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MAYOR WASHINGTON



Chicago's first Black mayor dies. Mass funeral shows his impact.

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Secret U.S. role in Haiti election massacre

By Joyce Chediac

The U.S. government is trying to cover up its own role in the election massacres in Haiti by whipping up racism against that oppressed nation. The Reagan administration wants workers here to believe that Washington intervened in Haiti to "save Haiti from itself." But in truth, Washington and the Pentagon are just as responsible for the massacre of civilians there as if they had pulled the triggers themselves. Why? Because the Namphy regime, which mowed down

Haitian civilians this week for the "crime" of wanting to vote, is a complete dependency of the Pentagon.

The U.S. government's announcement that it is withdrawing U.S. military advisers and suspending all but "humanitarian" aid to Haiti is for cosmetic purposes only. In truth, Washington has already spent 95% of the \$108 million in assistance promised to Haiti in the current fiscal year, and a substantial amount of the aid has admittedly gone to train the Haitian military to "control civilian disturbances"!

In fact, the first thing that Washington did after sending the hated Duvalier out of the country on a U.S. air force plane 22 months ago was to strengthen the Haitian military so it could wage war against an unarmed population. The only objection Washington has is that it would like the Haitian generals to be discreet in their repression.

On November 29, Haitians were to vote for a president and a National Assembly to replace the military-dominated Namphy regime.

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WW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAC

Haitians demonstrate in New York City.

5,000 at Chicago City Hall rally against racist machine

By P. Kimball
Chicago

December 2 — An infuriated, continuously chanting crowd packed three floors of City Hall for twelve hours yesterday evening, attempting to block the election of 6th Ward Alderman Eugene Sawyer as acting mayor of Chicago on the basis of a closed-doors deal between the white racist council bloc and a handful of

former "Washington" alderpersons.

The crowd, 5,000 at its height, occupied three floors of the building, including the City Council galleries, and overflowed into the block of La Salle street fronting the building. The angry protest, whose makeup reflected the full multinational diversity of the Washington coalition, delayed the start of the council meeting from 5:30 until nearly midnight.

The protesters, many of whom wore

Harold Washington campaign buttons or carried pictures of the late mayor, chanted "No deals!" and demanded the election of an acting mayor by the council be postponed to allow the people's participation. Nearly all called for the election of 4th ward alderman Tim Evans as acting mayor. They poured out their wrath on Sawyer and his supporters, condemning them as traitors to the Washington

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Neighbors aid Black family against racist attack

By Betsy Platte
Philadelphia

November 27 — Racist violence and attacks against Black, Latin and Asian people are certainly not new phenomena in this city. But, when a gang of white youth attacked Bill and Maryellen Snow, a Black family living in a primarily white block in east Frankford, they encountered more than they bargained for. The Snows fought back, and their outraged neighbors came to their defense.

On Nov. 6, Bill Snow, an auto mechanic, came home from work with a white co-worker, passing a gang of teenagers who frequented a lot near the Snow's row house. His co-worker complained to the youths about their loud music, and Snow asked them to turn it down.

The gang, while youths identifying themselves as the "Frankford Kill Squad," had intimidated area resi-

dents for years — vandalizing buildings, slashing tires, using foul language and littering their hangout in a nearby cemetery with syringes, beer cans and empty cocaine packets.

Moments after Snow had entered his house, he responded to a knock on his door. He was confronted by 15 of the gang members, armed with two-by-fours and long wooden planks. They were screaming, "I want to kill me a couple of good n---s! I hate n---s!"

Bill Snow was hit in the leg with a board and knocked to the ground. Rising to his feet again, he was surrounded by the youths who yelled racial slurs at him and continued to hit him with the boards. Maryellen Snow, who had been resting from a tiring week of work as a hotel chambermaid, tried to chase the boys away, and was herself hit by a board and punched in the chest.

As the Snows fought off their racist

attackers, their neighbors, hearing the commotion, came to their defense as well. Joe Haas, from across the street, arrived in time to grab one youth who was about to hit Bill Snow. Another neighbor, Kathleen Wolanski, confronted a boy who was trying to rip more boards and aluminum siding off the house next to hers to use as weapons. Other neighbors summoned the police who finally arrived 25 minutes after their initial calls.

As a result of the neighbors' intervention, eight youths were arrested, and charged with ethnic intimidation, simple assault, making terrorist threats, recklessly endangering another person and criminal conspiracy.

Neighbors organize defense

Recognizing that the racist youth would likely return to threaten the Snows, 25 neighbors and members of the Frankford Human Relations Co-

alition organized meetings to support the Snow family. Each night in the week following the attack, a dozen neighbors stood watch in front of the house for hours and patrolled the neighborhood. They set up a phone chain to be able to summon the entire block to help.

Rev. John Schol, one member of the Frankford Coalition, expressed outrage at the attack and continued harassment of the Snows, and criticized the police for delaying their investigation and for waiting to classify the attack as racially motivated until three days after the initial incident. Other neighbors were angry with the police for taking so long to respond to their calls for help for the Snows.

On Nov. 18, a busload of the Snows' neighbors attended the arraignment of one of the Snows' attackers, joining observers from the West Philadelphia NAACP to support the Snows, and to "say no to the racist violence."

Food workers at San Francisco State ready to 'take direct action'

By Jane Cutler
San Francisco

November 24 — Food service workers at San Francisco State University (SFSU) rejected for the second time a take-back contract offered them by Student Foods International (SFI), on Nov. 19.

The contract would have cut wages by up to \$2.60 an hour, reduced health benefits, eliminated five paid holidays, and cut seniority down to two and a half years, the amount of time in

which SFI has held the vendors contract for the Gold Coast restaurant complex. Some of the 18 workers represented by Service Employees International Union Local 250 have worked at the SFSU campus for over 20 years.

Following the rejection of SFI's "final offer," union representative Fran Buchanan said that the workers "are ready to take direct action." As of Nov. 24, over 700 students have signed a petition in solidarity with the Gold Coast workers.

which SFI has held the vendors contract for the Gold Coast restaurant complex. Some of the 18 workers represented by Service Employees International Union Local 250 have worked at the SFSU campus for over 20 years.

— Chicago

Continued from page 1

coalition and the Black community. Sawyer himself is Black but is seen as collaborating with the racists.

Despite the efforts of the masses, Sawyer was elected acting mayor at four in the morning by 29 of 50 council votes — 23 from the racist bloc, and six who had voted with the late Mayor Washington. Several Black alderpersons had been forced by mass pressure to retreat from their support of the deal.

After the vote was announced, the thousand protesters still present chanted wildly. Until forced from the building by a cordon of 150 police, they

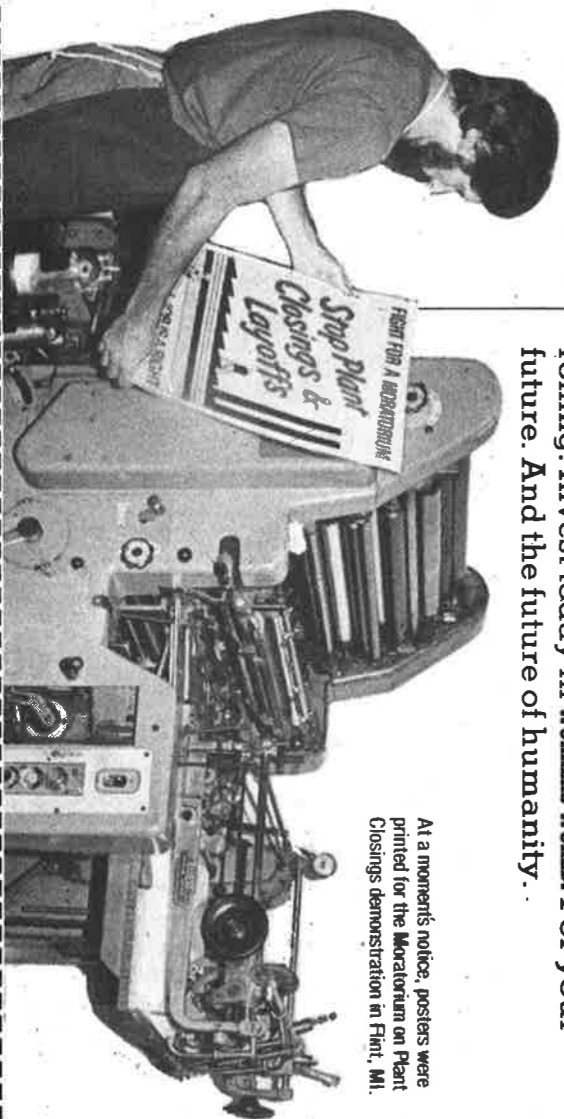
cheered progressive council members for an hour and booed the racists as they departed.

Organizers making up the core of the Harold Washington movement were enraged by the announcement of the deal to elect Sawyer scant hours after the late mayor's burial. By scheduling the meeting for the day after the funeral, the Sawyer forces — actually marshalled by arch-racist Ed Burke — counted on harrng the people from the process of selecting Washington's replacement. With only hours to deliberate, coalition organizers united in support of Evans' candidacy.

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In addition to the space needed to put out the newspaper, the Workers World office also provides printing facilities, so we can print many pamphlets, books, leaflets, posters, and picket signs you often see or read about in **WORKERS WORLD**. Historically it's been shown that during times of heightened class struggle — such as the one we are entering — it is extremely important for a progressive organization to maintain its own press. We need to be able to make our voice heard at a moment's notice. Providing space for the pressroom is vitally important.

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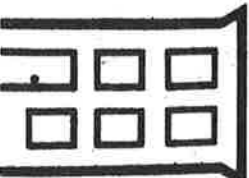
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Harold Washington — an historic impact on Chicago

By P. Kimball
Chicago

Harold Washington, mayor of Chicago, and the symbol of the movement of that city's oppressed for political self-determination, was buried Nov. 30. He suffered a massive heart attack at his desk Nov. 25, and died that afternoon without ever regaining consciousness. His death was a personal shock to millions of poor, working, and oppressed people, especially in Chicago.

As his body lay in state at City Hall for a three-day round-the-clock viewing period, as many as a million mourners filed by to pay their last respects. At all hours of the night, undeterred by a cold drizzle, the lines of patient mourners coiled for blocks around the building and across Daley Plaza. Most were from the Black community, but people of all nationalities, communities and oppressed groups came to express their sorrow.

Near this writer in line were several well-dressed young Black women; a young white man in an olive trench-coat, using a crutch because of his injured foot; a bearded man in a suit and tie, wearing a pink triangle [gay rights] button; Asian women with tear-stained cheeks; plump, middle-aged white men in windbreakers and knit Chicago Bears caps; a Black man with his two-year-old son riding on his shoulders.

People began to line up at the funeral site last night at 5 p.m., hoping to obtain some of the seats intended for the general public. But in the end, dignitaries and their guests packed the 4,000 seats of Christ Universal Temple. Though saddened, the people who made Harold Washington a symbol of their movement are not demoralized. Thousands lining the streets chanted "Harold! Harold!" as the hearse passed through the Black community, causing one reporter to remark that it was "more like a parade than a funeral."

Born into the deeply racist atmosphere of Chicago in 1922, Harold Washington educated himself as a lawyer, then entered public life as a state legislator. Through by the 1970s Black, Latin and other oppressed nationalities made up the majority of Chicago's population, they were virtually disenfranchised by the Democratic Party machine, which maintained its power through naked bribery and corruption, the maintenance of a patronage army, and gerrymandered ward boundaries.

Challenged Daley machine
In 1977, after the death of machine boss Richard Daley, Washington challenged the machine in the Democratic mayoral primary; but his percentage of the vote was relatively small.

In 1982, angered by the abuses and insults of the racist machine, Black community leaders encouraged Washington, then representing a South Side district in the U.S. Congress, to run again. In support of this effort, 100,000 new voters were registered in the Black and Latin communities through the fearless work of thousands of volunteers.

