was blamed on slow car sales but also reflects the recent stock market crash. GM is preparing for a lower rate of sales, expecting consumers to be more "cautious" in the wake of the crash, according to the Boston Globe.

The closing flies in the face of prior assurances by the company that there would be no shutdowns during the life of the new 3-year labor contract. State and local officials were angry at the lack of prior notification, having catered to GM with a lease of 35 acres of land and provided \$1 million in road, sewerage and water improvements. It also gives the lie to presidential

candidate Michael Dukakis' boasts of an "economic wonder state." Dukakis had used the plant in his campaign literature.

Recent gains won in the new UAW contract with General Motors will mean that some of the most senior workers will receive 95% of their pay for up to two years. However, hundreds of less senior workers are left out in the cold. It will also have a heavy impact on Framingham. The plant had a payroll of \$115 million, and GM estimates the local indirect economic impact at \$85 million annually.

"This announcement by GM shows that with the stock market crash, workers have to fight even harder for their right to a job," Steven Kirshbaum of the Boston Job is a Right Campaign told Workers World. "Governor Dukakis has the power to prevent the plant from closing by an executive order declaring an economic emergency. We demand that he do so immediately."



Picket in Traverse City, Mich., July 26 shows growing fight against plant closings. WW PHOTO

# Reaganites humiliated by Bork II episode

By Andy Stapp

Reagan nominated Douglas Ginsburg to the Supreme Court two weeks ago with the expectation that the judge would be handing down right-wing decisions well into the third decade of the 21st century.

Today Ginsburg will be lucky if he can hold onto his judgeship at the Federal Court of Appeals. Already under fire for playing a corrupt role in a Justice Department action involving cable TV while he had \$140,000 invested in a cable firm, Ginsburg bit the dust when he conceded that he "tried" marijuana while a college student in the 1960s and again a decade later. The judge's revelations came after former classmates from Harvard told news organizations that they had seen him smoke the drug at parties.

"It was the only drug I ever used," he explained.

This should not be a serious issue, given the climate of the 1960s when tens of millions of people, including probably the majority of college stu-

dents, used marijuana. Ginsburg's efforts to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from banning manufacture and distribution of asbestos, a carcinogen which has destroyed so many lives, is a far, far more serious offense. But it was precisely that sort of thing, as well as his hostility to civil rights and free speech, which endeared Ginsburg to the Reaganites.

Reagan had promised to follow up on Bork with a nominee "they will dislike just as much," and he did. Ginsburg, who came highly recommended by such reactionary luminaries as William Bradford Reynolds and Strom Thurmond, is a so-called specialist in corporate law. That means he is dedicated to helping make big business even richer, while getting wealthy himself along the way.

The Reagan administration is full of such characters, starting with the president. Making as much money as fast as possible is their highest aspiration. And they'll do anything to achieve this end.

In the week Reagan sent Ginsburg's nomination before the Senate, four high White House officials, including Attorney General Ed Meese, were appearing before grand juries investigating their corruption!

What do these people care about "sins"? They've committed them all! As front men for the super-rich, though, they are eager to attack women's equal rights, especially the right for comparable pay. And they are always ready to find a scapegoat among the oppressed to distract attention from the crimes of the wealthy, the real rulers of this country.

### An alliance between wealth and bigotry

In the process of trying to broaden the base for their program, which boils down to robbing the working people and the poor and handing the loot to the rich, the cynical officialdom of the Reagan administration have implemented an alliance with the reactionary religious rightwing preachers who make preaching morality their stock and trade.

The deal was simple. On the one hand, Jerry Falwell preaches that "great riches are a sign of God's approval." And the president, who hasn't been inside a church in years, returns the favor by inviting bombers of abortion clinics to the White House, pushing for tax breaks to segregated church academies, denouncing the theory of biological evolution and campaigning for state-sponsored mandatory prayer in the public schools.

Ironically, it was not liberals who brought down Ginsburg, but 20 ultra-conservative senators led by Jesse Helms.

On top of the marijuana episodes, they could not forgive Ginsburg's wife, who is a doctor, from performing a few abortions while an intern.

The whole affair indicates that Reaganism is on the wane, a humiliating and squalid comedown from years gone by. The credit for this turn of events cannot be given to the Democrats, however. In the case of Judge Ginsburg, the Reaganites brought this debacle down on themselves.

# Congress bows to Jesse Helms on AIDS amendment

## Denies funds to those who do most to fight epidemic

By Saul Kanowitz

On Oct. 14, in a consciously anti-gay action, the United States Senate voted 94-2 in support of an amendment to the Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill sponsored by Jesse Helms that would deny federal funds to any organizations that "promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual activity."

The aim of this amendment was to deny federal funding to the lesbian and gay community, who are fighting to stop the AIDS epidemic.

That this decision came three days after the largest lesbian and gay rights march in the history of this country is a statement by both the Republican and Democratic parties as to where their interests lie and who they represent. The Senate is a group of nearly all-white, all-male millionaires who represent and answer to the

corporations, the bankers and the military.

What did the liberal Democrats have to say about their cave-in to the ultra right? Sen. Edward Kennedy's office said of his 'yes' vote against the gay community, "The train was leaving the station and we did not want it to run us over so we joined it."

At a fundraising dinner for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay political action organization, Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), in defense of his 'yes' vote stated, "We felt the best strategy was not to have a big floor debate. I am confident the conference floor committee will wipe out the bad language."

The liberals don't want a public debate on the question of acknowledging and supporting the tremendous work the lesbian and gay community has done around the AIDS epidemic because they are not fundamentally dif-

ferent from the Helms, or the Dannemeyers. They want to soften up and legitimize the unscientific and homophobic rantings of the ultra-right.

This vote not only denies, it impedes the work that has been done at the grass roots level to provide services and care. These are services the government is guilty of not providing. Henri Norris of the Multicultural Alliance for the Prevention of AIDS in Oakland, Calif., stated, "This is nothing but a red herring for racism and homophobia on the part of Helms, a racism and homophobia which will help spread the worst epidemic of the century."

The callous, business as usual approach of the Congress was exposed by Sue Hyde of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force when she told Gay Community News, "It is a simple question. They are denying funding to

a program that keeps us alive. They are saying that they do not care if we live or die."

The ruling class may think they can decide the future of the lesbian and gay community and people with AIDS by legislative edict. Last year, they thought the Supreme Court's infamous *Hardwick* Decision that lesbian and gay people are criminals by definition would silence the community after the annual pride marches. The response from the community was the militant street demonstrations of July in New York City and around the country which sparked the organizing for the National March On Washington this past Oct. 11.

The community is no longer just grieving, it is angry and organizing. The bosses and the bigots have not learned from previous history. People with AIDS and the lesbian and gay community are fighting back!!

## Lesbian supporters campaign to bring Sharon Kowalski home

By Leslie Feinberg  
New York

November 8 — As Karen Thompson prepares to return to Minnesota District Court on behalf of her lesbian lover, Sharon Kowalski, a national support campaign is gearing up. Sharon Kowalski become brain-damaged and paraplegic after her car was hit by a drunk driver in November 1983. Kowalski and Thompson had been lovers, exchanged rings and bought a house together.

"The night of the accident I got some inkling of the hell that was going to follow," Thompson told an audience of 100 disabled and lesbian and gay activists in New York City last week. She said when she arrived at the St. Cloud, Minn., hospital she "couldn't find out if the person I loved most in the world was alive or dead because I was not blood 'family.'"

Thompson, a physical education professor with a background in physical therapy, began to work with Kowalski, who soon progressed to be able to use her hands to eat and wash, and to communicate with a typewriter.

When Sharon Kowalski's parents learned of the nature of the two women's relationship, they tried to bar Thompson from visiting, and moved Sharon to a hospital farther north. Thompson filed a motion to be named legal guardian and failed. Kowalski's father retained those rights and Thompson was legally blocked from seeing Sharon, who is still in the nursing home.

Thompson has not seen her lover for more than two years. "The last time I saw Sharon," Thompson explains, "she typed, 'Help me, Karen. Please take me home with you.' I had to look at her and say, 'Sharon, I'm doing everything I can, and I will never quit fighting this. But I've got to go now — my time is up.' Sharon is still there."

Thompson has filed a new motion in District Court in Duluth, Minn., asking that Kowalski's capabilities be tested and she be legally "restored to capacity" which would give Kowalski some say over her own life.

### Support network grows

It is the courage of Karen Thompson to come out of the closet and brave a national speaking tour that is responsible for the broad support this case is receiving. She stresses that it is systemic oppression, including sexism and bigotry against lesbians and gay men and the lack of rights for disabled people, that is trapping Sharon Kow-

alski — not her body.

But Thompson stresses her optimism and determination. She told the New York City audience last week, "I am more exhilarated and alive to find out what an empowering experience it can be to stand up and fight back!"

The day before the October 11 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, groups met from Boston, San Francisco, New York City, Minnesota, Vermont, the state of Washington and the D.C. area to build a national network to fight for the rights of Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson, forming the Bring Sharon Kowalski Home Committee.

Thanks to the wide-spread fund-raising efforts of groups nationally, and Thompson's tireless campaign, all but \$30,000 of Thompson's \$110,000 legal bills have been paid.

The Gay Community News reports this week that a birthday card campaign organized by the disability rights group Rainbow Women resulted in over 1,000 birthday cards for Sharon. Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich has reportedly refused to deliver the cards.

At the beginning of this month the Minnesota group organized a demonstration of over 200 people at the State Capitol in St. Paul.

Gay Community News said, "future ideas include encouraging all gay pride organizers nationwide to name Kowalski 'grand marshal in absentia' in 1988; coordinating a national action on Kowalski's 32nd birthday next August; making long-range plans for civil disobedience at the nursing home; and considering a coordinated campaign of telephone calls to Kowalski. The group has also agreed to promote a holiday card campaign this December."

Here are three works by Sam Marcy that illuminate the development of the economic crisis over the past decade.

**Reindustrialization**, written at the end of the Carter administration, forewarned of the anti-worker offensive being prepared by big business.

