

# workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite



May 26, 1978

Vol. 20 No. 21

25 cents

**Press covers up their atrocities as**

## U.S.-NATO forces invade Zaire

**Yielding to right-wing pressure**

### High court cripples OSHA

By KENNY PETERSON

MAY 24—The U.S. Supreme Court yesterday struck a heavy blow at the right of all working people to a safe and healthful job. In a five to three decision, the Court ruled that safety inspectors from OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration) may not enter a workplace to check for health and safety violations without first obtaining a search warrant.

This anti-working class decision was hailed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as "a blow struck for freedom." For working people, however, the Supreme Court decision means that the only freedom they won is the freedom to die. Each year, 25,000 workers are

killed on the job. Another 100,000 workers die each year from occupationally caused diseases.

In fact, this court decision comes at a time when the industrial slaughter of working people in the U.S. is actually accelerating. OSHA is being crippled just when workers needed it to be strengthened and expanded.

Under the guise of enforcing the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (against "unreasonable searches"), the Supreme Court has elevated the property rights of businessmen above the elementary right of working people to life and well-being.

This attack on OSHA is part of the same right-wing offensive that has also targeted abortion rights of women, the Equal Rights Amendment, gay rights, and union organizing drives. In fact, the originator of the anti-OSHA suit that was finally decided by the Supreme Court is a John Bircher who resisted a safety inspection of his contractor's business in Pocatello, Idaho. The Supreme Court decision, by crippling the inspection mechanism of OSHA, strikes at all people.

By requiring inspectors to obtain a search warrant in court, the already overloaded agency will be forced to reduce its inspections

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By V. COPELAND

May 22—Last week the real enemy struck in Shaba Province of Zaire (formerly Katanga State of the Congo).

That enemy was the joint British, French, Belgian—and above all, United States forces—all allied in the NATO command, all allied in the ruthless suppression of African freedom, but each secretly quarreling with the others over the rich treasure of the African continent.

The U.S. capitalist press, TV, and radio have kept up a steady drum-fire of propaganda about the Cubans and the Soviets "invading" Africa. But this is a monstrous LIE.

The real enemy, the real invaders, the age-old exploiters who have robbed Africa of her copper, her gold, her diamonds, her coffee, her coconuts, her cotton—and above all, the life blood of her people for 400 years and more—those invaders put on uniforms last week and shot their way into Shaba.

**U.S. THIEVES  
AHEAD OF OTHERS**

The French imperialists were apparently in the lead, "to the annoyance of the Belgian government," said the imperialist press, "because it had not been consulted about the (immediate) decision, even though the operation was supposed to have been a joint one, with the United States and Britain providing logistical support." (New York Times, May 20.)

But the U.S. imperialists were actually ahead of the French—first in their ongoing relationship with the puppet Mobutu government, second with their economic stranglehold via the International Monetary Fund and the New York banks with a total of \$2 billion (admitted) investment stake in the country, and last, but hardly least, with the actual planes that carried the French troops and later the Belgian troops to carry out the suppression of the rebellion.

The U.S. also provided: field rations, communications facilities, military gasoline, spare parts for Mobutu's C-130 transport planes and "other supplies." The transports it provided for the

French and Belgians were C-141's.

In addition, the U.S. 82nd Airborne was put on an "alert" with the hope that it, too, could yet get into the act. But President Carter undoubtedly held back from actually using these troops for the invasion only because he felt the propaganda smokescreen had not yet been laid down heavily enough at home.

**WHOSE "NATIONAL  
SECURITY"?**

Doing his best in that direction, however, he issued a memorandum on May 18 that declared the U.S. intervention to be "in the national security interests of the United States" (the "United States" meaning United Brands, United Airlines, United Technologies, United Merchants, and United States Steel—plus, of course General Motors, General Electric, General Tire, all owned by the Rockefellers, Morgans, Mellons, DuPonts, and their ilk).

Carter also began to complain that he didn't have enough power to get into Africa faster with more troops, more guns, more spies. He called on Congress to change the laws because he was "limited by restraints imposed by Congress," which include "the use of covert activity in Angola and the necessity to brief Congressional intelligence committees on covert action elsewhere." (New York Times, May 20.)

What is the meaning of these sinister words? Carter was signalling that he is going to try to get still deeper into Africa with the U.S. military. He is itching to get troops and guns directly in there, just like the French and Belgian imperialists whom he airlifted with U.S. planes.

And with an "invitation" from CIA puppet Mobutu, who in turn will make sufficient noises that "the Russians are coming" and "the Cubans are coming," Carter wants to invade in force with a much more murderous "rescue" operation than the present one.

**THE WAR AGAINST CUBA**

Meanwhile, before the NATO invasion, Fidel Castro denied that any Cuban troops whatever were in Zaire. But after this denial, Jody Powell, Carter's press spokesman,

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## U.S. media lie about Zaire massacre

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## Zaire, NATO and disarmament

by Sam Marcy

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TEN CENTS

The CIA Was Behind the Coup in Ghana!  
U.S. Bankers Staged Military Revolt to Get African Labor And Wealth Into Hands of U.S. Big Business

How Senate Voted for Escalation And Called It a "Motion to Table!"

Aim to Turn Africa Into Subdivided U.S. Kingdom And Dominate It as They Do Latin America

Workers World prints the truth when it happens. The New York Times recently admitted (after 12 years!) that the U.S. CIA played a "pivotal role" in the overthrow of Kwame Nkrumah. But in March 1966, Workers World exposed the CIA coup in Ghana (above), just as this year Workers World ripped the cover off similar imperialist plots against revolutionary Ethiopia. For unique and truthful reporting unavailable in any other U.S. newspaper, subscribe to Workers World.