Few "experts" and commentators gave Washington a chance in the February 1983 Democratic primary. As blue and white Washington buttons appeared on people's chests throughout the city, though, an electric feeling gripped the city's oppressed — a feeling that it was actually possible to beat the machine. On primary day, an unprecedented flood of votes from the Black community, from wards and precincts the machine had held enslaved for years, put Washington ahead of rival machine candidates

Jane Byrne and Richie Daley.

But that victory was only the beginning of the struggle. Next came the bitter election campaign against Republican Bernard Epton, a nonentity appointed by circumstances to be the "white hope" of the racist Democratic regulars. A historic coalition of the Black and Latin communities together with progressive whites brought home a 51% victory and made Harold Washington Chicago's first Black mayor.

Racists sabotage program

After Washington's inauguration, the racists who still held a majority on the City Council united in a ruthless cabal to prevent a Black mayor from governing. For three years they held the city hostage, sabotaging the mayor's programs and refusing to approve his appointments. Every day brought a new attack, a new battle, a new media slander.

In 1986, a lawsuit against the city to obtain fairer representation for Blacks and Latins on the City Council bore fruit. The suit, encouraged by Washington, had been fought tooth and nail by previous machine mayors, and was appealed by the racist council bloc using public tax money.

The court-ordered ward remap in-

'Native people at Plymouth Rock: We have nothing to be thankful for'

By Coco Wells (Mahlowin)
Plymouth, Mass.

"When we talk about the theft of our land, the genocide of our people, we are not only talking about our past history. We are talking about today, Nov. 26, 1987," explained Mohawk leader Bob Gustafson. He was addressing a multinational crowd of over 250 people who gathered at Plymouth Rock to join in the National Day of Mourning for Native Americans.

National Day of Mourning, commemorated in many different sites throughout the country, is the Native response to the white oppressors' myth that the third Thursday in November is a day for national "Thanksgiving."

Gustafson spoke of the importance of remembering those who have died in the struggle for Native sovereignty, such as Anna Mae Aquash, and those who have been imprisoned for defending their people, such as Leonard Peltier. "That's why on this particular day of gluttony we do not give thanks," he concluded.

Speaking the truth

The crowd gathered around a statue of Wampanoag leader Massasoit, who has been central to the myth that Native leaders welcomed the colonialists with open arms. A direct descendant of Massasoit, Wampanoag elder Wamsutta Frank James, spoke the truth about the landing of the Pilgrims, noting that they were able to settle in Plymouth only because the Wampanoag Nation had already been devastated by the diseases and slavery that white explorers had brought to these shores.

James, moderator of the United American Indians of New England, outlined how the first National Day of Mourning came about 18 years ago. He read the statement of purpose, which includes creating awareness of the American Indian, promoting and demonstrating Indian unity, shattering the untrue image of the Pilgrims, and providing a forum for all Indian people to speak the truth about their history and their struggle to survive during 500 years of colonial occupa-

tion. created Latino representation from one to four, and added two Black seats. Special elections gave the Washington coalition of Black, Latin and liberal white councilpersons a slim majority.

Washington's decisive victory in the 1987 elections was felt to put a permanent end to the racists' hopes for a return to the plantation politics of old. The racist bloc fell apart, with some becoming "reborn" as unreliable Washington supporters, and Ed Vrdolyak, the chief conspirator, himself leaving the Democratic party entirely.

The election of Harold Washington as the first Black mayor of Chicago was in itself a historic victory, given the city's long history of racism. Beyond that, the Washington administration made great advances toward fairness in the hiring of city workers and administrators, and in awarding contracts. Blacks became superintendent of schools, head of the Chicago Housing Authority, superintendent of the Park District and chief of police. Latinos, Asians and women also benefited from the administration's affirmative action policies.

Washington pushed hard for a lesbian and gay rights ordinance, and backed a gay candidate for the City



Harold Washington

Council. A progressive on peace and anti-intervention issues, he spoke at anti-war rallies, and welcomed representatives of the African National Congress and of the Sandinista government of Nicaragua to the city.

He was an outspoken critic of Reaganomics within the U.S. Conference of Mayors. He had recently endorsed

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Bob Gustafson speaking at Nov. 26 Day of Mourning rally in Plymouth, Mass.

PHOTO: SUSAN FRANZBELLA

Veterans of U.S. wars spoke about their realization of the absurdity of their fighting to defend the same force which oppresses them as Native people: U.S. imperialism.

Narragansett and Wampanoag people told of their fight to hunt and fish on their ancestral lands. Currently they are being arrested and fined for exercising these rights, an attempt by the U.S. government to prevent the people of the land from obtaining something even as basic as food.

International solidarity

Wamsutta Frank James stressed that an important point of progress since 1970 is that now there are many other peoples standing in solidarity with Native Americans. This was reflected at today's event by the Black, Latino, Asian, Arab and white people who stood shoulder to shoulder with Native peoples from over a dozen nations.

A recurring theme of this year's Day of Mourning was the link between the Native struggle and all struggles against national oppression worldwide, from South Africa to Palestine to Northern Ireland.

woman from the All Peoples Congress (APC), spoke of how the Native struggle in Central and South America has never ended and is in fact intensifying. She cited the examples of indigenous peoples' struggles within Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Guatemala and El Salvador.

She noted that the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua has given the Indian people there the opportunity to be autonomous for the first time since the European conquest of Central and South America.

In closing, she added that many Native Nations on this continent have joined together to establish Survival Schools so that the children can learn their own languages and traditional ways, to arm them in their struggle to survive. The second language that is taught in these schools is Spanish, so that the peoples of this hemisphere will more easily be able to join each other in the struggle against imperialism.

Although indigenous people in North America are a small minority, throughout the Americas they are over 100 million strong. The message to the U.S. was loud and clear on this year's National Day of Mourning: "We're here to stay, and we're not going to go away!"

New report describes gov't tax robbery of the poor

By Jarmila Dokladova
Washington

November 19 — When Reagan took office nearly seven years ago he talked a lot about "getting the government off the people's backs" and significantly cutting taxes. The reality is that he shifted the tax burden even further from the rich to the poor.

During the Reagan era there have been two important major changes in tax laws: The Economic Recovery Act of 1981 and The Tax Reform Act of 1986. These acts furthered the trend away from taxing corporations or tax-ing very high salaries.

As we look at our paychecks — if we're lucky enough to be working — we begin to wonder what happened to Reagan's promises. Once again, Reagan has cheated us somewhere.

On Nov. 10, the Congressional Budget Office released a study which provides some insights on just how the cheating has been done. The study shows that over the last ten years, the poorest tenth of all tax-paying families now pay 17% more of their income in taxes while the richest tenth pay 6% less. The richest 1% pay almost 20% less.

What the different types of taxes mean

In order to understand why such a change has taken place, we must examine the different types of taxes levied and the shift in the importance of each. These types include corporate income tax, personal income tax, social security tax and excise taxes.

Corporate income tax is imposed directly on income of corporations and businesses. This only impacts on own-

ers of businesses and stockholders. Reagan has tried to eliminate this tax entirely.

Personal or individual federal income tax is determined by a set percentage of a person's income after a deduction. After World War II, this tax was considered "progressive," that is, those with really big incomes paid the highest tax rates. Or at least they would have if they didn't use all sorts of loopholes to avoid it.

The Social Security tax is determined by deducting a set percentage from a worker's income. Unlike the Federal Income Tax where the first \$4,500 one makes is exempt, the Social Security Tax sets no such limits.

Whether one makes \$10 a week or \$1,000, the percentage taken out is the same. There is only one limit. After one's earnings go over \$43,800 a year,

so controversial. But sharp divisions developed as the president, Georgiana Johnson, said she felt it was an attempt to dilute her powers, and that the executive council was insensitive to her as a Black woman. This was strongly denied by the executive council, which is composed of six Black, four Latino and only three white members.

The overwhelming majority on the executive council campaigned for the changes. The campaign against the changes apparently received extensive financial and political help from the RWDSU international as the membership became deeply divided. The closeness of the vote — 13,887 for to 12,601 against — indicated the confusion among many of the members over the issues and the charges and countercharges.

News of the settlement and the cancellation of the trusteeship hearings raised the hopes of many union members that there can now be a process of reconciliation. This is vital at a time when the government is taking the axe to many health care budgets in the wake of the Wall Street stock market crash. A strong and united leadership is necessary as workers in that industry face difficult struggles.

the tax is no longer taken out. Social Security tax is regressive because it decreases as one's income goes up. Excise taxes are levied on specific items such as gasoline, liquor, cigarettes, etc. Like local sales taxes, these are regressive, falling hardest on those with smaller incomes.

Why taxation now more regressive

The study documents how the shift in the relative importance of each tax has made taxation more regressive. There has been a steady shift in the direction of individual income tax and social security taxes and away from corporate taxes. And the highest brackets in the individual income tax have been eliminated, making that tax less progressive.

In 1975, 44% of federal revenues were attributed to the individual income tax, 30% to Social Security tax, 15% to corporate income tax and 6% to various excise taxes. The remaining 5% was derived from miscellaneous sources such as duties, import taxes, etc.

By 1982 the proportion of the income from individual income tax grew to 48% and the share of revenues from Social Security tax grew to 36%. In 1975, Social Security tax stood at 5.85% of one's wages and by 1982, it had risen to 7.05%. On the first day of 1988, workers can expect another increase — to 7.51%.

On the other hand, the share of federal revenues coming from federal corporate income tax fell to 8.5% by 1984. As early as 1978, legislation enacted during the Carter administration reduced the corporate tax rate on long-term gains. In 1981, The Economic Recovery Act allowed big business to get out of more taxes by allowing bigger depreciation allowances.

The contrast is even more striking when made with 1952. Then corporate income tax was 32% of revenue and Social Security tax 6%. In 1985 corporate tax was 8% and Social Security tax 33%.

Reagan boasted he reduced taxes for the middle income brackets with the new tax program. For families whose income put them in the lowest tenth, however, the tax rate increased from 8 to 10.5%. For the richest tenth, on the other hand, the tax rate declined by about 4%.

Justice for janitors.

Seventy-five maintenance workers and supporters marched through downtown Atlanta in support of the national Justice For Janitors campaign. Black, white and Latin workers protested a court injunction forbidding leafleting or noisy pickets at a wealthy downtown shopping mall. Demonstrators tied themselves together and taped their mouths shut. The campaign by the SEIU is demanding a union contract and a raise in the starting wage from \$3.25 to \$5.25 per hour.



WW PHOTO: JIMMY RANNOR

On the picket line

If successful, this settlement could pave the way for a return to normal in the 80,000-member local, the largest in the country. It would free the union to focus on clearing up a backlog of grievances, improving the benefit fund and strengthening the union's hand in negotiating its many contracts. The union's position in bargaining and organizing had been weakened by the turmoil and uncertainty in recent weeks, especially around the trusteeship.

The text of the proposed settlement

Strike vote at American. A strike authorization vote is underway at American Airlines, where 12,000 flight attendants have been working without a negotiated contract since last April, and under the unilaterally-imposed company offer since June. The flight attendants' struggle at American has been heating up for the last year, with the airline, already the most profitable in the industry, pushing hard for further takebacks and wage cuts. The key issue is a two-tiered wage structure through which American seeks to divide the workers; instead, flight attendants have united in an increasingly angry fight to bring all wages up to a decent level. Conditions for flight attendants, mostly women, have been steadily deteriorating at American as at most airlines, and, according to APFA President Pat Gibbs, bottom-tier pay is so bad that many of the lower-seniority full-time workers who support families qualify for food stamps. Leaders of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants said they hope to have a strong strike vote in time for Christmas, a peak period for air travel.

East Coast tugboat strike.

Some 500 tugboat workers in Norfolk, Va., Baltimore and Philadelphia have been out on strike since Sept. 30. The walkout by members of the Seafarers union is in response to an all-out attack by two towing companies, which demanded rollbacks in staffing, a 24-hour workday instead of the eight-hour day and imposition of daily instead of hourly wage rates, which would effectively drop pay to minimum wage levels. While the strikers walk, the scab tugboat crews management recruited to try to break the strike are bumbling about in the harbors, with the Coast Guard reporting a good number of tugboat collisions and groundings. According to Seafarers President Frank Drozak, though, scab incompetence can be serious, as "dangerous and toxic cargoes are moved in and out of all three ports, and accidents involving these materials could be disastrous." Strikers link the scab safety threat to their own struggle, pointing out that the companies' takeback demands would make for "regressive, unsafe conditions" on the tugs. Hundreds of supporters from

dozens of area unions turned out at a recent strike solidarity rally for the tugboat workers in Baltimore.