**Anatomy of the Economic Crisis** analyzed the speculation and bank failures of the early '80s, showed how monopoly was stifling capitalist development, and provided a fightback program for UAW workers confronted with the first major giveback demands by Ford Motor Company.



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Oct. 11 march in D.C. for lesbian and gay rights. The Sharon Kowalski case has continued to gather support.

**High Tech, Low Pay**, written last year, is the most thorough examination yet

written of how the scientific-technological revolution is bringing sweeping changes in the composition of the working class that will have profound importance for reviving an independent struggle of the workers against the bosses. It uncovers the roots of the financial crisis which is now rocking Wall Street.

**High Tech, Low Pay**, 217 pages, \$5.95. (Add 75¢ for postage)

**Reindustrialization**, 64 pages, \$2.00. (Add 75¢ for postage)

**Anatomy of the Economic Crisis**, 128 pages, \$3.25. (Add 75¢ postage)

All three of the above. Special offer of \$10.00. (Add \$1 for postage and handling.)

Return to: World View

46 West 21 Street, New York, N.Y. 10010.



# Nicaragua, Reagan and the peace plan

By Sharon Shelton

On the eve of his Nov. 11 visit to the U.S., Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega proposed direct talks with President Reagan and his contra puppets to end the fighting in Central America.

The Reagan administration, however, immediately indicated it would not accept even such a generous offer, complaining that it was intended to make the contra butchers "junior partners of the U.S.," which everyone knows they are.

This offer by the Sandinistas, who have bent over backward to fulfill the terms of the Central American peace accord, and the U.S. response are not unusual. Washington has over and over again shown it is not interested in an end to the fighting, but remains committed to its efforts to overthrow the popular Sandinista government.

With the contra war a military failure and world public opinion solidly arrayed against U.S. imperialism, however, the Reagan administration has had to maneuver to try to look like it's seeking a "peaceful" solution. This is what's behind Reagan's announcement that Shultz might talk with the Nicaraguan government leaders at some future date and that the White House would not seek its \$270 million contra aid package until January.

Neither of these two proclamations would bring any real changes. Reagan said Shultz would meet with the Sandinistas only after they meet directly with the contras, and the White House probably couldn't get the contra aid before January, anyway. Yet, the announcements do show how isolated and weak the administration has become, especially concerning its policy toward Nicaragua.

Unlike the Sandinistas, U.S. imperialism and its Central American puppets have done absolutely nothing of substance to show good faith. Just last week, the House — Republicans and Democrats — passed another \$3 million in "temporary" "humanitarian" contra aid for Reagan. The bill is expected to easily pass the Senate any day.

## Weapons in 'humanitarian' aid

By now, everybody knows that weapons are routinely included in U.S. "humanitarian" aid shipments to the contras, and everyone should know that the politicians in Congress have passed one "temporary" aid bill after another, always promising to stand up to Reagan "next time."

Not surprisingly, not one of the U.S. bases in Honduras from which the contras carry out their bloody attacks has been disbanded — even though Honduras is required by the plan to stop allowing the contras to operate there. On Nov. 5, the day the first stage of the peace plan was supposed to go into effect, Honduran President Jose Azcona didn't even bother to make a statement.

That's because it's U.S. imperialism that's running the show there, much to

the anger of many Hondurans, by the way, who are sick and tired of the U.S. military and their contra puppets trampling across the land and using it as a base of aggression against their Nicaraguan neighbors.

In Guatemala, which is also supposedly bound by the treaty, it's the same story. Fighting is currently going on there between the military and liberation forces. The U.S.-backed government met only three days with guerrillas, but the talks ended and now officials say there is no point in resuming them.

Although the Guatemalan regime announced an amnesty, even the U.S. big business press admits that am-

nesty is "a law that will have limited effect because the Guatemalan army has killed most people it captured in recent years" (New York Times, Nov. 6). What the Times fails to mention, of course, is that the Guatemalan army is trained in its methods of torture and killing by the Pentagon.

## Talks broken off

In El Salvador, the liberation forces broke off the talks with the government during the first week of November to protest the cold-blooded murder of the country's leading human rights activist by the U.S.-trained death squads. The Duarte regime's idea of complying with the accords was to

give amnesty to the death squads, to let the killers of Archbishop Romero, the four U.S. churchwomen, and tens of thousands of Salvadoran workers and peasants go free.

Inside Nicaragua, according to BBC reports, the U.S.-backed contra counter-revolutionaries are using the cease-fire to amass troops along the Rama Road in Central Nicaragua and in the North near Fantasma. Meanwhile, in Managua, hundreds of thousands of people turned out on Nov. 5 to hear Ortega, who explained that the cease-fire negotiations "must not be confused with a political dialogue about the revolution's goals and methods."

## Salvadoran guerrillas stage bold actions against regime

By Carl Glenn

In recent weeks the revolution in El Salvador, led by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), has achieved military and political victories that have proven its growing strength and overwhelming popular support.

Among the actions that have taken place within the last two weeks was a protest march of thousands of workers, students and relatives of victims of death-squad killings. The march was part of the funeral of human-rights advocate Herbert Anaya Sanabria, head of the non-governmental Human Rights Commission of El Salvador, who was assassinated Oct. 21 as he was taking his children to school.

Also to protest this killing, the representatives of the FMLN refused to further dignify the peace talks with the government that have been taking place since August and were supposed to have continued with a meeting in the Mexican capital.

Government links to the death squads have been well documented, although the only arrests that have ever taken place came only after intense international pressure. "To attend this meeting would only contribute to the creation of false hopes and distract national and international attention from the murder," an FMLN press statement read in part.

Last week, also in response to this assassination, the FMLN called a nationwide boycott of all transport. For three days the boycott remained as much as 98% effective according to newspaper accounts, and dealt a powerful economic and political blow to the Duarte regime. Despite the government offer to provide heavily armed military convoys to accompany bus and truck traffic, this was declined by carriers because it was considered "too dangerous."

## FMLN hits economic targets

In another series of attacks on economic targets, on Nov. 5 FMLN forces destroyed 11 major electrical power

installations as well as four smaller facilities. The director of the government-run electric company described the coordinated attacks as the most devastating of the entire war.

These actions are taking place in the context of a regional peace accord signed last August by the presidents of Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Nicaragua as well as El Salvador, the provisions of which went into effect on Nov. 5.

One of the terms of this agreement is the freeing of political prisoners held by the respective governments. While

most of the approximately 63,000 deaths that have occurred during the course of the Salvadoran people's revolution and U.S. sponsored counter-revolutionary war have been unarmed civilians killed by government troops or government death squads, the government will be releasing and granting amnesty to the

handful of these butchers that have been arrested.

There are hundreds of political prisoners, labor leaders, students and other liberation struggle waiting to benefit from this amnesty.

The timing of the Anaya assassination, just one day prior to the enactment of the amnesty decree is seen as a signal that the government intends to use political assassinations to prevent the democratic participation of the revolutionary opposition which enjoys broad popular support.

The extent of mass support for the revolutionary forces was dramatically revealed last month as an FMLN delegation came to the capital during the previous round of peace talks to meet with Duarte. A crowd estimated at 100,000 people came out to openly demonstrate their support for the revolutionaries.



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**Strip-search protests.** Rallies demanding an end to the strip-searches of Irish women in British prisons were held on Nov. 8 in Glasgow, Scotland, London, England, and Philadelphia and New York City in the U.S. In front of the British Consulate in New York, Christine Beatty, an Irish Republican woman just released after spending more than eight years in Armagh jail, described the horrors of this form of sexual torture. She said that since 1982 a group never exceeding 35 political prisoners, most of them unconvicted, had been strip-searched 4,000 times. Prison guards never found anything. The only purpose for this deliberate degradation is to demoralize the women and break their fighting spirit. Among those speakers who drew cheers at the rally were Esperanza Martell of the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression and Victor Mashabela of the African National Congress of South Africa. Martell called for solidarity in the support of Irish, Puerto Rican, South African and Palestinian political prisoners.

WW PHOTO: LALLAN STEIN

# The crisis before the crash

## How capitalist over-production hit agriculture and primary goods first — the 1920s and the 1980s

By Deidre Gnsword

When stock prices were going up, up, up, bringing with them a boom in luxury condos, shiny office towers and Lear jets, the cheerleaders for capitalism could shrug off the mass layoffs in auto and steel, the farm-belt woes and even the bank failures spreading throughout the Midwest and the oil-producing states.

"Unfortunately," they said, "but these are necessary adjustments to the economy." Once the "shakeout" of inefficient enterprises was completed, the problem would be over.

This view — that everything was basically hunky-dory with the capitalist economy just so long as the big banks and corporations were raking it in — also treated the monumental debt crisis of the oppressed countries as something that could be kept contained within their borders.

Like the owners of the Titanic, the captains of finance and industry thought their ship had water-tight compartments. Even if some chambers were to be ruptured, the essential engines of the economy would remain high and dry.

The people of the Dominican Republic or of Bolivia might be submerged, the icy waters might even be lapping at Omaha and Tulsa, but Wall Street would forever be going full steam ahead!

And then came the deluge.

It is, of course, still the official mythology that no significant economic decline will follow the great market crash. In Washington and in Wall Street, even while they throw the blame back and forth, hopes are raised that budget cuts, the decline in the dollar and improved investor psychology will do the trick.

### Signs of gathering crisis.

#### In the 1920s and the 1980s

Nevertheless, the market crash did not come out of the blue. The signs of crisis have been accumulating for many years — exactly as they had been doing in the 1920s before the stock market crash that signaled the beginning of the Great Depression. Then, as now, the crisis of capitalist overproduction had been building for some time, but was felt first in agriculture and raw materials before it overtook the manufacturing industries.

During World War I, farm output in

the U.S. had taken a big jump as Europe's production fell. Once the war was over, however, the U.S. went into a recession (1920-22), from which the farm sector never recovered. Prices for agricultural products remained low throughout the twenties while manufactured goods got more expensive. The photos of that day show the results: rickety children dressed in rags, tumbledown shacks and grim-faced farmers. There were no "Roaring Twenties" for them.