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THE STRUGGLE IN BRIEF

Solidarity in Seattle

SEATTLE, May 19—At least 1,500 workers from 40 unions, as well as several community organizations, marched here on May 13 to support striking auto trades workers, marking one year that they've been out on the picket line. The workers, represented principally by Automotive Machinists Local 289, were forced on strike in May 1977 when 50 auto dealerships demanded an end to the union shop in a vicious union-busting attempt.

The spirited marchers chanted "Bust the union-busters" and "Boycott, boycott, open shop dealers." A boycott of the dealers has been hurting their sales, and for five months 200 supporters have bolstered the auto trades workers' picket lines every Saturday.

## UMW Stearns tapes: cops join company strikebreaking

By BEVERLY SLAPIN  
MAY 11—Organizers for the United Mine Workers (UMW) in Kentucky proved beyond question this week that cops and company-hired gun thugs had collaborated to break their strike. The evidence was made public in a press conference Tuesday after the judge in the case refused to schedule a hearing on the charge, according to the Mountain Eagle of Letcher County, Ky.

The union had charged earlier that there had been collusion between Kentucky state police and security guards hired by the Blue Diamond Coal Co. during the 22-month organizing strike in McCreary County, but this week they revealed taped evidence of that collusion.

The tape recordings were of short-wave radio conversations between guards within the mine compound and Storm Security Systems headquarters in London. The conversations, monitored and taped via CB radio by striking miners, contain extensive references to agreements between guards and state police to ignore court-imposed restrictions on firearms and guards at the strike site.

The taped conversations also refer to the involvement of Stearns superintendent William "Doc" Coffey and Frank Thomas, then a Blue Diamond Coal Co. executive

in charge of the Stearns operation, in ignoring the order.

The union had tried to present the tape recordings, made in February, as evidence that Blue Diamond, owner of the Stearns operation, was in contempt of Circuit Judge J.B. Johnson's order. However, Johnson refused to hear the union until "more documentation" had been obtained, according to UMW organizer Lee Potter.

UMW attorneys then filed another motion for rule Monday afternoon, after being told the judge would hear motions on Friday. At this point they were told that he had cancelled court, Potter said.

Striking miners have long maintained that state troopers had acted in cooperation with security guards to break their strike, and last March, they presented the judge with more than 20 affidavits documenting the collusion.

But the judge insisted that the UMW would have to get an affidavit from someone not related to the strike or any of the strikers before he would schedule a hearing on the motion, Potter said.

So the union decided to reveal this latest evidence on Tuesday after Johnson refused to give the union a hearing. According to Potter, "We just got to the point that we felt we'd never be able to present this information."

## Detroit committee prepares for World Festival of Youth

By K. PAVLIK, Member of Detroit Committee for the Eleventh World Festival of Youth and Students  
DETROIT, May 18—For several months now, progressive youth here have been making preparations to attend the Eleventh World Festival of Youth & Students being held in Havana, Cuba, this July. There they will join the rest of the 400 U.S. delegates and over 16,000 young people from 140 different countries. The Festival will be a massive outpouring of internationalism and solidarity in the struggle against imperialism, exploitation, and oppression.

Active in the Detroit committee are representatives or individuals from: Youth Against War & Fascism, AFSCME Local 140, YWCA, Young Workers Liberation League, Women's Conference of Concerns, the Wayne County Community College student newspaper, Detroit Marxist-Leninist Organization, Detroit Women's City Club, El Grito de Mi Raza radio show, Detroit chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, and a number of unaffiliated in-

dividuals, including high school students.

Much of the committee's activities have focused on getting out information and raising funds so that youth from the oppressed communities and other working-class youth who may not be able to afford the entire expense of the trip be well represented on the delegation.

A benefit disco will be sponsored by the Festival committee on Sunday, May 28 (Memorial Day weekend). It will be held in El Sol Restaurant at 2640 W. Vernor, in Detroit's Latin community. Tickets are \$3.50, or \$2.50 for unemployed people. For more information about tickets or about Youth Festival applications or activities in Detroit, call (313) 962-4979.

Events have included the showing of the Cuban film "Lucia" for International Women's Day and a slide show on the 1973 Festival in the German Democratic Republic. The committee has also held a bake sale and a raffle, and has mailed out over a thousand fund-raising letters.

## Tucson rally supports ERA

Special to Workers World  
TUCSON, May 14—Despite 103-degree weather, approximately 200 men and women met in Himmel Park here at noon today for a picnic and rally sponsored by the National Organization for Women (NOW) in support of the Equal

Rights Amendment (ERA). Speakers included Marcia Rockman, YWCA financial director, who spoke on "Mothers and the ERA," Ruth Saludes of the Minority Women's Caucus, on "Woman, welfare, and day care,"

(Continued on p. 11)

## Lesbian Mothers' Day demonstration in Seattle

Special to Workers World  
SEATTLE, May 14—Despite the cold, heavy rain, nearly 100 people—lesbian women, gay men, and children—marched through the downtown area this Mothers' Day to denounce the oppression lesbian mothers face every day. "While other mothers get cards and gifts, lesbian mothers get threats," said one of the speakers at the rally which followed the march.

The demonstration focused on the ties between the escalating attacks against gay people nationwide and the mounting attacks against all working people. The same right-wing forces which

prop up Bakke, fight ERA, work to undermine Native peoples' treaty rights and to deny women the right to abortion are the same forces that struck down gay anti-discrimination laws in Miami, St. Paul, and Wichita. Voters in Eugene, Ore., will soon go to the polls to decide whether or not all people have the right to equal protection under the law.