Stock Exchange settlement.

The 1,100 Wall Street workers who struck for three days in early November are voting on a new contract agreement that includes substantial gains in pension and early retirement benefits, the two key issues. The tentative settlement lowers standard retirement age from 65 to 62 and beefs up the early retirement package so that, for instance, a worker who retires at age 55 will get 86% of accrued benefits, as opposed to the 75% offered before the walkout. The formula used to calculate pension benefits will also be

U.S. gov't exploits Cuban prisoner rebellions

Seek to strengthen anti-communism and push anti-Cuba poison

By David Perez

December 1 — There has been a lot of attention given to the events of the past week involving rebellions by 2,400 Cuban prisoners at two federal prisons — one in Oakdale, La., and the other in Atlanta, Ga. The focus of these riots has been the agreement reached on Nov. 22 between Cuba and the U.S., in which the revolutionary government of Cuba said it would take back 2,600 Cuban prisoners held in U.S. jails.

As of this writing, the takeover in Oakdale has ended with an agreement between the prisoners and the Justice Department. While the exact terms of the agreement have not been published, they are reported to include some form of amnesty for the Cubans.

According to the Dec. 1 New York Times, the agreement requires "that the revolt at the facility not disturb the status of the detainees who were nearing release in the review process established by the government. It also called for work permits for released detainees, medical treatment for ill Cubans and the release of inmates to third countries that may accept them."

The leaders of the rebellion in Atlanta are reportedly holding out for an abrogation of the U.S.-Cuba pact which would send them back to Cuba.

Some 122 prison personnel were taken hostage in the two facilities, of whom 94 are still being held at the Atlanta penitentiary. Two hostages have been wounded and in Oakdale, the prisoners burned down a large part of the detention center.

The U.S. government has never offered amnesty before to prisoners in any similar uprising.

Whatever the final outcome, there is much to be learned from these events, but it is necessary to clear away some of the confusion around what the real issues are.

Reagan administration offered amnesty

First of all, it is important to differentiate our view from that of the bourgeoisie, especially as expressed in the mass media. Their coverage and views have been full of "sympathy" and "understanding" for the Cubans. Even Attorney General Ed Meese — a rabid right-winger who has sworn to be tough on "law and order" — very early sent a conciliatory message to the prisoners offering amnesty and a moratorium on the deportations while each case was being reviewed.

What a contrast to the treatment given other prisoners, and especially the undocumented workers from Mexico, Haiti or the Dominican Republic! Why this stance by the U.S. government? Because it is in their interest to use this occasion to once again espouse their anti-Cuba poison and strengthen anti-communism, which these Cuban prisoners share.

It would be absurd to think that the Reagan administration is suddenly sympathetic to the plight of those languishing in U.S. dungeons. In fact, quite the opposite is true. Every legitimate rebellion of the poor and oppressed behind the walls has been met with hostility, racist slanders, and, quite often, repression and murder.

Stark contrast to bloodbath at Attica

One only has to remember the historic Attica uprising in September 1971. Hundreds of Black, Latin and poor white prisoners electrified the world when they took over a section of the prison, along with 50 hostages, and demanded an end to racist brutality, inhuman conditions and other harsh indignities. The response of the

state, led by the billionaire governor Nelson Rockefeller, was a full-scale massacre.

On only the fifth day of the uprising, state troopers and National Guard troops stormed the prison, their rifles and shotguns blazing. They killed or fatally wounded 29 prisoners and 10 guards. Over 100 others were wounded. It was a demonstration of imperialism's true position on popular insurrections.

This newspaper and Workers World Party have a long and proud history of support and solidarity with those incarcerated sisters and brothers fighting for human dignity and against racist oppression. From the formation of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee during the early 1970s, to giving complete support and solidarity to the Attica rebellion, to fighting the racist death penalty, Workers World has consistently defended the right of oppressed prisoners to fight for freedom and justice.

The current rebellions in Atlanta and Louisiana, however, have taken on a different character from these other uprisings.

U.S. racism a factor, but not target of uprising

This is not to say that racism, gay-bating and maltreatment by the prison officials and guards were not factors. In fact, in Atlanta an additional spark to the rebellion was that one of the prison guards shot a Cuban inmate in the head and taunted the prisoners about being sent back.

To be sure, the fact that the majority of these Cubans are black and brown skinned is not lost on the U.S.

NYC transit cops caught in racist conspiracy

By Neville Edwards
New York

Four white New York City transit police officers made hundreds of arrests of Black and Latin men. All these arrests took place starting April 1983 and may have occurred as recently as April 1987.

Lt. Thomas Dargan, retired head of the New York City transit police internal affairs unit, exposed a coverup of these false arrests by big brass within the transit police department and the district attorney's office. Whatever Dargan's reasons for revealing the corruption, the slime of the racist police is out in the open.

Dargan investigated these false arrests from 1983 till March 1984, then forwarded his findings to Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau. Dargan was informed that there was not enough evidence to prosecute the four officers. He was also told by Deputy Transit Police Chief John Rogan and other top transit police officers that no charges would be brought against the four.

Dargan's report exposes the daily repression of oppressed people by the racist police department. "It's a coverup. No doubt about it," stated Dargan.

Racist arrests for points and promotion

According to the report, these cops were conducting the illegal arrests in order to gain points for promotion and overtime which translated into more money. This follows the police department quota system of arrests. If cops can't make legal arrests, then they create trumped-up charges against oppressed people.

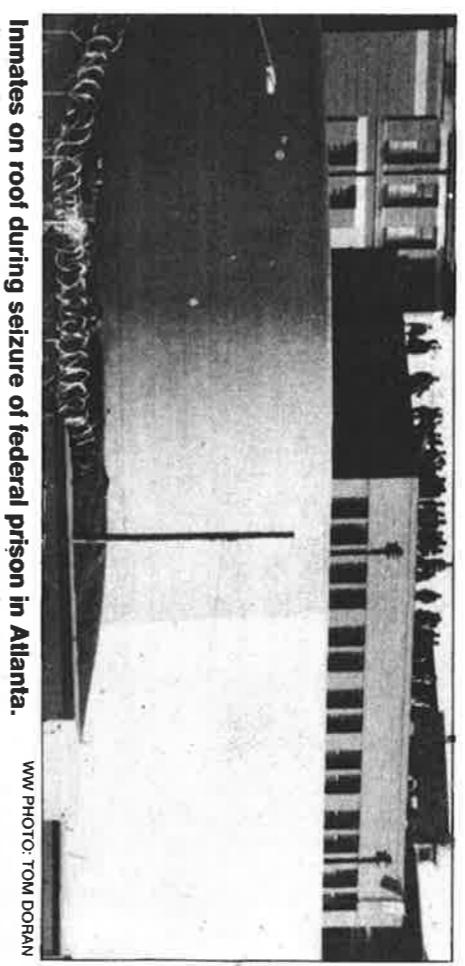
"Pressure from the Stewart case might have had some input into why there was some coverup," stated Lt.

government and the prison officials and guards. Upon arrival in the U.S. and even more so upon ending up in jail, many found themselves victims of racism.

But this is not the main focus of the rebellion nor of the prisoners' demands. And naturally the U.S. media and government spokesmen, as well as right-wing Cuban-Americans supposedly mediating, have played up the anti-Cuba aspect to the hilt while absolutely ignoring complaints by the prisoners about racism and prison conditions.

It should be mentioned that many of these prisoners had been in jail for crimes committed in Cuba before leaving during the Mariel exodus in 1980, which had been promoted by the Carter administration. (Fidel and the Cuban people let them leave to the chants of "Que se vayan," which means "Let them go and good riddance.")

It goes without saying that, regardless of what they expected, once they got here they didn't exactly find gold in the streets.



Inmates on roof during seizure of federal prison in Atlanta.

WW PHOTO: TOM DORAN

Dargan. Michael Stewart, a young Black man, was arrested Sept. 15, 1983, for allegedly writing graffiti on a subway wall.

Taken to the same subway area where most of the illegal arrests took place, Stewart was tied and severely beaten by six white cops. He went into a coma and died 13 days later. Eventually, the six police were tried and acquitted of all charges.

Most 'victims' deny crime was committed

Most of the false arrests took place on the Lexington Ave. subway line at Union Square and involved charges of jostling, sexual abuse and attempted grand larceny. All of the alleged crime victims were white women. Contrary to the arresting officers, almost all the women denied that they had crimes committed against them.

No one knows how many innocent people these cops arrested were tried and convicted. Some of the defendants pleaded guilty to a lesser charge rather than go to jail. Some bore the full brunt of the charges and went to jail.

Over 60% of the alleged victims could not be located because names, addresses and phone numbers were fabricated by the arresting officers. In other cases, the purported victims did not know that they had been molested or that charges had been filed.

In one case, Mirrella Amato, a purported victim, stated that she told the two cops that the man they accused of sexually abusing her on a packed subway car in 1983 never touched her. "I was pretty sure he didn't do anything," stated Amato.

On Feb. 2, 1984, Robert Young, the head of a child-care center in Far Rockaway, Queens, was on his way to night class at Baruch College in Man-

hattan, when Officer Alphonse Iannacone pulled him off the train at 14th Street, Union Square, and charged him with sexual abuse. He was offered a chance to plead guilty to a lesser charge but refused.

The case was dismissed when the woman listed as the complainant failed to show up in court. Subsequently, Young filed a lawsuit against the Transit Authority and was awarded \$400,000 in damages. And in a similar suit, another man was awarded \$10,000 by the TA.

Ronald Yeaton, an eight-year veteran police officer, who is Black, was arrested by Officer William Corkran and charged with sexual abuse. Though Yeaton was eventually acquitted of all charges, he still has not been reinstated to his former post. Given the finding from Dargan's investigation, why did the District Attorney's office prosecute these false arrests? Why didn't the transit authority police chief, James Meehan, prosecute the four cops? Leaders within the Black community are calling for the arrest of the District Attorney.

Black and Latin people have been constantly brutalized and murdered by the racist police department, and the DA's office has failed to find any of the perpetrating officers guilty. Mayor Koch has appointed a special prosecutor Charles J. Hynes to investigate the coverup. He has also directed the Police Internal Affairs Department to investigate the four cops. But how can the poor and oppressed community rely on the corrupt Koch administration to work in their interest, or the corrupt cops to investigate themselves?

It's only a combined effort of the Black, Latin and other oppressed people and progressives that will be able to beat back police brutality.

Economic crisis in Mexico — its impact on workers

By Gloria La Riva
San Francisco

Following the Oct. 19 crash on Wall Street, Mexico's economy has moved to the brink of collapse. The stock market dropped to under 100,000 points in mid-November, from a high of 350,000 in August. The peso, already in a downward spiral over the past five years, plunged from 1,700 to the dollar to 2,700 on two November days, then settled at 2,500.

Last week we examined the overall impact of these plunges on the Mexican economy in general. This week we will concentrate on its impact on the workers and peasants. We will also examine how certain U.S. corporations stand to increase exploitation of their

9 million Italian workers strike against post-crash austerity

More than 9 million Italian workers stayed off the job on Nov. 25 to protest a new state-sponsored austerity plan that increases their taxes while cutting back on social services.

The crash of the world's stock markets in October has thrown the Italian government into a crisis, which it is attempting to solve at the expense of the nation's wage earners. A similar situation exists here in the U.S.

Strike rallies took place in a dozen major cities, including Milan, Turin and Florence. Railroads and airports

workforce after the peso's plunge.

The effect for the workers and peasants of Mexico will be the intensification of already depression-like conditions. Even while the stock market was flying high, the Mexican working class was suffering from 25% official unemployment and mass hunger.