They were the proof of the growing overproduction that was forcing down the prices of primary products throughout the capitalist world. Also affected were the countries then held as colonies by the imperialist powers and whose main products were raw materials.

What has been happening in recent times?

### Falling prices for raw materials

For many years now, the prices of primary goods have been falling on the world market, particularly when seen in relation to manufactured goods. The results have been catastrophic to the oppressed countries and, more recently, to the agricultural and oil-producing states here in the U.S.

As long ago as Aug. 1, 1958, the London Financial Times wrote about the "tumble in world commodity prices." This was followed by a major recession in the early sixties, but two factors helped to rev up the capitalist machine once again: the Vietnam War, which stimulated the economy because at that time the U.S. still had a lot of credit to draw on (unlike now, when military spending and the huge debt it has generated are a tremendous drag on the economy); and a concerted effort by the bankers to stimulate the circulation of capital by pushing investments and loans on the Third World countries through such vehicles as the Alliance for Progress and the International Monetary Fund.

The war economy in the U.S. for a while helped to provide a market for the commodities that were being turned out in ever greater numbers throughout the world. But the war eventually ground to a halt, with all Southeast Asia having torn free of the world capitalist system.

The debt problems of the Third World began to surface as prices for

their raw materials continued to slide.

### Oil has joined the decline

These problems became more acute with the rise in oil prices of the late seventies. Oil was the only important commodity that was running counter to the trend — but its price increase was due to special factors, not least of which was the collusion of the super-giant oil monopolies.

While the imperialists took great delight in attacking OPEC and blaming it for the inflation of that period, they benefited as petrodollars poured into the capitalist banking system. Politically, the price increase helped shore up reactionary regimes in the Middle East and tied even revolutionary countries like Iran more securely to the capitalist world market.

The high price led to increased production and exploration, the sinking of new wells, conservation and switching to other fuels. And so even oil prices had to break eventually.

Countries like Mexico, Nigeria and Venezuela, which had counted on oil

sales to climb out of the debt trap, are now back in the doldrums. Both the price and the volume of their oil exports has declined. By 1984, Mexico was using 72% of its oil exports to pay the interest on its debt (and the figure is even higher now).

The oil-producing states in the U.S. have now been hit by the world oil glut. Bankruptcies there are up 25% over a year ago. Real estate prices have plunged in Texas while unemployment has soared.

Since the stock market crash, prices for crude-oil futures have fallen sharply. When the government announced on Nov. 4 that its stockpile of oil had increased to 349 million barrels, there was a further plunge in oil prices. There's just "too much oil around," says the Wall Street Journal.

### Drop in primary prices led to mounting debt in oppressed countries

The desperate plight of countries that depend on the export of raw materials to earn hard currency (dollars) can be seen in these comparative figures:

- In 1960, one ton of coffee bought 37.3 tons of fertilizer. By 1982, the same amount of coffee bought only 15.8 tons of fertilizer.

- In 1959, 6 tons of jute bought one

*Continued on page 10*

## 'We're fighting for our lives'

### Wall Street's workers strike over pay

By Mary Owen  
New York

November 10 — At 8 a.m. this morning, over 1,100 workers at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), members of Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 153, set up a massive picketline in the heart of the financial district marking the first day of their strike for improved pension benefits. Also striking are 325 workers at the Securities Industry Automation Corporation, which handles securities transactions.

Spirited chants of "Pension, pension!" and "We want a contract!" echoed from the buildings as the workers gave up the daily pressures of the market floor to picket in pouring rain. Some blew whistles, others vowed "We'll stay out here through rain, snow or whatever to win!"

Local 153's NYSE unit contains a varied and multinational group of workers. On the line, older white men with decades of experience on "the floor" enthusiastically answered the chants of younger, Black women picket captains who are newer to the NYSE workforce. An electrician huddled under an umbrella beside a porter who sweeps up the mountains of paper after a day's transactions.

They typify the new influx of service workers into the financial district who carry out the day-to-day work for the bankers and brokers and suffer the same hardships, lack of benefits and bad working conditions as their brothers and sisters in factories and other workplaces across the country.

The strikers are clerical workers, transaction reporters, clerks, messengers, maintenance workers and others, men and women, Black, Latin and white, who daily endure the pressures, jostling and screaming on the stock market floor to record and transmit the data that results in the numerical figures displayed by the computerized "ticker tape." Because the work is so stressful, workers often retire before age 65 at reduced pensions. This "burn out" and the need for an early retire-



Wall street workers make first post-crash picket.

ment provision are the key issues of the walkout.

### Current pension low

Currently the NYSE, which sees literally trillions of dollars of the bosses' stocks change hands daily and generates a phenomenal income, only provides a pension to its workers of one-third of their final year's income. For a worker making \$27,000, that would mean only \$9,000 a year pension if they can hold out to age 65. The union is demanding a pension of half-pay at age 55.

During today's picketing, a few scabs stepped outside to heckle the strikers and were met with a militant response. "We're fighting for our lives out here," said a young Black woman who has worked for NYSE for about a year. "I'm not here long, but I know it's wrong to scab. If a scab crosses the line and then we win our demands, the scab will benefit without helping to fight with us." Meanwhile union

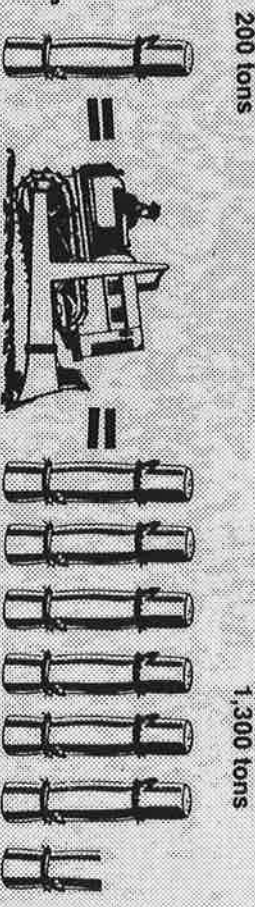
In 1959, six tons of jute bought one truck.  
In 1982, 26 tons of jute bought an equivalent truck.



1959

1982

In 1960, 200 tons of sugar bought a 180-horsepower bulldozer.  
By 1982, the same bulldozer cost 1,300 tons of sugar.



200 tons

1,300 tons

1960

1982

# 1929 prescriptions for 1987 collapse

By Robert Dobrow

November 9 — Ever since the stock market collapse 21 days ago, the ruling class, their politicians, professors and journalists, have kept repeating over and over again that what happened on Wall Street on Oct. 19 was not a repeat of 1929. They keep saying it so much they might actually convince themselves.

Yet the response to the crisis by the Reagan government and the bankers and billionaires at the helm of the capitalist establishment is almost a carbon copy of the snake oil remedies that their 1929 forerunners applied to "solve" the crisis back then.

Their economic prescription has three parts. First, increase exports by letting the dollar fall against the other currencies. Two, lower interest rates and get the economy moving. Three, balance the budget and cut the deficit.

**Fallacy #1 — The drop of the dollar or Funny Money II.** Washington is said to have a "new" policy to allow the value of the dollar to fall. This is supposed to make U.S. goods competitive overseas and help those industries that sell abroad.

This is exactly what the capitalist government did after the 1929 crash when they devalued the dollar by taking it off the gold standard. Then, it

## lives out here' over pensions



WWW PHOTO: MARY OWEN

phone company workers, members of CWA, and delivery drivers refused to cross the line.

This is the first strike by NYSE workers since the 1940s but it's the second time in two years that financial district workers have walked. In 1985, 1,700 workers, also members of Local 153, struck the Depository Trust Company, a transactions clearing-house.

The increased militancy on the part of these service workers and the NYSE strike, coming on the heels of the Wall Street crash, are a vivid reminder of just who it is that performs all the work in the financial district and in the many corporations across the country whose stock transactions it records. At a time when the bankers and brokers would like the working class to be frozen with fear after their market crash, it's heartening to see that the NYSE workers have called their bluff and are fighting back.

## Ruling class proposals offer no real solutions

was popularly called "funny money."

A dollar used to be worth a set amount of gold — 1/35th of an ounce. If you had a \$20 bill, you could walk into any bank and exchange it on the spot for gold. The gold standard was government enforced and gave a measure of stability to the U.S. currency. By eliminating the gold standard, the value of the dollar fell.

Bourgeois economists will tell you that this is the surest way to increase a country's exports. For instance, if 2000 yen can buy \$10 worth of goods before the dollar fall, they will buy, say, \$15 worth afterward. Presto! U.S. goods in Japan become more competitive.

This brilliant theory omits a few things. For one, what about Japanese goods sold in the U.S.? They don't go down in price, they go up. Workers here must pay more for imports, such as TVs, radios, clothing, cars, etc. This causes inflation.

Second, the devalued dollars that get used to buy goods and services abroad eventually come back into the U.S. and find their way to the vaults of the U.S. banks and Treasury. There, these inflated dollars can't buy what they used to. Their value has shrunk. The government must print up or borrow even more money. This causes inflation and increases the government's debt.

Finally, why would Japan or West Germany or any of the imperialist countries sit back and let the U.S. manipulate its currency and gain a competitive edge? Why wouldn't they do the same thing — devalue their currencies and make their exports more competitive?

This is exactly what happened in the 1930s. The British, the U.S., the French imperialists all devalued their currencies, back and forth across the Atlantic, eliminating any temporary advantage. A full-scale trade war eventually broke out with high tariffs. World trade shrank by a staggering 50%.

**Fallacy #2 — Lowering interest rates or priming the pump.** Last week, the U.S. ruling class applauded West Germany's decision to lower interest rates. This, they say, will "stimulate" the West German economy. West Germans will have more money to buy U.S. goods. The U.S. Federal Reserve Board is also trying to lower interest rates. This is supposed to get more money circulating, rev up production and move the economy forward.