In Seattle an anti-human-rights petition drive is currently underway. Using the all-too-familiar fundamentalist "moral" appeal, a group calling itself "Save Our Moral Ethics" (SOME) has been formed by a group of cops with the help of Anita Bryant's minister. SOME is spearheading the effort to put Initiative 13 on the ballot, which if passed, would remove the prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation from the Seattle fair employment and open housing ordinances. In addition, this initiative would transfer all of the enforcement power, in sex discrimination cases, of the Seattle's Office of Women's Rights to the already overburdened Office of Human Rights. It will in effect severely weaken enforcement against discrimination of all people and abolish the Office of Women's Rights.

Today's demonstration

(Continued on p. 11)

## Norfolk sit-in for gay rights

By PHIL WILAYTO  
NORFOLK, May 22—In some 20 cities across the country last week, gay rights activists staged fasts and sit-ins to protest the recent repeal of gay rights ordinances in Wichita, Kan., and St. Paul, Minn. The protests were coordinated by the Metropolitan Community Church, which ministers primarily to the gay community.

Here in Norfolk, three representatives from the Metropolitan Community Church, the Gay Alliance of Old Dominion University (ODU), and the Norfolk Coalition for Human Rights camped outside the Federal Building on downtown Granby St. for three days and two nights to dramatize their appeal for gay rights.

"We're here to build a social and political awareness in the community," said Donna Motley, co-chairperson of the Gay

Alliance and a leader in the local gay community. "We want to assist others in coming out of the closet. By making our presence known here publicly, we're showing others that there's nothing to be afraid of."

The Rev. Roy Britchard, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Tidewater, said the public response to the sit-in had been generally favorable, especially from the Black community.

Later this month, the Gay Alliance and the Women's Student Caucus of ODU will be sponsoring the Second Tidewater Lesbian/Gay Conference, to be held at ODU, May 26 to 28. For information on the conference, which will focus on the theme "Opening our own doors," write Tidewater Lesbian/Gay Conference, P.O. Box 11123, Norfolk, Va. 23517.

THE GAY QUESTION:  
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By Bob McCubbin

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# Labor law reform: what are the stakes for working people?

By **BILL DEL VECCHIO**  
MAY 22—A bill designed to streamline the enforcement powers of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) against companies resisting unionizing drives is currently under heavy attack in the Senate.

The labor law reform bill, already passed by the House, was meant by its supporters to be a response to the growing flood of cases against companies which have flagrantly broken existing labor laws.

The most publicized example of this type recently has been the J.P. Stevens Co., the textile manufacturer, which completely ignored repeated NLRB ultimatums and even court injunctions to stop its illegal attempts to block its thousands of workers throughout the South from organizing a union.

J.P. Stevens is only the tip of the corporate anti-labor iceberg. This union-busting drive, aided by economic crisis, has resulted in the loss of over 767,000 members between 1974 and 1976 alone.

## LABOR LAW HAS TWO SIDES

The NLRB, in its current state, functions to hold back the union movement from winning new members by tying up organizing drives in long, frustrating, and often demoralizing legal procedures. Workers' strikes are often the targets for immediate court injunctions against them, enforced by police riot sticks. But unfair labor practices by the boss, no matter how outrageous, can continue for months, and even years, before the NLRB and the courts take any action at all.

The senators who oppose the bill, fronting for the National Association of Manufacturers, like the current state of affairs and want to keep it that way. They have vowed to block the passage of the bill by means of a filibuster, and if that's unsuccessful, they declare that they will flood the bill with a sea of hostile amendments. Already the Senate version contains dangerously accentuated provisions of the House bill which would allow breach-of-contract injunctions against refusals to cross a picket line and against wildcat strikes.

But not all members of the

ruling class oppose labor law reform.

A faction of the ruling class, which originally included the Carter administration, were in favor of the labor law reform bill. They feared that if the NLRB machinery wasn't repaired soon, the workers' movement would stop using it and come to depend on militant strikes instead.

This has always been the

purpose of the Wagner Act which created the NLRB in the mid-1930s. U.S. industry was being swept by the powerful organizing drives of the CIO. The union movement was growing under a leadership which knew how to stand up to the bosses, their goons, cops, judges, and most of all, politicians.

The Wagner Act was meant to draw that union movement off of

the picket lines and into the government courts. This way, a new, non-struggle leadership could evolve which viewed the government as an ally, rather than an adversary.

At first, the Wagner Act actually helped the union movement grow. But this soon ended when the Taft-Hartley amendments were added to the Wagner Act. Since then, the NLRB process

has hindered the labor movement, and union membership has consistently declined ever since. The sharp declines of the past three years and the increased demands being made on the board by workers have made a part of the ruling class afraid that the workers will disregard the NLRB and come to depend solely on the picket line once again.

(Continued on p. 11)

## California tax amendment would place burden for state budget on poor

By **LEE ROBINSON**

MAY 21—Californians will be voting on June 6 in a referendum over a proposed amendment to the state constitution: the Jarvis-Gann Property Tax Limitation Amendment, commonly known as Proposition 13.

If passed, this amendment would be a \$7 billion bonanza for wealthy real estate and corporate interests.

Proposition 13 would lower

property taxes by 60%—and create a \$7 billion deficit in the state budget that would deny funding for education, social services, and health care. It would necessitate huge layoffs of public employees, and would most likely result in a hike in the sales tax and state income tax.