Millions have been forced into the U.S. to work in fields and sweatshops for the survival of their families at home.

Up to 400,000 peasants migrate to Mexico City each year seeking economic opportunities. Most end up living in makeshift shelter amidst incredible poverty and unsanitary conditions. One squatter settlement on the edge of Mexico City, Valle de

were closed, banks were shut down and rush-hour traffic in downtown Rome was light as bus and truck drivers took the day off along with much of the rest of the work force. No major newspapers could be published, as most journalists also honored the strike. All schools and universities were also shut.

The action was endorsed by all three of Italy's major labor federations.

It was the largest strike in recent years.

Andy Stapp

Latin American, Caribbean women gather at 2 events in Mexico

By Lucinda Sinterrea
Mexico City

Latin American and Caribbean women gathered in Mexico in mid-October to hold two important events to discuss and further the struggle for the liberation of women. From Oct. 13 to 17, about 300 women attended the First Latin American and Caribbean Lesbian Feminist gathering. From Oct. 19 to 25, about 1,500 women took part in the Fourth Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Gathering.

Both of these gatherings were attended by women representing most Latin American and Caribbean countries. This included women living inside and outside their country of origin due to political or economic exile or because their land is occupied, as in the case of the Chicana-Mexicanas and Puerto Rican women.

The women present at these events represented a broad sector of society, including women from the labor unions, peasant women, indigenous women, working class women, women in the armed struggle, lesbians, women belonging to political parties, women in the struggle for the defense of human rights, middle class women and many more. They all came together to advance the struggle for the liberation of women.

At the first gathering of lesbians, one of the more important purposes of those present was to analyze the reality in which they live, to confront the situation united and to construct a Latin American and Caribbean political lesbian feminist movement in defense of the rights of lesbians. For this end the Latin American and Caribbean Lesbian Feminist Network was formed.

The fourth gathering followed a tradition established in 1981 in the city of Bogota, Colombia, where the First



Logos for the Fourth Feminist Conference and First Lesbian Conference for Women of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Gathering was held. Since then these conferences have been taking place every two years, with ever greater participation.

The weight of imperialism

In Latin America and the Caribbean, where people are living under the heavy weight of militarism and the external debt engendered by U.S. imperialism, the feminist movement has taken on particular hues to reflect these conditions.

Many women belong to organizations that defend the rights of women and that also struggle against imperialism and colonialism. These women explain that the oppression of women and of the working class and peasants has the same roots and serves the same interests. Therefore, the struggle for the rights of women and for self-de-

velopment was established in 1981; today it has 800,000 residents. The population of Mexico City is now 15 million.

In early November, 20,000 squatters were evicted by police raids. But many of these settlements, through the determination of the residents, have been organized to successfully demand electricity, water, and in some cases, even land titles from the government.

Imperialism and development

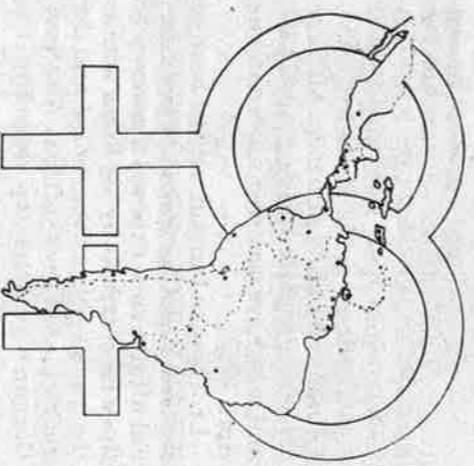
Mexico is described in the capitalist media as a "developing country," as if its economy will steadily improve until it reaches the "developed" stage, like the U.S., Japan or West Germany. But Mexico is characteristic of the oppressed countries of the world, with rampant and increasing unemployment and poverty, and completely subject to domination by imperialism.

One place this domination is shown is in the border plants. In these plants, known as maquiladoras, U.S. manufacturers employ Mexican labor at wages much lower than those paid in the U.S. itself.

In 1982, there were 380 such plants employing 70,000 workers. With the slide in the peso from 26 to the dollar to the current 2,500, the number of plants grew to 1,400, and the number of Mexican workers employed to 350,000.

Because of the recent plunge in the peso, minimum wage rates fell to about 60 cents an hour the third week of November. Almost all these plants in Mexico pay the minimum wage.

Although Mexico's government has



El Primer Encuentro de Lesbianas Feministas y Caribeñas

termination of the oppressed are intricably linked.

Some of the issues that were discussed were: feminism in Latin America and the Caribbean today; violence and rape; Central America; violence and war; Cuban women in politics; in a discussion led by the Cuban delegation; abortion and the Catholic Church; feminism and the popular movements; feminism and the anti-imperialist struggle.

Also lesbianism and repression; exile; labor union women; Colombia —dirty war; women in political parties; health; human rights; prostitution, body and politics; sexuality; alternative medicine; lesbian mothers and many more.

The feminist and lesbian movements of the Third World include thousands and thousands of women of many sectors of society. They are moving towards a definition of feminism

generally played a relatively progressive role in Latin America — for example, refusing to break ties with revolutionary Cuba and Nicaragua — it is nevertheless a bourgeois government overseeing a capitalist economy.

The rightward shift of the PRI (the Institutional Party of the Revolution, the governing party) was shown by the recent virtual election-through-nomination of presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Salinas de Gortari is a strong advocate of "solving" Mexico's economic problems by imposing even greater austerity and cutbacks on the workers and poor. This is the same program advocated by the imperialist banks.

But Mexico has something other than increasing poverty in common with the other forcibly underdeveloped countries of the world. Just as in the Philippines, south Korea, Chile and South Africa, the Mexican workers and peasants are organizing to resist their continued super-exploitation at the hands of imperialism and the Mexican bourgeoisie. A number of national labor strikes have occurred this year, most notably by telephone and electrical workers.

A real, lasting solution for the Mexican masses must go beyond bourgeois nationalization of banks and certain industries. The revolutionary expropriation of the factories, farms and oil fields by the Mexican workers and peasants, and the reorganization of the economy on a socialist basis, becomes every day a more pressing necessity.

that truly encompasses all the oppression women suffer, as women, as workers and peasants, and as Third World women living under imperialist domination. Women are at the forefront of the struggle and this not only benefits women but all the popular sectors of society.

The last day after both gatherings ended, a demonstration took place that showed the commitment the feminist and lesbian feminist movements have with other movements. The march called for the rights of women and ended at the zocalo, the main square, where the presidential palace and the cathedral stand.

This also is the place where the National Coordinator of the Indian Peoples has been protesting since Oct. 13 holding a hunger strike to demand a halt to the repression and detention in the Indian communities. In addition, they demand the right to self-determination in their lands where their customs are being eradicated and where communities are being denationalized.

There a very touching ceremony was held between the women and the Indians in solidarity and in mutual support of each other's political objectives.

Because of the rapid growth of the feminist gatherings it has been decided to also hold them at the local and regional level. This way many, many more women will be able to attend. The lower cost will permit the attendance of more women from the popular sectors, such as domestic workers, prostitutes, peasants, indigenous women, youth and others.

As African women say, so say Latin American and Caribbean women: "Now that you have touched the women, you have struck a rock. You've dislodged a boulder, and you will be crushed."

Latin leaders give Reaganites another setback

By Sharon Shelton

November 30 — Eight presidents of Latin American countries held a major conference last week — without the United States.

This conference, held in Acapulco on Nov. 25-29, was remarkable considering that 25 years ago it would have been unthinkable for Latin countries to meet independently of U.S. imperialism. But even more significant was one of the results of last week's meeting.

Not only was the U.S. excluded for the first time, but the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela indicated they would back the readmission to regional organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), of revolutionary Cuba.

Cuba was expelled from the OAS under pressure from U.S. imperialism back in 1962. Washington has steadfastly opposed Cuba's readmission, so this latest move by the Latin presidents constitutes a rebuff to the Reagan administration and a testimony

to the weakening position of the U.S. worldwide.

The declaration also backed Argentina in future negotiations over the Malvinas islands, over which a war was fought in 1982, and demanded full implementation of the 1979 Torrijos-Carter treaties on returning the Panama Canal to Panama.

\$400 billion debt to imperialist banks

The main topic at the summit, and indeed the most pressing problem of the conferees, was Latin America's onerous \$400 billion debt to imperialist banks.

Usurious interest on this debt has bled Latin American countries dry, resulting in unspeakable poverty and misery for literally millions of people due to imperialist-dictated "austerity" measures. Today, as the Latin presidents are all too aware, the peoples of the debtor nations have pulled in their belts as tightly as they can.

In a 29-page document, the presidents called for negotiations with rich creditors to try to ease the debt burden. The Declaration of Acapulco, as the document was called, also stated that if the U.S. and other imperialists did

Continued from page 1

finger to protect the population or candidates, two of whom were killed by death squads while campaigning. The population responded by setting up vigilance committees in the shanties. Unarmed, these mass organizations attempted to warn the population when the death squads were afoot, mostly by blowing whistles and banging on pots.

A few days before the scheduled elections, one committee managed to kill four attackers. To the surprise of none in the shantytowns, two turned out to be plainclothes police officers. It was only then that the government moved in, not to protect the elections or the population, but to attack the vigilance committees, and kill their members.

U.S. role

Washington never loses an opportunity to rant and rave against any socialist country over alleged human rights abuses. But its response to this outright slaughter of unarmed Black civilians by a U.S. client regime has been exceptionally mild. The Reagan administration called these terror attacks on the population as a whole "unfortunate." Up to this writing Washington has refused comment on the clear connection between the Macoutes and the Namphy government.

Duvalier fled Haiti, escorted out by his U.S. mentors, only because the popular masses took to the streets and defied the brutal terrorist mercenaries of the Duvalier regime. The Haitian workers and peasants did not nominate Duvalier's military chief of staff or any of his crony generals to preside over their revolution. The so-called interim regime is the product of conscious conspiracy by the White House and the Pentagon.

While Haiti's poor are now fighting for their lives, their anger and outrage have not subsided. One Port-au-Prince vendor, Maxwell, told reporters, "We cannot stand for this. Another Duvalier. If there will not be elections we will have a revolution." When asked what the people would use for weapons against the military he replied, "Our bodies."

What the heroic Haitian people need is strong and consistent support. The progressive movement, the workers and oppressed people in this country can give key aid to them by demanding that the U.S. get out of Haiti and stay out!

not negotiate, the debtors themselves might have to lower the amount of interest they pay. Two countries, Brazil and Peru, have already done just that, and the conferees backed their actions.

Washington has no solution for debt crisis

While the declaration was milder than expected and made no mention of the decision to move to readmit Cuba to the OAS, it is clear that U.S. imperialism is not running the show like it once did. Reagan officials expressed surprise at news that Cuba is expected to be readmitted within the next year.

It should be no wonder that the Latin presidents are trying to distance themselves somewhat from their bully-boy northern neighbor and are making these moves toward Cuba. U.S. imperialism, which is itself reeling financially, has no solution to the debt crisis. All that the imperialist banks desperately want — and need — is more payment of their exorbitant

interest, regardless of the human suffering these unending interest payments cause.

Revolutionary Cuba, on the other hand, stands virtually alone in Latin America as a country where conditions for the masses of people are steadily improving. Despite the criminal blockade imposed by Washington, Cuba stands as a beacon light to the workers and peasants of Latin America who are fed up with making sacrifices so rich bankers can get richer. Moreover, Cuban Premier Fidel Castro has offered a simple solution to the Latin debt: don't pay it.

Since 1982, Latin American nations paid a total of \$180 billion in interest alone. Meanwhile their combined debt rose \$100 billion. Why should the peoples of Latin America pay one more cent to the bloodsucking banks? The conference in Acapulco represents the growing awareness across Latin America that U.S. imperialism has nothing to offer except more exploitation and suffering.



Haitians in New York blame U.S. policy for election murders.