But is the problem really that not enough products are being produced? Or is it that capitalist industry is suffering from stagnation as a result of too many products that they can't find buyers for? **Over-production** of agricultural goods has characterized U.S. farming for over five years. The oil glut has caused a near depression for much of Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

The over-production of basic commodities and metals like cocoa, sugar and bauxite has seen prices plummet and brought economic devastation to many Third World countries. Steel has suffered from what the economists call "under-utilization" (over-production) for several years.

Will lowering interest rates, giving more money to the banks to be able to make more loans, solve anything? Or will it just further aggravate this over-production?

### Militarism the cause

In all their talk about interest rates, they never explain why interest rates are high in the first place. An interest rate can be thought of as the price which a banker charges for the use of money. According to the laws of supply and demand, prices go up when demand goes up. Thus interest rates go up because the demand for money goes up. What does that mean?

It means that when the government announces that it is planning a one-trillion-dollar military buildup, one of the biggest and most unprecedented in human history, the bankers can see that the government will need money to pay for it. Whatever money the government can't raise by collecting taxes, it gets by borrowing from the banks.

The very same bankers who publicly hemoan the high interest rates, are the ones who jack up the interest rates in anticipation of the huge profits that will come their way as a result of loaning hundreds of billions of dollars to the government to finance the war buildup.

All this leads to **Fallacy #3, the Budget Hoax.** We are now witnessing the bipartisan chorus to balance the budget. They want a \$30-40 billion budget cut. But the budget deficit is about \$170 billion and this is a drop in the bucket compared to the national debt which is \$2.3 trillion.

What do they intend to get by cutting \$30-40 billion? For the Reaganites, balancing the budget has always been a codeword for taking money from the workers and poor. Defense expenditures are never cut. Maybe once in a rare moon, the rate of increase of military spending is slowed down a bit, but war spending has

## Reaganites rush to bail out securities firms

By Lailan Stein

The White House has come up with a plan which shows that they fear a stock market collapse which may be even worse than the Oct. 19 crash.

According to an official of the Treasury Department, George D. Gould, the Reagan administration is devising a bailout plan with an emergency fund of \$2 to \$3 billion for the purpose of rescuing a small group of stock brokerage companies known as specialists. Funds are to be contributed by the big Wall Street investors and major corporations which sell securities in the market.

You can bet that this billion-dollar rescue plan for Wall Street multi-millionaires isn't going to be dragged through Congress and held up in the Senate for months of deliberation. It is being proposed at a time when the budget axe is being sharpened, while the same corporate giants that are the gracious donors to this emergency fund are planning massive layoffs and cutbacks to hold up their profit margin.

Millions of poor and oppressed people could change their lives with a billion dollar emergency fund. Just who is this group of favored stock brokers?

In the stock exchange they are a group of brokerage companies who are called specialists. They function as the broker's broker, the financial speculator's speculator. They are inter-

grown steadily for the past 40 years except for the period just after the Korean and Vietnam wars ended. What goes are things like food stamps, aid for education, medical assistance, unemployment benefits. These are the "wasteful," "nonessentials" that the ruling class wants to eliminate.

Budget cuts mean lowering the standard of living of the people. Cutting their purchasing power. The ruling class wants to shift the burden for their crisis onto the workers and poor. But will this really help their economic crisis? If people have less money to spend on food, appliances, clothing, will this prevent a rerun of the Depression? Or will it spur the crisis on?

What comes out in bold relief from looking at the various "solutions" that the ruling class is pursuing in the wake of the stock market collapse is the utter bankruptcy of all of them. "Stimulating" the economy may lead to inflation and increased over-production. Cutting back, taking more out of the hides of the workers and poor will erode the purchasing power of the masses of people.

As long as production is geared for profit, as long as the basic means of production are owned by a tiny clique of parasitic billionaires, as long as the military-industrial complex dominates the economy, there is really nothing the ruling class can do to extricate themselves from economic crisis.

They are caught in the blind grip of their own irrational system. Only the revolutionary intervention of the working class and oppressed people and a restructuring of the economy from a system based on profit to one based on human need can end economic crisis, racism and war.

mediaries who sell to the brokers what they are buying and buy up whatever the brokers sell.

Except on days like Oct. 19 when the market crashed. Then a curious thing happened. Their role reversed. When everyone was selling they sold, sold, sold, thereby greasing the slide.

It appears that the Reagan administration's plan to shore up these specialist brokers is one more plug in a crumbling dam. Felix G. Rohatyn, a partner of Lazard Freres investment company and notorious for wielding the budget axe against poor and working New Yorkers, is all for the billion dollar fund. He says, "Let's not wait for the avalanche."

Like other plans made in the summits of Washington and Wall Street during this catastrophic economic crisis, it not only shows fear but helplessness in coming up with solutions. There are obvious questions to be asked. Who holds and invests the emergency fund while waiting for the next major plunge? What will happen to them and the \$2 to \$3 billion dollar investment when the market collapses?

But most of all, the question is how come they can come up with a billion-dollar emergency fund to bail out Wall Street brokers at a time when Washington is preparing to make more cuts in the benefits to the poor, workers and elderly?

# EDITORIALS

## Herbert Hoover look-alikes

Why is the Democratic Party leadership of Congress meeting with President Reagan to cut social services and raise taxes?

Think about it. Since Reagan entered office, more than \$120 billion has been chopped out of programs which aid students, the hungry, pregnant women, subsidize low cost housing and assist the unemployed. At the same time, \$2 trillion has been lavished on the Pentagon. This is not what people wanted. That's why they defeated every candidate that Reagan personally campaigned for in a big way in the 1986 congressional elections. That's how the Democrats got control of both houses of Congress. This was no mandate for even deeper cuts in the non-military budget. Seven years of that is enough!

But now, because the stock market has crashed, Reagan's rich friends are in a panic. They want more belt tightening, for everyone but themselves. So the Democratic leadership in Congress is scurrying around to see how deep into the bone they can send the knife. But if this crisis is for real, and it is, people are going to need more help, not less. Twenty million in this country go to bed hungry every night. With the economic collapse, things are likely to get worse. There should be more job programs, more food aid, not another brutal round of takeaways.

If they can't see that, the Democrats should shut their mouths about "fighting Reaganism," and instead enter the contest for the best Herbert Hoover look-alike.

more cuts in social services and raising taxes. That's because the budget deficit is being blamed for the crisis of capitalism.

After that fateful voice spoke, a game began to be played. At the center of this game is Reagan.

In the media, Reagan is being presented as the man who is standing firm on his refusal to raise taxes. No one in the media or from the Democratic or Republican parties is challenging this charade.

Look at the record, however. The Reagan years have been as much "tax and spend" as the Democratic years that preceded him. The only real change is that the package is being presented in a different wrapping.

In 1985, the Brookings Institution did a study of taxes. What they found was that workers and poor people carry the full burden of taxes. A study was made of 100,000 households and it was proven that the poorest people in the bottom 20% paid the same tax rate as the richest 10%.

And what did Reagan do in the meantime? He introduced a tax bill that reduced taxes to the rich even more!

When the income tax was first introduced, one of the ways it was sold to the people was that the biggest burden would be on the rich and the corporations. In the years following World War II, people in the highest income bracket paid at a tax rate of 91%. This was reduced to 77% in 1969 and when Reagan came

into office in 1980 it was 70%.

The new tax law reduces that to 28%! Of course, no rich person ever paid 70%. The Congress made sure that there were plenty of loopholes for the rich. But now the rate is even lower.

What has the new tax law meant for working people or the poorest? For the first time, unemployment compensation is now taxable. Before, if you were unemployed it was assumed that you shouldn't have to be penalized for not having a job. Now you are.

Medical benefits are now also taxed, and tax credits for child care as well as expenses for the job like tools and uniforms are severely reduced. But hardest hit by the new tax plan are the elderly, especially those with large medical bills. If illness doesn't kill an older person, the new tax just might.

So what is this myth that the media keeps repeating that Reagan is firm against taxes? The only taxes he's against are those on the rich and on big corporations. He's for taxes on the poor and on workers and he's consistently raised those taxes over the years. He just doesn't announce it in his "photo opportunity" sessions with the press.

Now the tax monster has returned. And again it's time for some sage advice. When Reagan says that he's against taxes and won't allow them to be raised, it's time for working and poor people to run to protect their pocket-books.



## Tax attack

Like those monster movies that seem to come out with endless sequels, the tax ogre is back in the news.

After the stock market crash, a voice arose from the depths of Washington and Wall Street that declared that the only solution to the crisis was to reduce the budget deficit by making

comes not from some celestial bank account, but from your pockets and from mine.

A march participant  
Orlando, Fla.

### On the mark

Early this year I had the good fortune to purchase a trial sub to Workers World. I was impressed that a working-class newspaper could avoid succumbing to cynical negativism or indulging in Pollyanna-ish optimism and instead focus on the content and

## Letters

### Stop Star Wars

1,500 peace activists converged on the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on United Nations Day, October 24, to commemorate the anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The Florida demonstration coincided with a number of other non-violent actions around the country, under the collective title of "Back to the Brink."

In 1987 we find our leaders still intent on developing the capacity of the military-industrial establishment to bring an end to life on our fair planet. The development and testing in Florida of such first-strike-capable missiles as the Trident II, Poseidon, Pershing II and Star Wars is of grave concern in a time when staggering deficits and international instability threaten minimal living standards, and life itself, around the world.

Among the keynote speakers at the Cape Canaveral rally was Fred Williams of the American Farm Movement, who addressed the toll the "defense" budget has extracted from the world economy, and from the small farmers who feed us. The funding for this rampant militarization

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meaning of the news. The breadth of issues addressed and the sensitivity of the analysis indicated that this was a paper for all oppressed people.

David J. Bailey  
Wayne, N.J.

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# Welcome home, Brother Mbeki!

By Monica Moorehead

November 9 — The revolutionary struggle to end apartheid was given a tremendous boost last Thursday with the release of the former chairperson of the national liberation organization, the African National Congress (ANC), from the fascist dungeons.

Govan A. Mbeki was greeted by anti-apartheid leaders, activists and his family following his departure from the notorious maximum security facility, Robben Island, where he had spent 23 years of a life sentence for the so-called crime of high treason. He had not been allowed a visit from his wife in six years.