In other words, Proposition 13 would cut taxes for the rich and place the burden for sustaining the state's budget on the backs of poor

and working people.

In the city of Oakland, for example, the school board sent notification to 144 teachers warning them of a possible layoff if Proposition 13 is passed. Of the 144, 99 are either Asian, Black, or Latin. Not only is the measure anti-worker, but its effects would be heaviest on the oppressed nationalities—the last hired and the first fired.

In Oakland's Alameda County,

4,500 jobs or 42% of the county's workforce is in danger of being laid off if the amendment is passed, according to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Hospitals would be forced to close, parks would go untended, social services would be dismantled, and cutbacks instituted in education if the measure becomes law.

Although the amendment is being pushed as a "cost-cutting" device and a "populist anti-tax" measure, politicians are already talking about the possibility of doubling the sales tax, raising the income tax, increasing bus fares, and establishing fees for social services, all if Proposition 13 succeeds. So any relief that poor and working home owners would get from property taxes would immediately be lost by these new taxes which leave the rich untouched.

### WHO REALLY BENEFITS

Proposition 13 was clearly written for wealthy landlords and big business. Pacific Gas & Electric, for example, would reap savings of \$3.1 million, General Motors would keep an extra \$1.1 million, and Kaiser get \$947,670. One of the backers of the measure is Milton Friedman, the pro-fascist economist who advises the Chilean junta on how to squeeze an extra measure of blood and sweat out of that country's working class.

To counter this racist, anti-working class offensive, trade unions, community organizations, health services, and political organizations have been mobilizing to explain to people why they should vote "no" on June 6.

## NYC transit workers urge 'Vote No!'



NEW YORK, May 18—More than 300 turned out today for a transit workers' "Vote No Rally" near City Hall. The action to oppose the contract, called by the Coalition of Concerned Transit Workers, is one of many rallies held by the transit workers, who are overwhelmingly opposed to the meager 6% increase offered by the city. Transit workers here have had their wages frozen for four years, resulting in a real wage decrease of 16%.

The rank-and-file anger with the paltry settlement forced the union leaders to announce today that for the second time they are canceling a vote on the contract. Transit workers have made it clear during the past two months that they will no longer carry the burden of the city's financial crisis with cut-throat contracts dictated by Wall Street.

WW photo: Bob R.

## A union-busting conglomerate

# 1,400 locked out by RCA

NEW YORK, MAY 23—"They want to bust this local union. And we're not going to let that happen. Even if we were wrong about this grievance, we wouldn't let them bust us. And in this case we happen to be right."

The speaker was Vincent Itardi, president of American Communication Association Local 10, who spoke just a few steps away from four big, powerful, chanting picket lines—one at every entrance of RCA Communications in the heart of the Wall Street area in this city.

The workers have been picketing since May 10, when the company arbitrarily threw 50 people out of work and refused to discuss the matter with the union leadership as provided in the contract.

Local 10 is affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. It is a group of 1,400 workers, mostly in New York, but also in Hawaii, San Juan, Chatham, Mass.—and Lodi, California, where the shutdown

took place.

When the big conglomerate in effect withdrew recognition from the union by arbitrarily refusing to bargain, the workers sat in at the New York facility for 30 hours.

The company then contacted the New York City police, who at first refused to intervene "in a labor dispute that was peaceful and non-criminal."

At this point, Company Vice President Donald Stackhouse declared, "Well then, we'll starve them out," and refused to allow delivery of 1,000 sandwiches the union had ordered.

### THE SANDWICH ROPE-LIFT

But the workers then lowered cardboard boxes on ropes from the fourth floor to bring up the sandwiches.

The company finally succeeded in getting the police. And of course these uniformed strikebreakers proceeded to eject the workers, many of them with 10 to 20 years time on the job, "dispersed" for merely staying at the machines

they had run faithfully for decades. Several of them were hurt, one seriously, during this proceeding.

The company also proceeded to fire six workers including Itardi and suspend nearly 100. Everybody agrees that the life of the union is at stake.

### PICKETING ON CRUTCHES

"We had spit, glass, and garbage thrown at us," said Bill Kaessinger, executive board member and press officer. "There is a member at home with 20 stitches in his head. We have another walking the picket line on crutches. But the union spirit was never higher."

He added that at one point, a company thug took a pistol out of a paper bag and aimed it at an unarmed picket.

Judging from today's picket lines, the workers have not been intimidated by this admittedly frightening tactic.

The company closed its Lodi facilities not only in contempt of the bargaining process, but in defiance of the law and the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, said Itardi.

Any company like RCA is supposed to get an FCC clearance before closing such an establishment. The FCC, which is often putty in the hands of the communications giants, apparently had some possible reason for denying a go-ahead to RCA on this, and RCA avoided even asking them!

Itardi stated that the local has "one hundred percent support of all other locals of the Teamsters." This was made official at a meeting of the Teamsters' Joint Board last week.

Press Officer Kaessinger appeared at that meeting and said: "We are fighting a billion-dollar corporation on a nationwide basis. The cops are completely on the company's side. The mayor of this town is obviously a union-buster.

"Local 10 is turning to this great Joint Council for your support. Please get to your drivers and tell them no deliveries or pickups at 60 Broad Street."

The Joint Council and its president, Joseph Teretola, pledged their assistance.

### THE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE

The company agents have freely tried to do their worst against the pickets, with the tacit consent of the police. But the workers' patience is about exhausted.