WW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAC

Haitians in U.S. protest killings, blast Washington's support for regime

New York

Haitians and their supporters took to the streets in New York City, Miami and Montreal to protest the massacres in Haiti by the military-dominated regime there and to strongly blast Washington for backing this regime. More than 2,500 demonstrated here on Nov. 30 in a strong, six-hour protest that began in front of the Haitian consulate and ended at the State Department. Angry Haitians carried effigies of Uncle Sam and provisional junta head Gen. Henri Namphy and waved Haitian flags as they chanted, "Down with the junta! The junta is a U.S. puppet!" "No Yankee solution. Power to the people. No U.S. intervention!" and "Revolution! Revolution!" Protesters were young and old, women and men. Many did not know if their families back home were still alive.

One demonstrator called Washington's announcement that it would cut off all but "humanitarian" aid to the Haitian junta "a joke." He added, "I blame the American government for what happened in Haiti yesterday." A spokesperson for the July 28 Coalition, the Haitian group which called the protest, explained to this reporter that "The U.S. role began in 1915, when they first invaded and occupied Haiti for 19 years. Since then," he said, "The U.S. army along with the local ruling class has made sure that every government was in their inter-

est, not in the interest of the people. The same thing is happening today. America has been the major supplier of weapons and military training to the army. The army uses the weapons and training to terrorize the people. Today the military is very much involved in torture. I want to emphasize the role the U.S. plays in consolidating this machinery."

One angry woman said, "The military is involved in the death squad attacks on the people. They are the only ones with the guns! The Tontons Macoutes are all part of the government." George Honorat from the Association of Haitian Workers explained in a phone interview that, "Since 1957, when Papa Doc took power with the complicity of the army and started the Macoutes, you can't sit down at the table and talk to them. There are going to be November 29ths (the day of the election killings) until they are out."

He called upon the Haitian people to mobilize themselves to overthrow the junta, adding, "The American people should have solidarity with the Haitian masses and work with Haitian progressives abroad in demonstrations to support the fight of the people in Haiti."

Some Haitians estimate that 400,000 Haitians live in the city. They are among the most oppressed sector of the working class. Many are undocumented workers.

Joyce Chediac



Turkey glut

The funny thing about capitalists is that they're gloomiest and most pessimistic right when their efforts have been crowned with the greatest success.

Right now the chins of the turkey moguls are on the floor. Tell them how great the industry is doing and they'll groan. Remind them that this year 240 million turkeys were readied for market and they'll twitch and blubber uncontrollably.

In fact, the agrobiz poultry men look on 1987 as the year of the great crash, and they don't mean the stock market. They mean turkey prices.

Think of it. The average person in this country this year will consume 15.6 pounds of turkey. Not just hot off the bird, but also processed. Turkey salami, turkey pastrami, turkey bologna, turkey hot dogs, turkey ham, even turkey Canadian bacon are big-ticket items now in the super markets.

But all this turkey being sold can't cheer up the fowl financiers. Because, even with the big rise in turkeys sold — from 171 million in 1985 to 240 million this year — the prolific big bird industry is way ahead of the market.

It seems that a few years ago "people outside the business spotted the opportunities in turkey" and, with big money pouring in, turkey production was expanded — so much so that the price dropped from 70 cents a pound last year to an average of 51 cents today. And in

some big cities like Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, hot competition among the super markets has driven it down to even less than 20 cents a pound!

Well, that's great, you say. Now there'll be less hungry people.

What shameless disregard for the profit motive! What a subversive and unpatriotic sentiment when big investors are already reeling from Wall Street dropsy!

Feeding hungry people isn't the business of capitalism. In fact, there will undoubtedly be moves now to cut the turkey population and subsidize turkey farms **not** to hatch chicks. This is how it went with cows. Farmers have been paid millions to slaughter dairy cows, with the result that hungry people can't get surplus milk and cheese any more.

Why was it so tempting to pour investments into turkeys a few years back? Why, because the prices of fuel oil (used to heat the coops) and grain (their staple food) were dropping. So the smart money said, Think turkey! And now turkey prices are dropping and the smart money feels sick.

Glut, glut, glut. That's what capitalist boom comes to. It's a situation ready-made for some socialist answers, like doing away with corporate rule and profiteering and using the wealth of society to serve people's needs. We say, fight capitalism, feed the people and there'll be no more glut, glut, glut. That's talking turkey.

'Popular will'?

Both Democratic and Republican party politicians are fond of claiming that they are "the people's servants," and that their job is merely to carry out the "popular will."

Letters

Chattanooga

Please let people know about this civil rights lawsuit. The Chattanooga ruling class, led by billionaire Coca-Cola bottling baron John Lupten, is totally in shock and is split on how to deal with this threat to their control.

This city was bypassed by the civil rights upsurge during the 1950s and 1960s which swept the South. The racist system remains intact. Even Dr. Martin Luther King could not organize here.

But since the first of this year, there have been several demonstrations against cop murders and Ku Klux Klan terror. The people are on the move led by the Concerned Citizens for Justice and supported by the All-Peoples Congress activists in Atlanta.

In a short period of time, Chattanooga has become a battleground against racism and exploitation of the poor. We need to let the rest of the nation know what is going on.

Here is what the Concerned Citizens said in a news release on Nov. 24:

"Today, Lorenzo Ervin, president of the Concerned Citizens for Justice, filed a complaint with the federal government, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, asking that all federal funds being sent to the city of Chattanooga and Hamilton County be suspended or terminated by the funding agencies involved until racial discrimination is ended in this city. . . .

"The complaint letter stated that Blacks were being subjected to racial discrimination in a number of areas by city government, including the issues raised in the voting rights lawsuit filed by Black citizens in federal court on Nov. 12, 1987. But in addition to those issues in the suit, there were allegations raised concerning: racial discrimination in employment in city government, law enforcement (including allegations of unchecked police brutality), in zonings, annexations and housing services, in the city's educational system (which is alleged to

be still segregated), in government services and benefits (including Block grants and community and economic development funds). . . .

"This action is not designed to, and will not hurt some poor person on Social Security disability, a worker on unemployment compensation, or a student on financial aid, but it sure will hurt this government and its ability to operate in a business-as-usual fashion. . . . We must make the government feel pain in its pocketbook before it will negotiate fairly with the Black community. We want power, not poverty!"

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Anti-apartheid trial

The anti-apartheid trial in Olympia, Wash., arose last February when seven of some 30 to 40 demonstrators chose to be arrested after being ordered to disperse. They were students at Evergreen State College.

The group had originally gone to the legislative offices of a couple of Republican leaders in the Senate in hopes of getting them to change position and vote in favor of a divestment bill that would have taken some \$1,000,000,000 from investment in South Africa. One of the senators was not in and the other identified himself as "just a bus driver," denying that he was a senator.

At that point some of the demonstrators sat down in the office, and were carried outside the building where the entire group then decided to go to the Capitol building. On arrival they were met by state troopers who barred the doors. One demonstrator then symbolically tied a red arm band around the door handles to lock the troopers in since they had locked the students out. They were given ten minutes to disperse and it was at this point the seven decided to stay and be arrested — and were.

They were charged with disorderly conduct and during the trial the prosecutor said it was the blocking of the door that violated the law. The prosecutor tried to keep out any discussion of South Africa, but after argument

A major public opinion poll just conducted by the New York Times and CBS shows how far this rhetoric is from the reality.

A majority of those polled (59%) want the government "to see that everyone who wants a job has a job." But Congress has come up with no new jobs program at all.

A majority of 78% states that the federal government should "guarantee medical care for all people." Yet there is no national health plan and Congress has no plans for one.

A majority wants Washington to "see to it that day care and after-school care for children are available." Instead Congress has cut back on this. The money goes to the Nicaraguan contras, who do not have the support of even a majority of Republican voters!

Three times as many people favor cutting military spending as opposed to increasing it, yet military expenditures are at a record high!

Whose voices are Reagan and the Congress listening to? Whose servants are they? Certainly not "the people's!"

A majority disapprove of Reagan's handling of both the economy and foreign policy, but less than half had a favorable view of the Democratic candidates. With the exception of Jesse Jackson, none of the Democrats running for the White House have put forward a program that corresponds to what people say they want, and his candidacy is hampered by lack of funds and racist media coverage.

Health care for all, jobs for all, day care for all children who need it, cuts in Pentagon expenditures and taxes are popular demands, not the cry of some "special interests."

The real "special interests" are the rich corporate bankers, armament contractors and other privileged reactionary elements who pay the piper and call the tune on Capitol Hill and in the Oval Office.

the judge agreed that the defendants should be allowed to present evidence in support of their contention that the actions were necessary.

It turned out to be the longest jury trial in the history of the District Court of Thurston County, home of Olympia, lasting some six days.

Our jury consisted of six members, all women. They returned a verdict of not guilty to all defendants.

The jurors didn't want to discuss the case when they left, and I haven't checked with any of them since, but it appears the necessity defense warranted the final decision of not guilty.

If anyone is going through such a case and thinks there may be material or information here that would be helpful, just have them get in touch.

John Thorne
1625 Delphi Rd. SW
Olympia, Wash. 98502

[The writer is a lawyer who aided in the defense in the Olympia anti-apartheid trial.]

Workers World welcomes letters from its readers. Send correspondence to: Workers World, Letters to the Editor, GPO Box 948, New York, N.Y. 10016.

— Prisoners

Continued from page 5

bemoaning the terrible fate that awaits these prisoners in Cuba. But an article in the Dec. 1 issue of the New York Spanish-language daily El Dia-rio/La Prensa reports on the treatment of Cubans who have already returned to prisons there. Many of these prisoners inside Cuba don't support the rebellions in Atlanta and Louisiana. They told reporters that "those who return are not maltreated." The same article points out that 156 of the "Marielitos" who have returned to Cuba are now free and working.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, this whole situation would not even exist were it not for U.S. imperialism's continuous hostility and attacks against people's Cuba. They brought about the mass exodus by not lifting the embargo, by not establishing diplomatic relations, by enticing Cubans to come here while trying to starve the Cuban Revolution into submission.

In brief, this was another fine mess created by U.S. imperialism; let them wallow in it.

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From Rambo to Gandhi

Reagan's change of posture and the upcoming summit

By Sam Marcy

November 30 — It will be all for the good if, when General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev meets with President Ronald Reagan, the agreement made earlier between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Secretary of State George Shultz regarding medium- and short-range missiles is signed, sealed and carried out.

One would wish it to be the beginning of the dismantling of all nuclear weapons, which have created a virtual nightmare for humanity ever since the U.S. dropped the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

It must be remembered, however, that this isn't the first time there has been an agreement between the U.S. and the USSR regarding nuclear weapons. For a considerable number of years, going all the way back to the Kennedy administration, there have been U.S.-Soviet agreements limiting nuclear weapons. And yet the arms build-up has gone on at a feverish pace.

Earlier arms agreements

The first agreement was the treaty banning the testing of weapons in the atmosphere that was signed during the Kennedy administration. There were more agreements during the Nixon administration and some during the shorter Ford administration.

During the Carter administration, the U.S. and the USSR negotiated the SALT treaty, which to this day has not been ratified by the Senate but has nevertheless been kept without substantial overt violation by the U.S.

However, beginning with the Carter administration the U.S. also embarked upon the development and deployment of the nuclear-armed cruise and Pershing missiles, which have been the cause of so much alarm and danger. Notwithstanding an anti-nuclear movement that involved many millions of people, the European imperialist allies agreed to install these missiles over the heads of the overwhelming majority of the people.

Is this the same old anti-communist Reagan?

The really important question is why the Reagan administration agreed, first to the Geneva negotiations, then to the Reykjavik meeting and finally to the projected summit meeting in Washington next week. Isn't Reagan, after all, the same president who launched one of the bitterest, most virulent and unbridled anti-Soviet campaigns ever undertaken by the U.S.?

In some aspects, Reagan's demagoguery exceeded even that of the McCarthy period. McCarthy was more intent on targeting domestic critics.

What has caused such a change? Is it a new strategic outlook by the Reagan administration? Or is it an attempt by the ruling class as a whole to adjust itself to the new global constellation of political and economic forces?