Upon his release Mr. Mbeki stated, "I am a member of the ANC. The ideas for which I went to jail and for which the ANC stands, I still embrace." Mbeki's son, Thabo, is the minister of information and publicity as well as a national executive board member of the ANC, which has its exiled main headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia.

The senior Mbeki has also been a member of the South African Communist Party (SACP), the ANC's long-time ally. He commented, "I still embrace Marxist views."

Both the SACP and the ANC have been banned by the apartheid regime since 1960 and 1960, respectively. Being banned means that to even mention the names of either organization publicly is considered a crime, punishable by at least a prison term. That a leader of the mass movement in South Africa as well as an outspoken Marxist is released is a reflection of the growing strength of the revolutionary movement that threatens the existence of a main pillar of extreme capitalist exploitation and oppression. Govan Mbeki was convicted along with Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and other ANC leaders for plotting to overthrow the racist apartheid regime via armed resistance and military sabotage during the infamous Rivonia trial in 1964. Mandela and Sisulu are still being held hostage at Pollsmoor prison outside of Johannesburg. Mr. Mbeki expressed the sen-

timents of a segment of anti-apartheid activists when he stated that he was "confident" that his release would give impetus to the ultimate release of Mandela.

Mandela was offered a chance to be released by Pretoria in February 1985 on the "condition" that he would renounce all violent means of the oppressed South African masses to overthrow apartheid. Mandela rejected this ploy by his jailers replying that it is not up to the ANC to renounce violence but for the real perpetrators of violence — the apartheid regime itself to relinquish its intolerable rule over the majority. Mr. Mbeki was released without any conditions put upon him.

Much of the bourgeois press has stated that the Pretoria government decided to release Mr. Mbeki because he is 77 years old and reported to be in ill health. This may be true. In fact, some of the bourgeois press has implied that the apartheid authorities want to see if Mbeki "behaves" himself before Mandela is considered for parole.

The Western allies of the apartheid regime, including the U.S., hope that this development will help to clean up the tarnished image of the fascist government. Mbeki's release, however, must be viewed within the broad political context of the South African struggle. The fact that the heroic oppressed masses, the workers, students and youth, women and others have forged a united front under the banner of the ANC against a common oppressor, has forced the apartheid regime to make concessions, including the release of Mbeki.

The intensification of this struggle has paved the way for the continuing isolation of the dying apartheid regime internationally. Nothing will be able to stop the demise of this outpost of fascist slavery.

Mr. Mbeki described the apartheid regime as a "government that represents a small section of the population. We all belong to South Africa. South Africa belongs to all of us."

nation and socialism.

The illusions of U.S. imperialism (which are shared by the Filipino compradore bourgeoisie) that the Aquino regime would be able to co-opt the growth of the revolutionary movement and bring about the destruction of the New Peoples Army (NPA), Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), and all of the other progressive organizations in the Philippines have been shattered.

This, in fact, was the main objective of the U.S.: to derail the revolutionary national democratic movement which threatened the class interests of big business and the Pentagon, as well as those of the Philippine ruling class. On the contrary, what has taken place is an intensification of the armed struggle and the broadest unity among progressives and the labor movement.

These events have transpired in spite of the full implementation of a CIA-U.S. anti-people, counterinsurgency program which has included the deployment of death squads and vigilante groups.

## A two-pronged attack

The U.S. is facing a two-pronged attack — an intensification of the armed struggle and an increase in the number and intensity of workers' strikes.



Govan Mbeki, a key ANC leader, upon his release.

## ANC statement on Mbeki release

The release of Comrade Govan Mbeki, speaker of the ANC, today, the 5th of November 1987, is an important event in the long and bitter struggle of our people, a victory for the democratic forces throughout South Africa and the international community who have fought relentlessly for the unconditional release of our leaders and our political detainees in South Africa.

Comrade Mbeki emerged today after 23 years in the racist prisons unbowed and unbroken, a living legend in the minds of our people. We salute Mbeki and all political prisoners

To this problem of U.S. imperialism must be added the bitter internal strife which exists among the Philippine ruling classes. The coup attempts are a manifestation of this instability and disunity.

The U.S. imperialists would like to establish stability and unity between the Aquino government and the Armed Forces of the Philippines since this would be more conducive to thwarting the advances of the armed revolutionary movement. In a recent radio broadcast, President Reagan appealed to the Philippine military to support Aquino, stating that "division between a government and its armed forces can only help the communist insurgency."

A Democratic congressman, Stephen Solarz, a staunch supporter of Aquino, had the same message in an appeal for approval of a new package of economic and military aid for the Philippine government: "We should also put our money where our mouths are by quickly approving a new package of military and economic aid for the Philippines. Expanded military aid would enable the government to combat the insurgency more effectively while also giving the military a sense that the government is constructively responding to its institutional needs." Nevertheless, these statements fail

# Crisis in Philippines shows U.S. can't derail people's struggle

By Lydia Bayoneta

November 8 — There has been steady press coverage here in the U.S. of the aftermath of the Aug. 28 coup attempt by the openly fascist faction of the Philippine military. This coverage has only intensified with the recent assassination of four people in the Philippines, three of whom were U.S. servicemen stationed at the U.S. Clark Air Force base.

Victims of Gestapo-like tactics, 17 people in Angeles City were rounded up and "identified" by hooded informers who pointed out the "communists" who had been arrested. Many more were arrested in a similar operation in Metro-Manila.

The media coverage is indeed warranted in view of the gravity of the political and economic crisis in the Philippines. Unfortunately, it gives little clarity to the root causes of the crisis; instead, it subjects its readers and viewers to the interpretations and outright lies of the U.S. big business and the Pentagon.

To clearly understand the events in the Philippines, they must be viewed from an anti-imperialist and working class perspective. They cannot be divorced from the many countries and peoples around the globe who are struggling for justice, self-determi-

who have struggled even from within prison walls for this victory. Even as we receive him with joy and renewed determination we remain acutely aware that his release in a real sense also means a change in prison address from the confines of Robben Island into the prison house of South Africa. His release will significantly enrich and augment the leadership of the democratic forces as a whole and as the fight continues till all are released we say: Let him speak to the people.

ANC Information Department  
Lusaka, Zambia

to prove that the U.S. had no prior knowledge of the Aug. 28 coup attempt. Recent revelations which have caused the hasty departure from the Philippines of U.S. Lt. Col. Victor Raphael, some eight months before his tour of duty ended, are an indication of the opposite.

Raphael, an assistant U.S. military attaché, was with Col. Honasan as he was directing the coup at Camp Aguinaldo, the headquarters of the Philippine military. Lt. Col. Raphael tried unsuccessfully to prevent the government forces from attacking Honasan and his followers. This intervention adds credibility to numerous reports in the Philippine press that Honasan's escape was assisted by the CIA.

## CIA role in coup?

Philippine Defense Minister Raphael Nieto's own "After Battle Report" confirmed that Col. Honasan had discussed "CIA support for destabilization" with his followers.

But is not this a contradiction of purpose? Would not even tacit support for the faction of the military behind the coup run counter to the U.S. plans for "stability" and "unity"?

In answer it should be remembered that U.S. imperialism is in constant

Continued on page 10

# What's Washington doing in Chad?

By Joyce Chediac

Washington is currently giving Singer missiles to counterrevolutionaries in Afghanistan and Angola. Now, Washington has announced that it will supply \$2 million of these sophisticated, shoulder-fired weapons to the African nation of Chad, and has already sent an advance team to train the Chadian army to use them.

The Reagan administration is providing these weapons so they can be used against Libya, whose progressive and anti-imperialist government Washington would like to overthrow.

Libya and Chad are involved in a border dispute which is currently under mediation by the Organization of

African Unity. Both claim the mineral-rich Azou Strip, which separates the two nations.

For centuries, Washington ignored Chad, whose people live in most desperate poverty. The Reagan administration only became interested when it saw an opportunity in this border dispute to exacerbate relations between Chad and Libya. In September, the Pentagon rushed in \$32 million in arms to Chad. Now, Washington is again seeking to step up the fighting between these two nations.

France, which has 1,200 troops in Chad, is unhappy with the Pentagon's aggressive intervention in Chad. French imperialism regards this part of Africa as belonging to them, and

sees the U.S. as moving into its territory.

Neither imperialist power, however, is concerned with the Chadian or Libyan people. While Paris and Washington try to pose as defenders of African sovereignty, they never mention that it was the imperialists who in 1899 carved up Africa among them. Borders of nations were determined by imperialism's predatory designs for that continent without ever consulting the people who lived there.

Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society. All work together in this organization — Black and white, Latin, Asian and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or if you would like to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you:

**Atlanta:** P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, Ga., 30301 (404) 662-6417.

**Baltimore:** 424 E. 31 St., Baltimore, Md. 21218 (301) 889-9318

**Boston:** 186 Lincoln St., Room 602, Boston, Mass. 02111 (617) 426-5626

**Buffalo:** 349 Niagara St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14201 (716) 855-3055

**Chicago:** P.O. Box 6510, Chicago, Ill. 60680 (312) 489-3829

**Cleveland:** 2012 West 25 St., Room 613, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 (216) 861-6154

**Detroit:** 1947 Grand River, Room 201, Detroit, Mich. 48226 (313) 962-4979

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## Israeli commission reveals use of torture against Palestinian prisoners

By Michael Bar-Am

November 9 — Once again so-called "Israeli democracy" has been shown to be nothing more than a sham.

A commission headed by a former Israeli Supreme Court justice has just issued a report which found that Palestinians who are arrested are regularly subjected to "harsh interrogation methods" by the Shin Bet, the state security service. Other findings include that the Shin Bet has "committed perjury to conceal its interrogation methods and to ensure that the accused are convicted."

The report was issued as a result of international pressure from organizations such as Amnesty International and the growing world-wide solidarity movement with the Palestinian people.

Shin Bet is the Hebrew abbreviation for the General Security Service, which is the Israeli equivalent of the FBI. This secret organization is responsible for spying on Palestinians, conducting terrorist operations and maintaining a computerized file on every Palestinian whether they be political activists, trade unionists or non-activists. Shin Bet is also charged with spying on anti-Zionist and progressive Israelis, as well as infiltrating their organizations.