Kaessinger commented on this as follows:

"There is absolutely no doubt in our minds that these violent acts have been organized and committed under the direction of RCA officials. We are warning the company: Their next act of violence will force the union to swear out a warrant for the arrest of an RCA officer. If this fails and the police continue to refuse to act, then we will take every necessary step to protect ourselves."

# Oil lobby alters Dept. of Energy 'regulations'

By PAUL WILCOX

NEW YORK, May 22—A Washington agent for the American Petroleum Institute (API), John Iannone, has revealed that he regularly receives advance information about actions to be taken by the Department of Energy concerning government "regulation" of the oil industry.

In a report to the API, which was leaked to the press by a public affairs lobby, Iannone said that he had received advance notice of many important regulations and was able to alter them to serve the interests of the giant oil corporations.

Included in the list of his "lobbying achievements" was his

ability to review the standards for monitoring home heating-oil and gasoline supplies, make changes in gasoline price monitoring by the Department of Energy, and actually force an increase in the price index of gasoline for autos. Iannone boasts that he was able to appoint members to government advisory committees and to review correspondence between committees of the Energy Department and members of Congress.

welfare of the people is not news to poor and working people who face ever higher and more extortionate prices for gas, oil, and electricity, and who are so quickly threatened with a shut-off of heat and light if these bills are not paid quickly.

But the fact that an agent for the American Petroleum Institute, the main trade association for the oil monopolies, can exert such direct control inside the Department of Energy is clear evidence that the oil billionaires not only exert monopoly control over every aspect of oil production, but are increasing their stranglehold over

a government agency that was supposedly created to regulate the industry itself in the public interest but in reality serves as a tool for the military industrial complex to keep oil prices high and divert vast quantities of the vital resource to the war machine!

The oil monopolies, with their vast army of "lobbyists" in Washington to fight for their interests, control immense wealth and power. But the power of working people, whose labor and sweat has created all wealth, and who have no interest in higher prices, heat shut-offs, phony oil shortages, or war, is far greater.

## Palestine Day in Detroit

DETROIT, May 14—Marking Palestine Liberation Day on the 30th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian homeland, a coalition of Arab community and student organizations sponsored a strong march today which drew over 500 supporters.

Chanting "Free, free Palestine, democratic Palestine," "Jewish people, yes, Zionism, no," and many chants in Arabic, the marchers moved through downtown Dearborn to the City Hall steps. The Arab community in Dearborn and southwest Detroit is the largest in the Western Hemisphere.

The Arab groups strongly condemned the recent Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Some of the Arabs on the march, whose families in Lebanon have written them recently, optimistically described the determined and often successful battles being waged by the Palestinians and progressive Lebanese forces against the Israeli invaders and the occupying UN forces.

The Arab organizations also condemned the Carter-Begin-Sadat alliance as a deliberate effort to deny the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and to their homeland.

## Meeting against grand jury repression to hear Corretjer

NEW YORK, May 23—Juan Antonio Corretjer, Secretary General of the Liga Socialista Puertorriquena and a long-time fighter for the independence of Puerto Rico, will be speaking here on June 2nd at a rally against the use of grand juries for political repression.

Corretjer was imprisoned along with Don Pedro Albizu Campos in 1937 for being a leader of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party. He spent six years in a U.S. penitentiary. Earlier he had fought along with Cuban revolutionaries

against the dictator Machado. He is well-known in the Spanish-speaking world for his poetry.

Other speakers will include Julio Rosado and Ricardo Romero, two grand jury resisters who have served time for refusing to cooperate with the star chamber grand jury system.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Washington Irving H.S. (40 Irving Place near East 16th St.) and there is a \$2 admission. It is sponsored by the New York Committee Against Grand Jury Repression.

## CALLOUSNESS NOTHING NEW TO THE POOR

That the giant oil companies have no concern for the lives and

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel

## Officials argue over how to steal more Arab land

MAY 23—The Israeli government has made clear its intention to maintain control over the West Bank of the Jordan river, occupied by Israel in the June 1967 war.

This came out when a debate between two top officials broke into the news last week, a debate on how best to continue the occupation. Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, proposed the expansion of six Israeli settlements into urban centers, instead of small agricultural outposts. Weizman believes urban centers will be easier to hold than small agricultural settlements.

The other position is that of ex-general and Minister of Agriculture Ariel Sharon, who prefers agricultural settlements because they bring more of the land area itself under Israeli control, and are occupied by "highly motivated" settlers.

Neither take into account the just desire of the current West Bank population of Palestinian stay on their land.

### South Africa

## Rebellion in gold mine

MAY 22—South African gold miners burned down buildings at a gold mine 150 miles south of Johannesburg today. Police attacked the miners, using tear gas. Police reported 14 miners injured and 16 arrested.

The President Steyn mine, where the struggle broke out, is owned by the giant mining monopoly Anglo-American Corporation which owns gold mines all over South Africa. The company said it is "trying to determine the cause of last night's disturbance."

Whatever the immediate cause of this rebellion, South African gold miners have rebelled again and again against the conditions of their life. They work long shifts, hunched over in heat up to 130 degrees under speed-up conditions. Contract laborers who must live in drab company barracks, the miners are isolated from their families, restricted in their movements by racist apartheid pass laws. The death rate in the South African gold mines is nearly the highest in the world.

### Italy

## Abortion legalized

MAY 23—After years of mass protests demanding free, safe, legal abortion, on May 18 the Italian Parliament voted to legalize abortion in the heartland of Roman Catholicism. Reversing the results for last year's voting, the Senate approved the bill 160-148. The Chamber of Deputies had passed it last month 308-275, despite a heavy attack by the Catholic Church.