The historic process forcing Reagan to adopt a new posture is the wide and ever-increasing discrepancy between the U.S. economic base, which has been shrinking in relation to world production, and its overblown, gargantuan military establishment. This discrepancy was recognized to some extent as long ago as the Nixon administration.

It was one of the underlying factors in the negotiations for an agreement on nuclear arms during the Nixon administration, which was signed despite his virulent anti-communism and his earlier position on widening the Vietnam war.

Why has arch anti-communist Reagan agreed to a summit with Gorbachev? Has the head of U.S. imperialism undergone a spiritual transformation? Or is his softened posture on nuclear arms in response to such hard facts as the steady decline of the U.S. economic position: the crushing debt fueled by Pentagon spending, the declining dollar and the stock market crash?

Immediately after the Second World War and into the early 1950s, the U.S. accounted for about 50% of gross world production. In the ensuing years, as the capitalist belligerents recovered from the war and its destruction, industrial development there and in some of the less developed countries took on momentum. Two of the seven major imperialist powers today have a technological capacity which may be larger than that of the U.S. The socialist economies have also grown steadily.

Eventually, the U.S. share of gross world production declined to somewhere around 30% or less, and in this decade the decline has accelerated.

Of course, this is a relative decline, but it is of enormous significance in the struggle to retain world supremacy.

Vast military buildup . . .

In its early years, the Reagan administration refused to recognize this. It denounced the decline of the military, calling it weakness of will and blaming it all on the Democrats. It embarked on a vast acceleration of the military, a most unprecedented expansion.

The Reagan administration's unbridled appetite for reckless military expansion will cost over \$2 trillion in Pentagon expenditures over his two terms in office. While at first (1981-83) this acted as a stimulus, it turned into its opposite as Wall Street imperialism became a debtor instead of a creditor. Several years and several trillion dollars later it became apparent even to the most belligerent president that his policies were becoming self-defeating; they failed to accomplish his vaunted objective of reestablishing U.S. imperialist worldwide supremacy, the so-called Pax Americana.

Thus, what we have seen in the Reagan administration is not a spiritual transformation from Rambo to Gandhi, but yet another attempt, perhaps not the last, to readjust the economic capacities of U.S. imperialism to its shrinking diplomatic and military role.

Hanging over all this are the massive debts amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars in Latin America and elsewhere. All the principal debtors, including Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, also Nigeria, the Philippines and others, have made it clear that the payment of interest, let alone principal, has become a virtual impossibility unless they wish to facilitate a revolutionary upsurge in their respective countries, something Wall Street never ceases worrying about.

. . . led to falling dollar and stock market crash

Then came the fall of the dollar which, while it may achieve some temporary expansion of U.S. exports abroad, has further reduced the financial and economic power of U.S. imperialism.

cord was deliberately torpedoed by the U.S. on the day before the stock market crash, when Secretary of the Treasury James Baker made his famous ultimatum to West Germany to go along with U.S. demands on lowering interest rates in order to facilitate U.S. exports to Germany.

A period of acute economic instability cannot be overcome merely by manipulating the currency. Take, for instance, the falling dollar. This may temporarily aid U.S. exports, but the payment for them comes back in cheapened dollars, which then have less value at home as well.

Nevertheless, there are frantic demands for cooperation and an agreement on exchange rates, as though that could be the answer to global economic problems.

It is interesting to note that last summer was the 60th anniversary of the first attempt at such cooperation: an international currency accord between the U.S. and Britain. Britain was trying to find a way to do what the U.S. is doing today, to cheapen its currency, and the U.S. was trying to help, but the French and German imperialists were opposed because it meant strengthening the export position of the British as against the Europeans.

But the most remarkable parallel is not between the monetary situation then and now; it is that Britain then, in 1927, even though a victor in the first imperialist war, found that the huge military establishment it maintained to strengthen its worldwide colonial empire over the oppressed people was in stark and irreconcilable contradiction to its shrinking economic base at home — a situation strikingly analogous to that of the U.S. now.

The currency accord proved of no avail.

After the Second World War Britain had to abandon its role, eagerly handing it over to the U.S. and becoming a junior, junior partner in exploitation. The position of the U.S. today is doubly untenable, and this explains why the Reagan administration has made this about-face.

And here is another interesting parallel. In 1926 the British, in an attempt to become the leader of the anti-communist alliance, and as a result of the British general strike, deliberately broke diplomatic relations with the USSR over the phony "Zinoviev letters," which supposedly revealed a plot to overthrow the British government. But the British ruling class soon found that it didn't work, didn't enhance their military or diplomatic position. They were forced soon enough to again diplomatically recognize the Soviet Union.

War spending and taxes

It may be possible for a while to fool some people into believing that Reagan is against spending and taxing, but eventually the reality of swollen defense expenditures and hidden as well as open taxes which fall heaviest on the working class becomes obvious.

The big foreign investors from Tokyo to Saudi Arabia know the score and their destinies are tied to the fortunes of U.S. monopoly and its protective armor. To continue the process begun in 1981 has become anathema to all of those foreign financial interests who first thrived on Reaganite largesse, when military contracts, especially involving the Star Wars scheme, were doled out to tighten U.S. imperialism's grip on them. Now many feel themselves on the verge of bankruptcy unless some redress is obtained.

Hence the nervousness of the stock market. *Continued on page 11*

The October 19 crash of the stock market and its continuing decline since then symbolizes the fading fortunes of U.S. imperialist expansion and increases the danger that it will resort to extreme military measures in an attempt to redress its economic situation.

Thus, while much will be written on how the USSR needs a summit meeting and a reduction of arms generally in order to fortify the Soviet economy, the burning problem for the Reagan administration is the condition of the U.S. capitalist economy.

Bankers and politicians are united in their quest for a reduction of general government expenditures (of course, at the expense of the workers and oppressed peoples). Never has there been such a docile, subservient group of congressmen as those who just agreed with the White House to take a meat axe to vital services.

The most interesting phenomenon, however, is that Reagan has promised (and it's only a promise), and the new Secretary of Defense, Frank Carlucci, has confirmed, that there will have to be some cuts in defense expenditures.

What a turnaround from the situation in 1981! Then even the phrase "defense cuts" was virtually verboten. Even the most liberal members of Congress were intimidated and stampeded into voting for utterly incredible expenditures to build a 600-ship Navy, acquire new planes, missiles, bombs and tanks. It seemed like an endless process.

But, as we said, the consequences of all this spending soon made themselves felt, first in the most sensitive area — that of the Wall Street financiers. The U.S. began running an enormous trade deficit and borrowing heavily from abroad. The huge credits built up during the Second World War and immediately thereafter were being dissolved in a sea of red ink.

The allied imperialists, led by Japan and West Germany but including France, Great Britain and Holland, not only made known their displeasure at shouldering the huge defense expenditures for the Pentagon but also began to threaten devaluations of their own currency in response to the fall of the dollar.

Manipulation of currency no cure

Fearful that a free-fall of the dollar will bring about another economic collapse, this time with even greater impact, U.S. financiers, industrialists and politicians are now once again urging cooperation and calling for a conference among the leading imperialist powers, the so-called Group of Seven: the U.S., Britain, West Germany, Japan, France, Italy and Canada.

The stated purpose of these conferences, as we have pointed out in these pages over a period of time, is to stabilize the currencies. But they can never really agree, especially in times of capitalist instability, and each regularly cheats on the others. Hence, the latest agreement known as the Louvre ac-

Arab people heartened by bold raid on Israeli military

By Shelley Ettinger

The struggle of the Palestinian people rages on. That was dramatically demonstrated Nov. 25, when a daring commando raid against an Israeli army base successfully penetrated the settler state's defenses inside its own borders, stunning Israel and raising the hopes of the oppressed throughout the Middle East.

The action showed just how alive the Palestinian struggle is, despite the sophisticated U.S. and Israeli weapons pitted against it, and how deep the determination of the Palestinian people to reclaim their homeland remains.

Hero in hang glider

The attack was apparently carried out by a single Palestinian who piloted a motorized hang glider from southern Lebanon, eluded Israeli heli-

copters, flew through a 12-mile radar security zone, and landed right outside an army base in northern Israel.

Once there, he — undoubtedly a youthful freedom fighter who volunteered for the mission with a clear understanding that he would never return — shot two Israeli soldiers and entered the base, where he was met by a soldier who fled as the Palestinian hurled a grenade.

The guerrilla then proceeded as far into the base as he could, single handedly battling soldiers with a machine gun and grenades in what one U.S. reporter referred to as "a prolonged firefight, probably lasting more than 30 minutes." In all, at least six Israeli soldiers were killed and seven wounded before the brave Palestinian

youth was himself killed.

In the aftermath of the raid, U.S. and Israeli analysts, humiliated by its success, criticized the Israeli Army for its lack of preparedness and concentrated on strategic questions of methods of defense against so-called terrorism.

But in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, reportedly, and throughout the Arab world, banner headlines proclaimed the real meaning of the news: a people's struggle for self-determination can never be stopped.

It is 70 years since Britain's Balfour Declaration authorized immigration into Palestine without even asking the indigenous population there, 40 years since Palestine was partitioned by the imperialists and later, the state of Is-

rael declared on Palestinian soil. It has been 20 years since Israel, backed by Washington, seized the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza strip, and five years since Tel Aviv, armed by the Pentagon, invaded Lebanon and killed tens of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese there. Despite all these assaults, and many other attacks in between, the Palestinian struggle continues as long as the oppression remains.

Though he may have been raised in a refugee camp outside Palestine and it may have been the first and only time he was ever in his homeland, the liberation fighter dared everything for the struggle. The Israeli settler state and its U.S. backers have no defense against that.

People's Korea makes reunification proposal

By L. Volpe

A five-point program for national unity on the Korean peninsula was put forward by the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland and the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland after it was adopted by a meeting of the two groups in Pyongyang, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Nov. 11. The purpose of the proposal is to attempt to begin a phase which develops trust and unity between north and south Korea which would pave the way for the universally popular reunification of the country.

The proposal calls for (1) the formation of a democratic regime in the south, (2) an end to the confrontation between north and south, (3) an opening of sincere dialogue between north and south, (4) a mutually acceptable solution to the problems of the upcoming Olympic Games and (5) an easing of war tensions between the two halves of the country.

The five points were elaborated on in a letter to various political parties and groupings of people of all strata in the south. On the first point, the letter explains that the U.S. and its client in the south, the fascist military regime of Chon Du Hwan, cannot and have no intention of solving the question of the country's independent reunification which is the desire of virtually ev-

ery Korean, north and south. The letter points out that the only government in the south that could adequately voice the aspirations of the people of the south on this matter is a government free from U.S. imperialism. It calls on the people of the south to continue their struggle against the Chon regime and its U.S. backers and "to win a truly democratic regime which desires independence and reunification."

The second point of the letter appeals to the people of the south to not get caught up in the anti-communist hysteria whipped up by the U.S., the Chon regime and his Democratic Justice Party. This hysteria is used by the puppet regime to continue the division and confrontation on the peninsula and as a tool for brutal suppression of the anti-fascist forces in the south.

The same Democratic Justice Party (DJP) has initiated the "Civilian Reserve Defense Corps," an extra-legal vigilante organization which uses armed violence against progressive students and opposition parties.

In their third proposal the joint committee recommends that the "door of dialogue be flung wide open to each other on the basis of the establishment of a democratic regime in south Korea." It suggests a dialogue on reunification based on mutual respect and mutual interests between government authorities, representatives of different political parties and groups and

people from different walks of life. It also suggests that open travel between the two halves be initiated, especially for those millions of Koreans who have been separated from their immediate families for more than 40 years.

1988 Olympics

Travel to Seoul and participation in the Summer Olympics there in 1988 by virtually every country in the world would be de facto recognition of not only the puppet Seoul regime (which the socialist countries have refused to do since the 1945 division) but it would also give legitimacy to the U.S. fostered division of the country.

The selection of Seoul by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) came only after arm twisting by the U.S. As the international community held its breath for yet another U.S.-provoked boycott of the Games, the DPRK Olympic Committee suggested that the two halves co-host the Games and share the events equally. This recommendation was welcomed by national Olympic Committees around the globe.