## Palestine Solidarity Committee maps work for coming period

By Joyce Chediac  
New York City

At its second national convention, the November 29 Committee for Palestine decided that a central theme in its work for the coming period will be to demand that the U.S. get out of the Middle East. This convention took place here on Nov. 7-8, and was attended by about 100 people, most of them delegates from cities nationwide.

This convention also decided to endorse the international peace conference, as outlined in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 38/58C, while at the same time calling attention to the abuses that are synonymous with Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The group voted to change its name from November 29 Committee for Palestine to Palestine Solidarity Committee.

A highlight of the convention was a public event Saturday night attended by more than 300 people.

Zehdi Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization ambassador to the UN, explained that, "a third genera-

While the revelations about Shin Bet may be news in the international press, every Palestinian and Israeli knows that beatings and torture of Palestinian detainees have been going on for years. Israeli judges have routinely looked the other way when Palestinian prisoners are brought before the bench looking like they just went ten rounds with Mike Tyson.

For example, on July 21 of this year, Abdel Salam Hamdan, 23 years old, from the village of Kufr Ruman in the Tulkarm region of occupied Palestine, died in Jenin prison two days after he was arrested. His family was advised by the Israeli authorities that he died after being bitten by a snake, and later was told that his death was due to a heart attack.

When his body was being prepared for burial, signs of internal bleeding were observed and his eyes and genitals were swollen.

At a news conference on Sept. 9 in Jerusalem, three Palestinian teenagers related their experiences after being arrested.

Riad Faraj, 15 years old, from Dheishah refugee camp near Bethlehem, stated, "Before they began interrogation, they asked me if I was ready to confess. They then hanged me by my wrists, naked, outside in the cold, and gave me hot and cold showers

tion of Arabs is being raised in refugee camps, a third generation of Jews is being raised in a garrison state. We must put an end to this situation."

Hassan Abdul Rahman, who heads the Palestine Information Office in Washington, called the closing of that office "the latest in a long history of the U.S. government's denial of the existence of the Palestinian people."

Nadia Habash, a union official from Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, explained that "37% of all Palestinian workers from the West Bank and Gaza work inside the 1948 borders of Israel. They have no contracts or protection." Yanira, a Salvadoran activist from Los Angeles who was targeted by a Salvadoran death squad there, said, "We oppose imperialism. That is what we have in common with the people of Palestine...."

Khader Hamide, one of the LA 8, said, "We are now prosecuting the government attorneys. We have them on trial.... When we stand united, believing in our rights as a community, we will win."

alternatively. A heod covered in manure was put over my head." (Al Fajr, Sept. 13)

He later served eight months in jail.

It appears that the commission report itself does nothing to prevent the torture in the future. It states that, "limited and clearly delineated psychological and physical pressures may legitimately be exerted" against prisoners by Shin Bet, the extent of which is classified information. It also recommended that no action be taken against Shin Bet agents who lied in court!

## — Before the crash

*Continued from page 6*

truck. In 1982, it took 26 tons of jute to purchase a similar truck.

• In 1959, one ton of copper wire would buy 39 medical X-ray tubes. In 1982, the same ton of copper bought only 3 X-ray tubes.

• In 1960, 200 tons of sugar bought a 180-horsepower bulldozer. By 1982, the same bulldozer cost the equivalent of 1,300 tons of sugar.

The purchasing power of the basic export commodities of the oppressed (or "developing") countries dropped almost 22% just in the period 1980 to 1984. While many of these countries managed to maintain a favorable balance of trade over this period by drastically cutting their imports, the dollars saved got them nothing. The great bulk of it went to the imperialist banks as "debt service," while the debts themselves continued to grow.

Obviously, such a relationship makes a mockery of the very concept of development within the capitalist framework.

## Imperialists pushed crisis onto backs of oppressed countries

Throughout this period, the imperialists have been staving off the general crisis of their system in large measure by pushing it onto the shoulders of the most oppressed. The terribly unjust world price structure, for example, has allowed them to keep showing a profit even as the underlying economic conditions were deteriorating.

There are many mechanisms that the imperialists use to push the prices of raw materials down. One is through the direct pressure of lending institutions like the IMF, which demand of recipient countries that they devalue their currencies and thereby cheapen their products before the bankers will

## Join us in the struggle

## — Philippines

*Continued from page 9*

search for political groupings which are friendly to its interests. It should be recalled that during the last two years of the Marcos dictatorship, the U.S. government was feeling out the various legal opposition groups who were friendly to U.S. interests — while at the same time assuring Marcos of its continuing support.

They do not put all their eggs into one basket. Moreover, if Honasan had successfully overthrown the Aquino government, the U.S. would have no qualms in principle about working with the Honasan faction.

The open factionalism within the Philippines military is a reflection of the divisions within the local ruling class that have cracked wide open from the pressure of the severe crisis of economic deterioration, as well as the utter failure of the Aquino regime to smash the revolutionary movement.

Even though a "democratic" neocolonial regime may be preferred at times, the U.S. will find it more and more difficult to maintain their hegemony, and may opt for out and out fascist rule. The continued growth of the revolutionary organizations indicates that the masses of Filipinos are prepared for either alternative.

*Continued on page 11*

## Political prisoners

# Paula Cooper, 18, on death row in Indiana

By Leslie Feinberg

In the Indiana Women's Prison Paula Cooper, now 18 years old, awaits the death penalty for a crime she was convicted of committing when she was 15. World outcry has raised her case to public attention and denounced the U.S. for wielding capital punishment against youth and oppressed nationalities.

Cooper and three of her teenage friends, reportedly high on alcohol and drugs, were charged with the 1985 murder of Ruth Pelke in Gary, Ind.

During her 1986 trial, Cooper pled guilty, which normally precludes a death sentence. Supporters charge that because the victim was white and the assailant Black the sentence was harsh.

A campaign to win clemency for this

condemned youth is gaining momentum.

Ruth Pelke's grandson, William, has publicly asked for clemency for Paula Cooper.

Two million Italians have signed petitions demanding the stay of execution of Cooper. Even the Pope has gone on public record calling for commutation of her sentence. The death penalty was abolished in Italy after World War II.

The human rights organization Amnesty International (AI) spread part of her case around the world as part of a campaign against the use of capital punishment in the U.S. This marked the first time AI has ever opened a full-scale human rights campaign against such practices in the U.S.

Although countries all over the world have condemned the execution

of minors as barbaric, this in no way has stayed the executioner's hand in the U.S., where currently some 32 people sit day in and day out on death row, accused of crimes committed as minors. Thirty states in this country allow or fail to exclude the execution of youth or of people accused of committing crimes when they were minors.

The Indiana state constitution reserves the right to execute 10 year olds! This brutal policy violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights and guidelines established by the United Nations. Although the U.S. took part in formulating these guidelines, it has never formally ratified or accepted any of them.

AI officials reported that the impetus for their campaign arose from the rapid rise in the rate of executions in

mentally ill people awaiting death in several states, and the racism apparent in the application of the death sentence in this country.

When the death penalty was first reinstated in the U.S., some of the first, most widely publicized cases of executions, both of adults and youth, were white. But this is not the norm. Countless studies have documented the disproportionate and racist use of the death penalty against Black, Latino and other oppressed nationalities in this country.

The next step in the effort to save Paula Cooper from execution will be an appeal before the state Supreme Court. A date has not been set at this time.

Appeals for clemency for Paula Cooper should be sent to Gov. Robert Orr, State House, Indianapolis, Ind. 46204.

## — Before the crash

Continued from page 10  
agree to "renegotiate" their debts.

Another way is through dumping products on the market. The U.S. holds large stockpiles of many metals, for example. It can, and does, at times dump large amounts of copper, tin or whatever on the market, causing a steep drop in the world market price. Then it gradually buys the metal at the reduced price, building up its stockpile again.

Prices can be forced so low that production ceases altogether. In 1985, the world market price for tin was \$5 a pound, while in Bolivia, a major producer of tin, it cost \$16 a pound to produce at some mines. No wonder the Bolivian economy has ground almost to a halt!

### 'Worse than the Depression'

In September 1986, a report by the Inter-American Bank for Development summed up economic conditions in Latin America in devastating language. The present crisis, it said, has lasted longer and is worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s. There is no end in sight. Latin American countries had transferred \$100 billion to the industrialized (capitalist) countries over the previous four years, but were deeper in debt than ever, while their major primary products were selling at ever lower prices.

What this meant socially, said the bank, was that the levels of production, employment, income, standard of living, imports, influx of capital, investment, the quality of work and of education were all falling! And since this report, matters have only grown worse, as the vast number of people fleeing the region attests.

The bank, being a capitalist institution, didn't mention that this crisis is propelling forward the struggle of the masses in Latin America. Revolutionary movements are growing from Central America to the Andes, and their objective is to abolish the unbearable system of capitalist exploitation and replace it with a socialist system run by a workers' and farmers' government.

### Conditions in oppressed countries

reflect the failure of worldwide capitalism

What needs to be understood in the United States is that this crisis is not a phenomenon of Latin America, or of Africa, or of Asia. It is a phenomenon of world capitalism, whose circulatory system is the giant transnational banks and whose nerve centers are in

New York, London, Tokyo, Paris and Frankfurt.

As the crisis has strangled the economies of the oppressed countries, making it impossible for them to grow, not only have the giant banks had to write off hundreds of millions in unretireable loans, but the vital export of capital, which capitalism in its imperialist stage utterly relies on, starts to slow down.

### Farm crisis in the U.S.

In the 1980s, the growing crisis of capitalist overproduction in agriculture reached into the U.S. itself.

While at this moment conditions in the farm belt have improved slightly, this has been at the expense of bankrupt farmers (a decline of 10% in the number of farms nationwide over the last five years) and a massive government program costing billions that has forced farmers to slaughter millions of livestock and steeply reduce acres under cultivation in order to receive assistance.