The Italian Communist Party (PCI) and most of the small lay bourgeois parties voted for the abortion measure, with the Christian Democrats (DC) and the neo-fascists voting against it, along with the Radical

Party, which wanted a stronger pro-abortion measure.

The new law still has restrictions—limiting abortions to the first 90 days of pregnancy and demanding the consent of both parents for women between 16 and 18 years old. Women's rights groups and the Radical Party, which successfully ran a petition campaign last summer calling for an abortion referendum, continue to call for free abortion on demand.

The PCI wanted to prevent any all out battle on the referendum, which had been scheduled for mid-June, to avoid a polarization between the left and the DC.

Despite the limitations of the law, it is more progressive than the abortion laws in the U.S. in that it calls for abortions to be subsidized by the state. Its passage in the heartland of Roman Catholicism, moreover, calls into question the excuse often made by politicians here that liberalized abortion laws haven't been passed due to pressures from the Church.

### South Africa

## Police whitewashed in Biko murder

MAY 23—Speaking before Parliament May 17, South African "Justice" Minister James T. Kruger said that he had closed the file on the Steven Biko case after reviewing a report on the conduct of the security police. The report admitted "errors of judgment" but no police were disciplined.

Biko, a leader of the Black Consciousness movement in Soweto, died last Sept. 12 in Pretoria in the hands of the security police. Although suffering from severe head injuries, he had been transported 750 miles by back roads, naked and bound in shackles, from the prison in Port Elizabeth where he had been held.

The security police claimed that Biko's head injuries were self-inflicted, but even the racist South African press couldn't get away with printing that story. At the time, news of Biko's murder and the coverup brought on protest demonstrations around the world.

With hypocrisy matched in degree only by the cruelty of the security apparatus he heads, Kruger recently said, "I want to deny categorically that the South African police, and particularly the security police, torture detainees."

Kruger did not explain how over 500 prisoners died in the prison system last year.

### Argentina

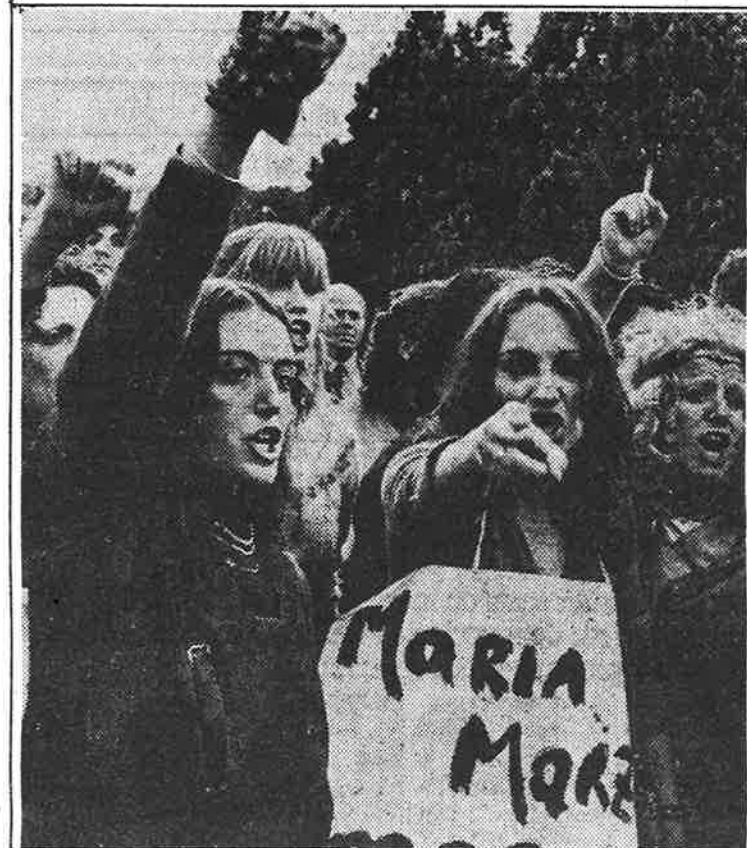
## Rampant inflation

If 10% inflation makes life difficult for workers in the U.S., it's easy to see that the 160% inflation in Argentina last year made life miserable for that country's working class.

The May 11 New York Times reported on the lives of several workers there. A mechanic interviewed in Buenos Aires said he could buy a small Dodge sedan with 14 months' pay in 1970; today it would take 40 months to pay for the same car.

But the impact of this inflation is even harder on those worried about feeding their families. From week to week food prices can go up tremendously in the markets, and what could buy enough to eat the week before can no longer feed a family this week.

Argentina, having a colonial economy, was hit hard by the capitalist economic crisis. After the military dictatorship came to power in 1975, the entire burden of the crisis was thrown on the workers. In the first month the military was in power, inflation was 54%.



Women in Italy have led the fight that has finally won free abortions for women over 18 despite the opposition of the powerful Catholic Church.

**CHINA:** the suppression  
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## In response to the iron heel of Wall Street

# Price hikes spark mass uprisings in Peru

By JOYCE CHEDIAC BETRIES  
May 24—When the Peruvian government lifted all food subsidies last week at the insistence of the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF) the Peruvian workers staged mass protests.

Last week there were rebellions in over 28 Peruvian cities against the raising of prices, and Monday and Tuesday a 48-hour general strike called by the General Confederation of Labor Unions to protest the increases and supported by other labor groups and non-union workers virtually shut Peru down, paralyzing most industry, transport, and commerce.