However, the Seoul regime rejected the proposal. The DPRK then cut their recommendation to hosting only eight events and then eventually went down to five full events and one partial event. But the Seoul regime not only rejected these more than reasonable proposals but even refused bilateral talks to discuss these matters.

On Sept. 17, the Chon regime sent out invitations to the "Seoul" Olympics and again refused bilateral talks on Oct. 20. The DPRK has decided to await the outcome of the national elections in the south in December rather than making another fruitless attempt to negotiate with the fascist regime.

The fourth point of the proposal calls for a newly elected popular administration to "flexibly discuss and solve the problem of co-hosting the Olympics from the standpoint of promoting national unity." It also suggests the possibility of a unified north-south team and recommends that students and youth from the south participate in the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students in Pyongyang in 1989.

The fifth point urges that "all measures possible be taken to evade the dangers of armed conflict and war and ease tensions." Again, it is the U.S., whose arms industry makes billions of dollars from the selling of weapons to south Korea, its client regime, which continually threatens the north. The Joint Committee calls for withdrawal of both forces from the demilitarized zone, a halt to large scale military exercises, a ceasefire on land and sea and direct telephone lines between military authorities north and south.



VVV PHOTO: DICK BECKER

Demonstrators in San Francisco protest Israeli occupation of West Bank and Gaza and demand an end to U.S. military aid to Israel.

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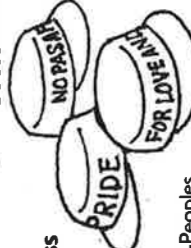
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Gay stepfather wins custody battle in California

By Shelley Ettinger

An important child custody case ended in victory for a 16-year-old boy and his gay stepfather on Nov. 5, when Craig Corbett was awarded custody of Brian Batey in San Diego, Calif., finally bringing to a close a six-year-long battle over the rights of lesbian and gay parents.

In the course of that battle, Brian's mother, a rabidly anti-gay right-wing religious fundamentalist, sought to win custody of the boy from his father, Frank Batey, a gay man. She resorted to kidnapping Brian several times and continually tried to inculcate homophobia and hatred of his own father in him.

"It didn't work, and Frank Batey won custody of his son last year, based both on the loving home environment he and his lover, Craig Corbett, provided and on the wishes of Brian himself. Father and son were only to enjoy life together for a few months, however, as the elder Batey died of AIDS last June.

After his father's death, Brian told his mother that he wanted to continue living in his home with his father's lover. But Betty Lou Batey mounted yet another attack, this time on Brian

and his stepfather, suing for custody in court and once again kidnapping Brian.

Struggle makes new laws

Finally, last month, San Diego Superior Court Judge Judith McConnell awarded custody of Brian to Craig Corbett. That decision is very significant, and not just for the people involved in this case.

Such a decision — awarding custody of a minor to the gay lover of a deceased parent — would have been unthinkable as few as ten years ago, and very unlikely even five years ago. For it to come in San Diego, a bastion of social and political conservatism, is even more striking.

Betty Lou Batey charged the judge was biased. But what's really behind the decision is something much more important than the personal opinions of one judge.

Clearly, the lesbian and gay liberation movement paved the way for this victory. Through years of struggle against lesbian and gay oppression, and, of particular note here, for the rights of lesbian and gay parents and children, the weight of that movement has been brought to bear against all the anti-gay laws and institutions of the ruling class.

In some cases, those laws have changed. In many cities, for example, discrimination against lesbians and gay men is now illegal. Some states

have repealed the anti-gay "sodomy" laws that criminalize consensual sex.

But, law or no law, the struggle itself has a way of changing things. That's what happened in the Batey case. There is no new California statute regarding the rights of lesbian and gay parents or their lovers. The judge didn't cite Supreme Court precedent — that's for sure — or relevant appeals court decisions.

Rather, this court's decision was based on recognition of the changed social situation, in response to the demands of the lesbian and gay community. It's no coincidence, either, that it came just weeks after half a million people marched on Washington to demand lesbian and gay rights.

— From Rambo to Gandhi

Continued from page 9

market, the White House and Reagan's congressional cronies. Reagan and his cohorts have at last been led to the realization that an adjustment of tactics is particularly important, not just to save the declining fortunes of the Reagan administration, but to make another attempt to rearrange the balance of power and restore the world position of U.S. monopoly capitalism by softening their relations with the USSR (that's all it means at this stage) and putting a tighter squeeze on the living standards at home.

Yes, there will be howls from the extreme right over the summit meeting. When haven't there been?

But the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting and the need to put on a peace-loving face are taking place at a time when acute economic distress is pending. Who knows when the second stage of the collapse will come? That's what Reagan is faced with, and so far he has had little success in damming the

onrushing flood of bad economic news. There's nothing like a political ploy, a diplomatic tour-de-force, to divert the masses, help facilitate imperialist diplomacy abroad and create a new image of the Reagan administration.

How much opposition from military?

While the strength of the extreme right opposition to the summit meetings has been variously estimated, it has little popular support. However, matters may be entirely different in the innermost recesses of the military-industrial complex and in the upper military councils.

Following the pullout from Vietnam, the military brass were discredited and seemed to be in a long and enduring decline. Remember the plans for reconversion of war-time industries to peaceful production? How President Carter himself promised a 5% cut in the military and the withdrawal of most U.S. troops from Korea? But all this soon changed.

The military-industrial complex was not about to die or even reduce its tentacles. It only paused after suffer-

ing a military disaster and facing a strong, vibrant, widespread movement which had taken hold among the masses. The Pentagon was cowed, but only temporarily as it turned out.

Soon the Committee on the Present Danger, a seemingly innocuous grouping, mobilized all the well-heeled forces of the military-industrial complex. It lined up hundreds of generals, admirals and Wall Street bankers and began a big push to rescue the U.S. from "military weakness" and the "decay of the military-industrial infrastructure." The USSR was "outpacing the U.S." and nothing but a massive infusion of funds to the military could save the country. Soon all jumped aboard and by the last days of the Carter administration the Congress was more hawkish on military expenditures than the White House.

All of this militarist wisdom had resurfaced with a new vitality. The big buildup had begun. President Carter forgot about his promised cuts in the military and began to lead the pack. Soon he turned over the captainship of state in readiness for the big Reaganite military push.

The Lehmans and the Weinbergers now had the controls and a subservient Congress was giving them everything, including some weapons systems they hadn't even asked for. But all this has now come home to roost.

ATLANTA

Fri., Dec. 4: 30th Anniversary Building Fund Fundraising Dinner. Speaker: Vince Copeland, founding member of Workers World Party, on "Why socialism is the answer to the capitalist crisis." Tickets: \$15. Reserve by Nov. 30. No childcare. 7:00-10:00 p.m. At Paschal's Motor Hotel, 830 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, call (404) 688-7422.

DETROIT

Fri., Dec. 4: Workers World Party 8th Annual Dinner. Vera Spruill, founding member of WWP and National Committee representative, will speak on "What socialism means to me." Pam Parker of the All-Peoples Singers will provide entertainment. Advance reservations only. Tickets \$10 or \$6 for unemployed/fixed income. 6:00-10:00 p.m. For reservations, tickets, information call (313) 962-4979.

Thurs., Dec. 10: Commemorate South Africa Hero's Day. Featured speaker: Mpule Mogudi, representative of ANC Women's League. 6:30 p.m. At Wayne State Univ. Student Center Hilberry Lounge B & C, call (313) 962-4070.

NEW YORK

Fri., Dec. 4: Cultural benefit to commemorate International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People. Speakers from Palestinian and South African struggles. Cultural presentations. Full-course Palestinian dinner. Sponsors: WBAI radio and Palestine Solidarity Committee (formerly Nov 29 Comm. for Palestine), \$10. 6:30 p.m. At MLK Labor Center, 310 W. 43 St. (at 8th Ave.), call (212) 577-5410 for tickets and information.

Thurs., Dec. 31: Celebrate the New Year. Dance to great party music of all kinds. Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. (Delicious buffet included in price.) 9:00 p.m. until... At 146 W. 25 St. Manhattan, 3rd fl., call (212) 741-0633 for advance tickets and information.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sun., Dec. 13: Workers World Party meeting on "Legacy of Che Guevara." Features two short films: "Che" and "Chronicles of the Victory." Presentation and discussion. \$2.50 requested. 7:00 p.m. At 2489 Mission, #89; call (415) 826-4828.

Join us in the struggle

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:

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— Washington

Continued from page 3

Rev. Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign, speaking at a rally of General Electric workers facing a plant shutdown.

As the obstacles of racism began to fall, Washington's administration began to strike the limits imposed by the capitalist system itself on what the most progressive and sincere mayor could accomplish.

Banks, businesses, sports team owners pressured the city for concessions; plants were shut down; the federal budget for cities was slashed. Washington was forced to preside over layoffs, cutbacks, inadequate schools and public housing. His accomplishments must be measured mostly in terms of the victories over racism and wider opportunities for multinational struggle created by the movement he represented.

Washington's political positions, though far from revolutionary, reflected the progressive aspirations of the workers and oppressed, and were in fact to the left of most of his supporters in the City Council.

This City Council is expected to select an acting mayor, who will probably serve until 1989. Washington's untimely death has made an opening for the racists on the council and for moneyed interests to reverse whatever gains were made. But the massive outpouring at Washington's funeral indicates that the people of Chicago who made him their mayor are unwilling to quietly accept the old ways.

Dovish election maneuvers not new

It would be utterly self-defeating if the progressive movement were in any way to be taken in by the new blandishments of the Reagan administration and forget what the driving forces of imperialist militarism really are. While one administration may differ from another, in fundamentals they succumb, some more willingly than others, to the militarist needs of imperialist finance capital.

So much of this is a repetition of what has happened before. When Gerald Ford retired James Schlesinger as his Secretary of Defense, it was hailed as a defeat for the hawks and a victory for the forces of peace. Actually it was an election maneuver to help Ford get rid of some of the excess baggage left over from the Vietnam war and the previous military buildup.

Now Weinberger, Lehman and some others have left, but only to improve the position of the cabal of Republican candidates and give them a way to maneuver in view of how much public sentiment has changed. After all, there has been a sharp drop in the living standards of most of the population and an accumulation of vast wealth at the other end of the pole from the sweat and blood of the workers.

This is what has to be remembered. But most of all what has to be kept in mind is the new world economic situation and the utterly untenable position of U.S. imperialism in the new world context.

Resistencia popular en Angola a los ataques de Suráfrica

Por Carlos Vargas

En Suráfrica el régimen racista del apartheid ha salido al frente con su sangrienta intervención contra la República de Angola.

Según con las declaraciones del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Angola, 3000 soldados del apartheid respaldados por sofisticados equipos aéreos militares y 70 carros blindados han estado operando al sureste de Angola por las 6 últimas semanas. Suráfrica admite la muerte de 24 de sus soldados.

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El régimen racista surafricano ha admitido que sus tropas han estado envuelto en combate directo con Angola. Esto demuestra la debilidad de los mercenarios de UNITA al tratar de derrocar el gobierno anti-imperialista de Angola, el cual está dirigido por el Movimiento Popular para la Liberación de Angola.

UNITA ha tratado por muchos años de hacerse ver como un movimiento legítimo de liberación nacional pero sus estrechos vínculos con el odiado régimen del apartheid demuestran que no son más que una banda de terroristas y asesinos a los ojos de la comunidad internacional.

Estos contra-revolucionarios están hechos del mismo molde que los contras en Nicaragua. Ambos países todavía en desarrollo, han sido forzados a desviar su atención y aminorar sus recursos para reconstruir su economía y las necesidades de sus poblaciones para poder así defender militarmente su soberanía.

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¿Porqué la intervención imperialista contra Angola se ha intensificado en este momento? ¿Está relacionada esta intervención con el papel que Angola juega en la lucha general contra el sistema del apartheid?

Para empezar, una Angola revolucionaria es una amenaza para la dominación imperialista, particularmente para EE.UU. y Sudáfrica en la región del sur de Africa.