Today, 35% of net farm income in the U.S. comes from direct government subsidies! (Wall Street Journal, Nov. 9.) Iowa farmers alone will get more loans and other aid from Washington this year than all the nations of Africa receive from the World Bank.

This year will see near-record harvests, but that won't help the farmers or the economy. Nor will it feed the world's hungry (made that way for the most part by imperialism). Last year, the U.S. stored 320 million metric tons of surplus grain, and could have had 600 million metric tons if government farm policy hadn't mandated cuts in production. Yet 700 million people around the world were undernourished, according to the World Health Organization.

Some 600 million tons of grain for 700 million people — that means there could have been almost a ton of grain for each hungry person! And just from U.S. surpluses — not counting Australia, Canada, Argentina, all of Europe. But it didn't happen. Instead, 35 million people died from hunger-related illnesses.

These great "surpluses" inexorably push down agricultural prices. When production is not for need but instead must produce a profit for private owners, production must be cut or there will be a financial crisis.

U.S. wheat exports rose 14% in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, but their value declined 11% from last year. The same thing happened to corn. Exports



WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

**Street meeting.** Under a banner that read, "We won't pay for Wall Street's losses, no cutbacks, no war," Workers World members held a street meeting Nov. 7 on 14th St. and 6th Ave.

A sound system was set up on the corner. Speakers addressed the current economic crisis and the need for a fightback movement to defend the interests of poor and working people in the face of a renewed attack by big business and the government. Gloria La Riva, Workers World Party vice-presidential candidate received a particularly good response when she addressed the multinational crowd in Spanish and English.

Throughout the street meeting a number of passersby stopped to hear the talks. Activists sold 35 trial subscriptions to Workers World newspaper, mainly to workers and the unemployed. They seemed to understand from their experience the message that when the rich lose \$500 billion in one day, it's the workers and poor who will be made to pay, unless they organize and resist.

rose 27% in volume, but their total value fell by 6%.

There are surpluses as well in meat, sugar, wine and a host of other agricultural products. No wonder that farmers in California have turned to growing marijuana, so that it is now the number one cash crop in that state!

These are some of the underlying economic conditions that Wall Street free enterprise tell us are "fundamentally sound." What they really need to explain, it seems to us, is how this house of cards was kept standing as long as it did.



# Encuentros en México fortalecen la liberación de la mujer

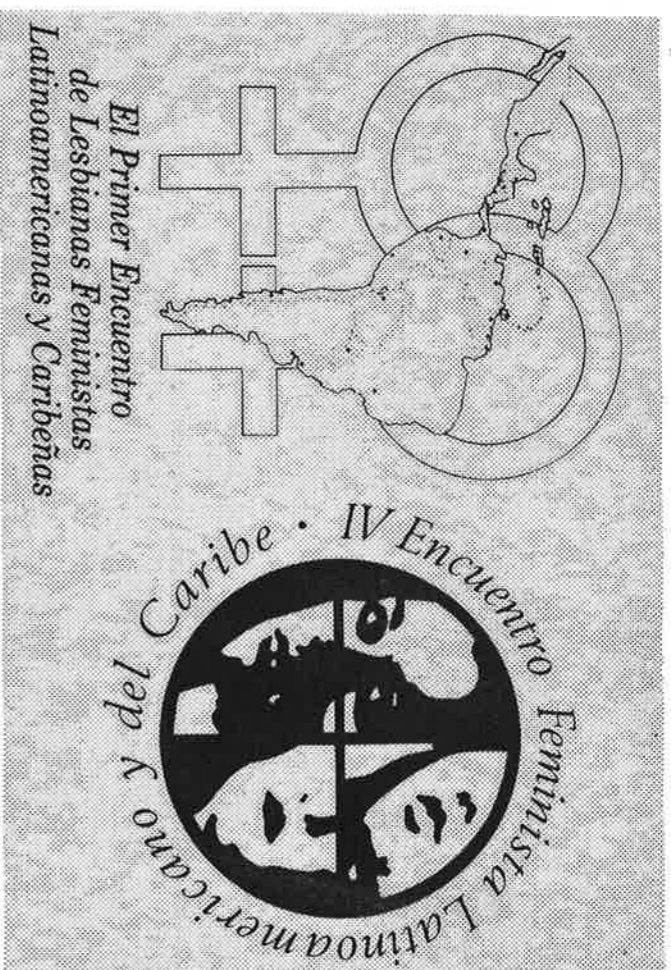
Por Lucinda Sintierra  
México

Mujeres latinoamericanas y caribeñas se reunieron en México el mes pasado para llevar a cabo dos eventos de importancia histórica para la lucha por la liberación de la mujer. Desde el día 13 al 17 de octubre casi 300 mujeres asistieron al Primer Encuentro de Lesbianas Feministas Latinoamericanas y Caribeñas. La semana siguiente, desde el 19 al 25 de octubre, aproximadamente 1500 mujeres celebraron el IV Encuentro Feminista Latinoamericano y del Caribe.

A los dos encuentros llegaron latinas y caribeñas representando a casi todos los países latinoamericanos y caribeños, y radicadas dentro y fuera de su país de origen ya sea por exilio político o económico u ocupación de territorio (como en el caso de chicana-mexicanas y puertorriqueñas).

Las asistentes representaban a diversos sectores progresistas incluyendo a sindicalistas, campesinas, obreras, mujeres de sectores populares y de clase media, mujeres combatientes en la lucha armada, mujeres indígenas, mujeres provenientes de Cuba, lesbianas, madres, mujeres pertenecientes a partidos políticos, mujeres luchando por la defensa de los derechos humanos y tantas otras todas unidas para avanzar en la lucha por la liberación de la mujer.

Uno de los propósitos más importantes del primer encuentro de lesbianas fue analizar la realidad que viven, confrontar la situación con la fuerza de la unidad y construir un movimiento político lesbico-feminista latinoamericano y caribeño en defensa de sus derechos civiles y po-



El Primer Encuentro de Lesbianas Feministas Latinoamericanas y Caribeñas

líticos. Para este fin se formó la Red de Lesbianas Feministas Latinoamericanas y Caribeñas.

El IV encuentro siguió una tradición iniciada en 1961 en la ciudad de Bogotá donde se celebró el Primer Encuentro Feminista Latinoamericano y del Caribe. Desde entonces cada 2 años se han llevado a cabo estos encuentros con una participación cada vez mayor.

En Latinoamérica y el Caribe donde los pueblos están aplastados por el militarismo y la deuda externa engendrada por el imperialismo estadounidense, el movimiento feminista y lesbico-feminista adopta tintes particulares. Muchas mujeres militan en organizaciones que defienden los derechos de la mujer y también luchan contra el imperialismo y el colonialismo, plantean que la opresión de la mujer y del pueblo en términos políticos tienen la misma raíz y sirve a

los mismos intereses así que hay que luchar por los derechos de la mujer y por la auto-determinación de los pueblos oprimidos.

Algunos temas abordados en talleres incluían: feminismo en Latinoamérica y el Caribe hoy, la violencia y la violación, Centroamérica: violencia y guerra, la mujer cubana en la política, el aborto y la iglesia católica, feminismo y movimientos populares, feminismo y la lucha anti-imperialista, lesbianismo y la represión, el exilio, la mujer sindical, Colombia: guerra sucia, mujeres integrantes de partidos políticos, la salud, derechos humanos, la prostitución, cuerpo y política: la sexualidad, medicina brujía (alternativa), madres lesbianas y muchos otros.

Era evidente que el movimiento

feminista y lesbico tercermundista son movimientos que agrupan a miles y miles de mujeres de todo sector y están llevando al feminismo hacia una definición que realmente abarca toda la opresión que tiene la mujer no sólo como mujer, sino que también como trabajadora y mujer tercermundista viviendo bajo el imperialismo. La mujer está al frente de la lucha y esto no solo beneficiará a la mujer pero también al pueblo entero.

El último día, al término de los dos encuentros se celebró una manifestación que representó al movimiento feminista y lesbico y el compromiso que tienen con los otros movimientos. La marcha llegó hasta el zócalo, donde está el palacio presidencial, la catedral y también la Coordinadora Nacional de Pueblos Indios que desde el 12 de octubre están en huelga de hambre exigiendo el alto a la represión y detención en las comunidades indias, y el derecho a la auto-determinación en sus tierras donde se están erradicando sus costumbres, hábitos comunitarios y desnaturalizando las comunidades. Ahí se hizo una emotiva ceremonia muy linda entre las mujeres y los indios en mutuo apoyo a sus objetivos políticos.

Estos encuentros siguen creciendo rápidamente y ya se decidió celebrar encuentros a nivel local y regional. De esta manera muchas mujeres de sectores populares como trabajadoras domésticas, prostitutas, campesinas, indígenas, mujeres jóvenes y otras podrán asistir ya que el costo sería mucho menor. La mujer es una fuerza que no se puede ignorar. ¡Que viva la mujer! ¡Que viva Latinoamérica y el Caribe Libre!

# Huelga general avanza lucha en Ecuador

Por Angela Vera

El pasado miércoles 18 de octubre se realizó una huelga general de trabajadores para demandar la salida de las tropas norteamericanas de Ecuador, el alza del salario mínimo de 10,000 sucres a 25,000 sucres y la cancelación del Ministro del Interior Luis Robles Plaza acusado de cometer abusos contra los derechos humanos entre otros.

La huelga que duró 24 horas fue decretada por el Frente Unitario de Trabajadores (FUT), que agrupa a la mayoría de las organizaciones sindicales y laborales del país, y apoyada por el bloque progresista del Congreso que aglutina a los partidos de centro-izquierda e izquierda.

A pesar de que el gobierno del derechista Febres Cordero decretó estado de emergencia y suspendió las garantías constitucionales un día antes, la huelga fue acatada en todo el país, realizándose manifestaciones de apoyo en las ciudades más grandes tales como Quito, Riobamba y Cuenca, habiendo sido reprimidos por los órganos represivos del gobierno, dejando como saldo un muerto y centenares de detenidos.