The government has responded with extreme repression. At least five were reported killed by police in the general strike on Monday, and 20 were reported mowed down

by government bullets during the rebellions' last week. Last Saturday President Francisco Morales Bermudez declared martial law and jailed hundreds of labor leaders and left political opponents. Fearing for its very survival, the hated military government cancelled TV and radio broadcasts by political parties that have been campaigning for elections of a constitutional assembly scheduled to take place next month. All political publications have been suspended. A midnight to 5 a.m. curfew has been imposed on Lima and troops have orders to shoot anyone without a special pass.

### PRICE HIKES MEAN STARVATION

When the price hikes went into effect women were seen crying in

the supermarkets. Cooking oil went up more than 100% to \$1.31 a liter. Other food staples, including milk and bread, rose from between 50-120%. The price of gasoline shot from 53 cents to 89 cents a gallon, and public transportation increased by 50%. These increases threaten the very survival of many people. Already this year Peruvian workers have been saddled with an annual inflation rate of 80%. Per capita income is \$700 a year, though many workers make the bare minimum of \$35 a week.

The subsidies were lifted under pressure from U.S. banks which are refusing to loan money to the Peruvian government until the Morales Bermudez regime gets what the Wall Street Journal referred to as a "gold star" from

the IMF. This "gold star" approval is contingent on the adoption of a draconian austerity plan.

### LAST YEAR WORKERS STOPPED AUSTERITY PLAN

Last year, an attempt to impose an austerity plan and lift food and other subsidies resulted in rebellions and a general strike. The workers won that round, and the government backed down and reinstated the subsidies. As a result the IMF and other lending institutions, mainly those based in the U.S., refused to grant new loans.

It is the pillage of the wealth that rightfully belongs to the Peruvian people by giant banks such as Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, Citibank, the Morgan Guarantee Trust Company, the Bank of America, and the Bankers Trust Company that is the cause of Peru's immediate crisis. Since the rebellions last

year, the plunder by these banks has increased. This year, payments on Peru's \$4.4 billion debt will require about \$1 billion or 55% of its expected export income of \$1.8 billion. By 1980, debt service requirements could total 70% of Peru's foreign exchange earnings! Right now Peruvian financial negotiators are in New York meeting with these banks to renegotiate loans.

At this point it remains to be seen whether the Peruvian government will be able to enforce the austerity measures. Whatever happens, both the U.S. imperialists and the Morales Bermudez government must continue to deal with the anger of the organized workers who, despite the repression over the last year, have maintained their strength. With each new struggle it becomes clearer that in the long run it is the Peruvian masses who will determine the future of their country.



Cuzco, Peru. The Peruvian regime's attempts to enforce IMF-dictated austerity measures are being resisted by the masses.

## What is the IMF?

The imperialist governments in Europe are also made to feel the squeeze of the U.S.-dominated IMF. This is reflected in the following quotes from the May 9 issue of the Manchester Guardian, a British newspaper:

"In the well-stocked armoury of the advanced capitalist world there is probably no weapon more pernicious or subversive than the International Monetary Fund. It is not so much a mere

banking or financial institution as the political powerhouse of a contemporary imperial system, controlled and largely funded by the United States.

"... in their wake they leave toppling governments, unemployment, stagnation, misery, hunger, and repression. Rarely in the history of the world can there have been an organization that has done so much harm in the name of doing good."

## U.S. puppet government shaky as

# Military intervenes in Dominican election

By DAVID PEREZ

MAY 22—Despite the most blatant intervention by the military into the elections in the Dominican Republic, the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) appears to have unseated President Balaguer's Reformist Party (PR). But the final results of the election struggle have yet to be seen.

Early on the morning of May 16, the military stormed the Central Electoral Commission in the capital city of Santo Domingo and seized the national voting records. At the time, the PRD's candidate, Antonio Guzman, appeared to have won a landslide victory. PRD president Salvador Jorge Blanco announced that his party had won 20 out of the 26 provinces that had already voted by a margin of at least 2 to 1.

### WORKERS TELL OF BEATINGS

Accounts of widespread brutality by the military and national police have been reported in the two Dominican daily papers, El Nacional and El Caribe. In the countryside, party delegates were rounded up and beaten until they would sign false voting slips giving Balaguer the lead. In San Juan de Maguana, a poor province, two workers were shot and killed. The PRD charged that "over 500 comrades have been arrested and held without charges," and that there had been more than 400 "irregularities" in the voting—even before the military moved in and openly stole the ballot boxes!