EE.UU. y Sudáfrica argumentan

que están peleando contra expansiones soviéticas y cubanas. Pero esto no es nada más que una excusa conveniente para mantener las relaciones intactas de propiedad capitalista que son una fuente de grandes ganancias para ellos. Estas relaciones están siendo amenazadas diariamente por las guerrillas de la Organización Popular del Suroeste de Africa, SWAPO, que están luchando para liberar Namibia de la ocupación ilegal del apartheid. Angola apoya a SWAPO con sus bases. Destruir estas bases son los objetivos principales de los racistas del apartheid.

Aunque el régimen del apartheid trata de resolver su crisis en Angola y Namibia con terrorismo militar, la ola revolucionaria de las masas en Sudáfrica crece diariamente.

Mientras que los días del apartheid están contados el pueblo sitiado de Angola necesita inmediatamente el apoyo completo de todas las fuerzas progresistas del mundo mientras ellos se preparan una vez más a defender sus logros contra los invasores facistas.

CUT: Proceso en la lucha de la clase obrera colombiana

Por Enrique Garcia

Desde su nacimiento en noviembre de 1986, la Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Colombia (CUT) fué blanco del fuego de sus enemigos desde todos los flancos. Los grandes magnates y empresarios del país, los latifundistas y los gremios económicos vieron en peligro la continuidad de su inhumana superexplotación contra el proletariado colombiano, que en ese momento unía sus fuerzas en una central popular y democrática que agrupa a más del 80% de la fuerza de trabajo organizado. De igual manera los enemigos jurados de la paz, los grupos paramilitares — instrumentos ciegos del gran capital — iniciaron su asedio y labor criminal contra la dirección obrera.

Para la burguesía, la aparición de la CUT fué un duro golpe. Sus intentos por mantener dividida a la clase obrera en cuatro centrales, tres de ellas esencialmente patronales y pro-gubernistas: UTC (Union de Trabajadores de Colombia), CTC (Confederación de Trabajadores de Colombia) y CGT (Confederación General del Trabajo) y una central popular y democrática impulsora de la unidad y verdadera expresión de lucha de los trabajadores, la CSTC (Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores de Colombia). Se vieron truncados cuando la CSTC en su cuarto congreso propuso la construcción de una central unitaria, democrática e internacionalista, propuesta y desarrollada por la Federación Colombiana de Educadores (FECODE) y recogida por el movimiento sindical independiente. La CSTC fué más allá de su propuesta consecuente con la unidad y la defensa de los intereses más sentidas de los trabajadores. Anunció su disolución para conformar, en unidad de acción con el sindicalismo inde-

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Rapidamente la burguesía pretendió destruirla y posteriormente dividirla, arremetiendo contra el derecho de organización sindical y las más elementales conquistas obreras, pero la respuesta fué unitaria y firme. Jornadas como la del 19 de septiembre, donde se movilizaron más de millón por "El Derecho a la Vida," o la del 24 de octubre "La Jornada del Silencio" contra el FMI y el militarismo mostraron la fuerza de la unidad obrera.

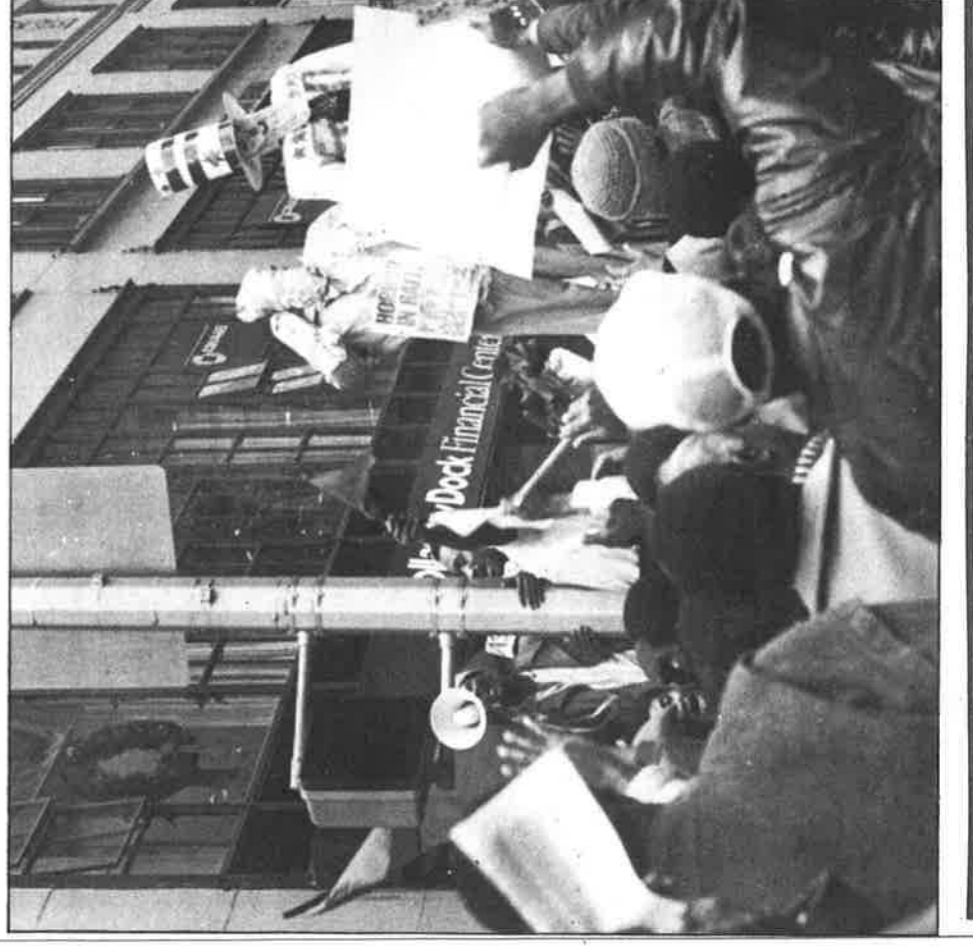
Fracasando en su intento, la burguesía y sus aliados de la cúpula militarista iniciaron una campaña de terror y exterminio contra el proletariado. En la martirizada región de Urabá, han sido asesinados más de 179 dirigentes campesinos, el magisterio ha visto caer más de 17 compañeros, los cementeros vieron caer más de 9 activistas y el conjunto del movimiento indígena y campesina agrupado en la CUT ha perdido más de 120 activistas en este, su primer año de existencia. Recientemente todo su comité ejecu-

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Nunca como hoy urge la más amplia solidaridad del movimiento obrero del mundo con la CUT, el rechazo a la barbarie contra el proletariado colombiano, es también su propia batalla por la democracia y el socialismo.

Haitianos manifiestan: '¡No a la solución yanqui!'

Noviembre 30, miles de haitianos y simpatizantes manifestaron frente al consulado de Haití en repudio a las masacres efectuadas por la junta militar. Con consignas como "Abajo con la junta títtere de EE.UU." y "No a la solución yanqui, EE.UU.", los manifestantes demostraron su rechazo total a la intervención imperialista. En una de las declaraciones un manifestante denunció la llamada ayuda "humanitaria" a Haití como una burla, al mismo tiempo que acusó al gobierno EE.UU. por los recientes sangrientos sucesos.



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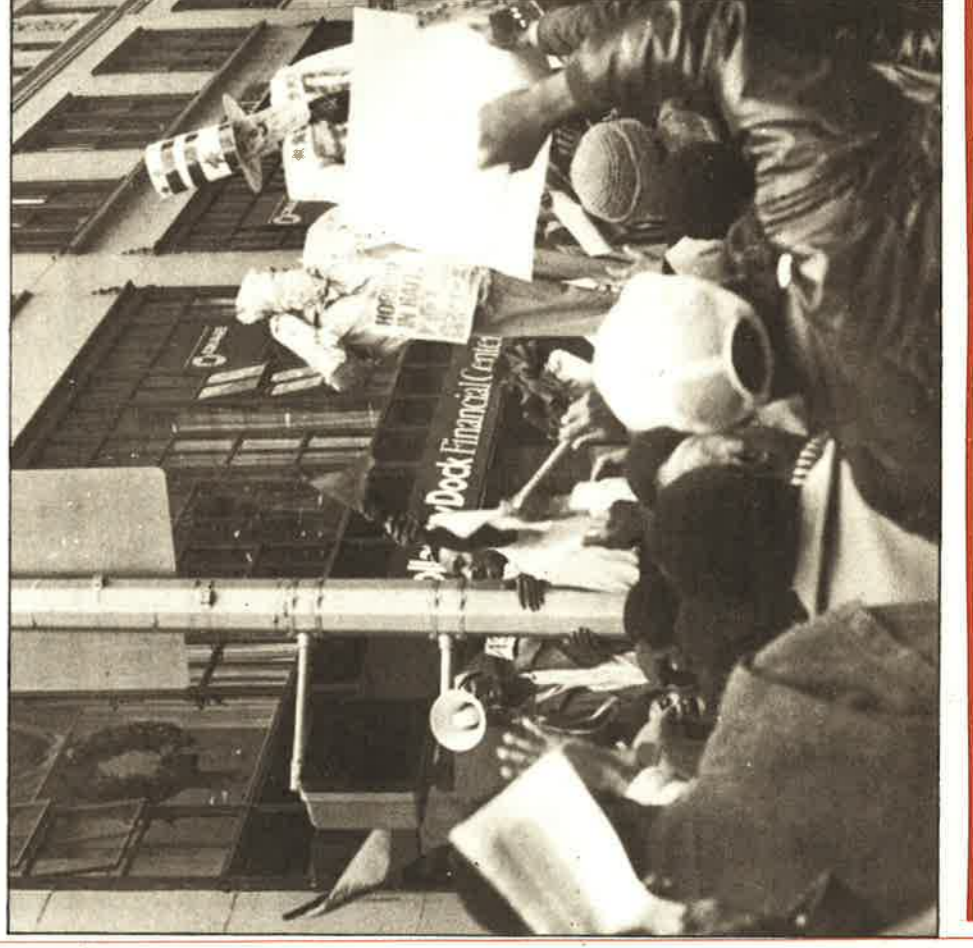
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WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

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MAYOR WASHINGTON



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Secret U.S. role in Haiti election massacre

By Joyce Chediak

The U.S. government is trying to cover up its own role in the election massacres in Haiti by whipping up racism against that oppressed nation.

The Reagan administration wants workers here to believe that Washington intervened in Haiti to "save Haiti from itself." But in truth, Washington and the Pentagon are just as responsible for the massacre of civilians there as if they had pulled the triggers themselves. Why? Because the Namphy regime, which moved down

Haitian civilians this week for the "crime" of wanting to vote, is a complete dependency of the Pentagon.

The U.S. government's announcement that it is withdrawing U.S. military advisers and suspending all but "humanitarian" aid to Haiti is for cosmetic purposes only. In truth, Washington has already spent 95% of the \$108 million in assistance promised to Haiti in the current fiscal year, and a substantial amount of the aid has admittedly gone to train the Haitian military to "control civilian disturbances!"

In fact, the first thing that Washington did after sending the hated Duvalier out of the country on a U.S. air force plane 22 months ago was to strengthen the Haitian military so it could wage war against an unarmed population. The only objection Washington has is that it would like the Haitian generals to be discreet in their repression.

On November 29, Haitians were to vote for a president and a National Assembly to replace the military-dom-

Continued on page 7



Haitians demonstrate in New York City.

WW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAC

5,000 at Chicago City Hall rally against racist machine

By P. Kimball Chicago

former "Washington" alderpersons.

The crowd, 5,000 at its height, occupied three floors of the building, including the City Council galleries, and overflowed into the block of La Salle street fronting the building. The angry protest, whose makeup reflected the full multinational diversity of the Washington coalition, delayed the start of the council meeting from 5:30 until nearly midnight.

The protesters, many of whom wore

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December 2 — An infuriated, continuously chanting crowd packed three floors of City Hall for twelve hours yesterday evening, attempting to block the election of 6th Ward Alderman Eugene Sawyer as acting mayor of Chicago on the basis of a closed-doors deal between the white racist council bloc and a handful of