Aunque el paro concluyó, las mani-

festaciones continuaban el jueves y viernes de la semana pasada, y el FUT anunció que se realizará otra huelga que será indefinida.

Entre las demandas de los huelguistas también contaba la derogación de las medidas económicas adoptadas por el gobierno de Febres Cordero el pasado 11 de agosto, la cual retiró la potestad al Banco Central para hacer transferencias de sucres a dólares y viceversa y entregó a la empresa privada, creando esta escasez de dólares, por lo que el dólar subió a 275 sucres (alza de 100 sucres en cada dólar en un mes), situación que ha afectado aun más la ya deteriorada economía de la clase trabajadora. A esto se suma el 35% de desempleo que existe en el país, un alto porcentaje de subempleo, falta de vivienda, servicios básicos, de salud, etc.

El régimen del conservador de línea dura de Febres Cordero se ha caracterizado por sus medidas antipopulares y su simpatía por gobiernos derechistas como el de Reagan, e incluso llegó a romper relaciones con Nicaragua por quedar bien con Washington, así como también invitó a las tropas norteamericanas al país, que el pueblo esta demandando que salgan inmediatamente.



24 horas después del vil asesinato de Herbert Anaya Sanabria, presidente de la comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador el pasado 27 de octubre por sicarios al servicio de un grupo paramilitar, el presidente Duarte acogió a la llamada de amnistía —uno de los acuerdos de Esquipulas II— dejó libre de culpa a los asesinos intelectuales y materiales del crimen.

En una de sus más absurdas declaraciones Duarte afirmó que el "olvidar" es parte del "proceso de paz." El pentágono y la CIA son los que manejan la política guerrillista de El Salvador. Fue el propio embajador estadounidense el que denunció a Herbert Anaya Sanabria como "procomunista" dando así "motivo" para que los paramilitares en concierto con el gobierno lo asesinaran a sabiendas de antemano que serían absueltos. (Arriba: manifestación en Los Ángeles.)

## Encuentros en México fortalecen la liberación de la mujer

Por Lucinda Siniterra  
México

Mujeres latinoamericanas y caribeñas se reunieron en México el mes pasado para llevar a cabo dos eventos de importancia histórica para la lucha por la liberación de la mujer. Desde el día 13 al 17 de octubre casi 300 mujeres asistieron al Primer Encuentro de Lesbianas Feministas Latinoamericanas y Caribeñas. La semana siguiente, desde el 19 al 25 de octubre, aproximadamente 1500 mujeres celebraron el IV Encuentro Feminista Latinoamericano y del Caribe.

A los dos encuentros llegaron latinas y caribeñas representando a casi todos los países latinoamericanos y caribeños, y radicadas dentro y fuera de su país de origen ya sea por exilio político o económico u ocupación de territorio (como en el caso de chicana-mexicanas y puertorriqueñas).

Las asistentes representaban a diversos sectores progresistas incluyendo a sindicalistas, campesinas, obreras, mujeres de sectores populares y de clase media, mujeres combatientes en la lucha armada, mujeres indígenas, mujeres provenientes de Cuba, lesbianas, madres, mujeres pertenecientes a partidos políticos, mujeres luchando por la defensa de los derechos humanos y tantas otras todas unidas para avanzar en la lucha por la liberación de la mujer.

Uno de los propósitos más importantes del primer encuentro de lesbianas fue analizar la realidad que viven, confrontar la situación con la fuerza de la unidad y construir un movimiento político lesbico-feminista latinoamericano y caribeño en defensa de sus derechos civiles y políticos.

El pasado miércoles 18 de octubre se realizó una huelga general de trabajadores para demandar la salida de las tropas norteamericanas de Ecuador, el alza del salario mínimo de 10,000 sucres a 25,000 sucres y la cancelación del Ministro del Interior Luis Robles Plaza acusado de cometer abusos contra los derechos humanos entre otros.

La huelga que duró 24 horas fue decretada por el Frente Unitario de Trabajadores (FUT), que agrupa a la mayoría de las organizaciones sindicales y laborales del país, y apoyada por el bloque progresista del Congreso que aglutina a los partidos de centro-izquierda e izquierda.

A pesar de que el gobierno del derechista Febres Cordero decretó estado de emergencia y suspendió las garantías constitucionales un día antes, la huelga fue acatada en todo el país, realizándose manifestaciones de apoyo en las ciudades más grandes tales como Quito, Riobamba y Cuenca, habiendo sido reprimidos por los órganos represivos del gobierno, dejando como saldo un muerto y centenares de detenidos.

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El Primer Encuentro de Lesbianas Feministas Latinoamericanas y Caribeñas

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los mismos intereses así que hay que luchar por los derechos de la mujer y por la auto-determinación de los pueblos oprimidos.

Algunos temas abordados en talleres incluan: feminismo en Latinoamérica y el Caribe hoy, la violencia y la violación, Centroamérica: violencia y guerra, la mujer cubana en la política, el aborto y la iglesia católica, feminismo y movimientos populares, feminismo y la lucha anti-imperialista, lesbianismo y la reproducción, el exilio, la mujer sindical, Colombia: guerra sucia, mujeres integrantes de partidos políticos, la salud, derechos humanos, la prostitución, cuerpo y política: la sexualidad, medicina bruja (alternativa), madres lesbianas y muchos otros.

Era evidente que el movimiento

feminista y lesbico tercermundista son movimientos que agrupan a miles y miles de mujeres de todo sector y están llevando al feminismo hacia una definición que realmente abarca toda la opresión que tiene la mujer no sólo como mujer, sino que también como trabajadora y mujer tercermundista viviendo bajo el imperialismo. La mujer está al frente de la lucha y esto no solo beneficiará a la mujer pero también al pueblo entero.

El último día, al término de los dos encuentros se celebró una manifestación que representó al movimiento feminista y lesbico y el compromiso que tienen con los otros movimientos. La marcha llegó hasta el zócalo, donde está el palacio presidencial, la catedral y también la Coordinadora Nacional de Pueblos Indios que desde el 12 de octubre están en huelga de hambre exigiendo el alto a la represión y detención en las comunidades indias, y el derecho a la auto-determinación en sus tierras donde se están erradicando sus costumbres, hábitos comunitarios y desnaturalizando las comunidades. Ahí se hizo una emotiva ceremonia muy linda entre las mujeres y los indios en mutuo apoyo a sus objetivos políticos.

Estos encuentros siguen creciendo rápidamente y ya se decidió celebrar encuentros a nivel local y regional. De esta manera muchísimas más mujeres de sectores populares como trabajadoras domésticas, prostitutas, campesinas, indígenas, mujeres jóvenes y otras podrán asistir ya que el costo sería mucho menor. La mujer es una fuerza que no se puede ignorar. ¡Que viva la mujer! ¡Que viva Latinaoamérica y el Caribe Libre!

## Huelga general avanza Lucha en Ecuador

Por Angela Vera

El pasado miércoles 18 de octubre se realizó una huelga general de trabajadores para demandar la salida de las tropas norteamericanas de Ecuador, el alza del salario mínimo de 10,000 sucres a 25,000 sucres y la cancelación del Ministro del Interior Luis Robles Plaza acusado de cometer abusos contra los derechos humanos entre otros.

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# WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!



Noticias en español vea página 12



## FREEDOM

After 23 years in South Africa's dungeons, Govan Mbeki has been released. The former chairperson of the ANC declared, "The ideas for which I went to jail, I still embrace." 9

## SHARON KOWALSKI

"The last time I saw Sharon," says Karen Thompson, "she typed, 'Help me, Karen. Take me home with you.'" The two were lovers before an accident left Kowalski a paraplegic and Thompson was forbidden to visit because she wasn't "family." A nationwide support movement is fighting to give these two their right to be together. 4

# Budget ripoff!

## Big business dictates cuts to Washington

## Social Security on the chopping block

By Deirdre Griswold

November 11 — You are about to become the victim of a crime. So are your parents, your neighbors, even your children.

Anyone who has worked for a living is about to be robbed. A daring theft is being planned openly. Is there still time to do something about it?

All your working life, you have put aside money every week. At the end of each year, it can amount to a couple of thousand dollars. It's your money, but you never see it. It goes to the Social Security Administration.

It's your nest egg, to make sure you can afford to live when you can't work any longer. It's supposed to be untouchable, just like your savings. Now it's going to be broken into.

Who's behind this Great Social Security Robbery? Is it

just the senators and representatives now negotiating on how to cut the budget?

No, they're being pushed. The powerful pushers can be identified. They sponsored a two-page ad this week in the New York Times and the Washington Post.

The ad called for a "bipartisan budget plan" of cuts that would put "everything on the table." The language was oh-so-fair. It spoke of protecting programs for the poor while "restraining" (not cutting) defense spending. But all that is window dressing.

There's not much left to cut from the poor — most of it's gone already. And both Democrats and Republicans have already agreed on a cut of around \$5 billion in defense — a piddling amount in a \$300-billion defense budget!

No, what was important about this ad was the following sentence: "Cuts must be made

in non-defense programs, especially all the other entitlement, transfer, and subsidy programs that are not means-tested."

That means Social Security. And Medicare. And farm subsidies.

Who signed this ad? The bigwigs of finance and industry. Men like David Rockefeller, Lee Iacocca, J. Peter Grace and George Weyerhaeuser.

In fact, the signers include the heads of 145 of the biggest corporations and banks in the from IBM and Mobil to Boeing, Westinghouse, Xerox, Goodyear, AT&T and Chemical Bank.

These are the super-rich who make and break governments. They have former cabinet members signing with them — William Simon, Harold Brown, John Connally, C. Douglas Dillon, Robert McNamara. They cut across the Johnson. *Continued on page 2*



WW PHOTO: MARY OWEN

## STRIKE ON WALL STREET

When they say that Wall Street is working overtime because of the crash, they don't mean the bankers. Now the workers at the stock exchange are on strike. The main issue is burn-out from the stressful conditions. 6

## ECONOMY

GM closes Massachusetts plant ▶ 3

Prices of primary goods: The crisis before the crash ▶ 6

1929 prescriptions for 1987 collapse ▶ 7