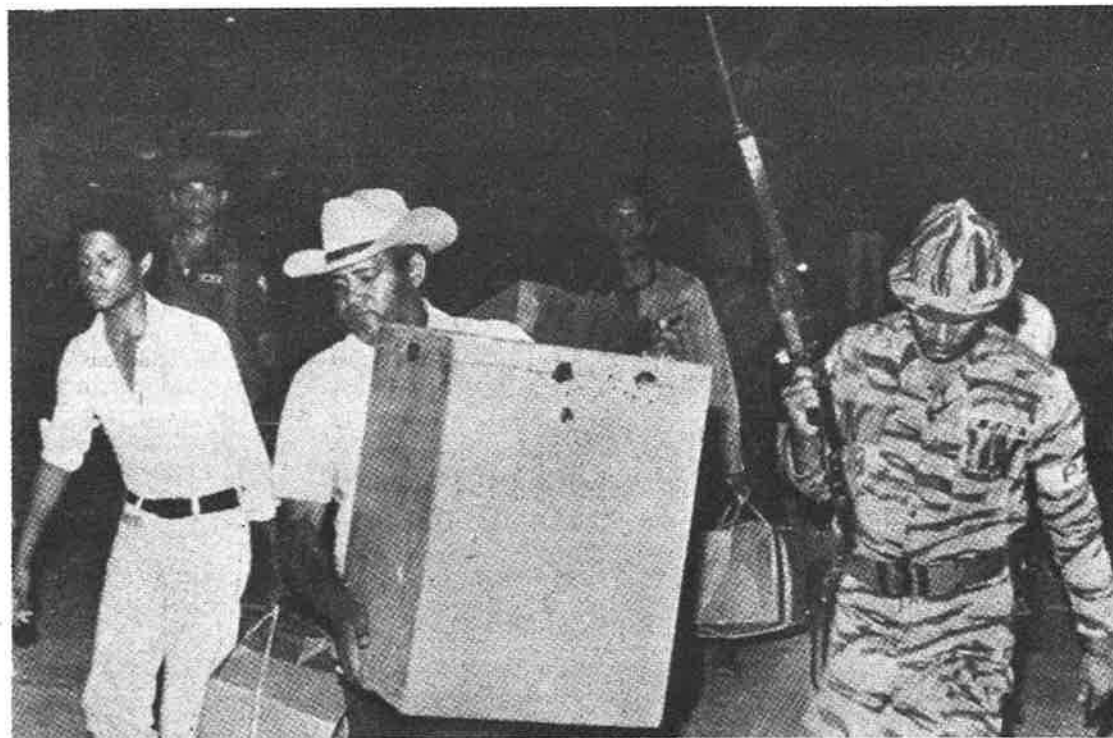
After intervening in the election, the military imposed a curfew, patrolled the streets, and kept transportation and shops closed.

El Nacional on May 21 reported that five owners of radio stations sympathizing with the PRD were arrested. The military pulled back, however, partly in response to a statement from Carter that seemed to hedge on support for the Balaguer forces.

The Balaguer dictatorship came to power after the intervention of 25,000 U.S. Marines in the Dominican Republic in 1965. This prevented the supporters of Juan Bosch, who had earlier been elected but overthrown by the military, from restoring him to power. But puppets like Balaguer become dispensable when they can no longer control the situation in the interests of imperialism.

It has now been openly admitted by the CIA that it participated in the assassination of Dominican dictator Trujillo in 1961 for this very reason. And it may well be that Washington will feel safer with the relatively moderate coalition of forces in the PRD than with a shaky Balaguer regime that has been openly exposed for its brutality and fraud. However, there is still much juggling going on and it remains to be seen if Balaguer is completely washed up in the eyes of the U.S. imperialists.

The PRD has publicly stated that it intends to "respect" and keep intact the present military and police forces. Neif Raphael Nivai Seijas, head of the police, is a staunch supporter of Balaguer. General Peres y Perez, head of the First Infantry Brigade which makes up 60% of the Dominican Army's firepower, was personally in charge of a fascist death squad in 1971 called "The Band" that killed many leftists and



Government troops in the Dominican Republic confiscated the ballot boxes after it became clear that President Joaquin Balaguer was losing the election last week.

progressives. Finally, Gen. Javier Beauchamp, head of the armed forces, had declared that the PRD has a number of "communists and downright anarchists." Thus any significant reform through the present state apparatus would seem to be quite impossible.

The electoral victory of the PRD, which seems confirmed regardless of whether or not the election is respected by the state, is a striking indication of the height of popular discontent with the corrupt and bankrupt regime of Balaguer and with the continuing deplorable economic conditions in

the Dominican Republic. Unemployment hovers around 40%; peasants have a life expectancy of 40 years; only 2% of the peasants ever get to eat eggs.

The Dominican Republic, just like Cuba before the Revolution, has been a rich source of profits for U.S. corporations, particularly the sugar interests. It was a former head of the National Sugar Refining Co., Ellsworth Bunker, who was sent there as President Johnson's troubleshooter in 1965 to pave the way for the intervention of the Marines.

While PRD candidate Guzman

is himself a millionaire cattle rancher who has appealed to Carter for support, and is certainly not prepared to make any break with U.S. imperialism, it is only in that direction that the Dominican Republic can ever climb out of the pit of constant exploitation and debt to imperialism that has so impoverished the masses. The present election shows both the strong mass opposition to Washington's puppet dictator and the potential for future struggles in the Dominican Republic that will go beyond the controlled electoral arena.

# GM's secret contingency plan to suppress revolution in S. Africa

By HILLEL BAILIN

MAY 19—A secret document of the General Motors Corporation came to light this week and exposed how the giant U.S. auto company is an important part of South Africa's system of racist oppression. The document is a "contingency plan" that GM's South Africa division has prepared in case of "race riots." By "race riots," General Motors means the inevitable revolution of the oppressed Black people of South Africa and their continuing struggle for freedom. According to its contingency plan, GM will help the South African regime try to crush this freedom struggle.

An organization called the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility acquired a copy of the secret plan, which was drafted last summer, and made it available to the press. An official of GM in Detroit has admitted that the document is authentic.

For many years, the document reveals, General Motors has supplied trucks and cars to the military and police of the racist regime. The South African

government therefore considers the giant GM plants as very important to its ability to survive. "In the event that a national emergency is declared," the contingency plan reads, "there is little doubt that control of GM South Africa's facilities, already designated a **National Key Point Industry** would be taken over by an arm of the Ministry of Defense and its production capabilities integrated into the national industrial effort."

## GM READY TO JOIN RACISTS IN BATTLE

Further on, the plan calls for the creation of a "GM Commando" which would be organized with GM personnel who would be armed and directed by the South African military. In other words, General Motors already helps the apartheid system survive and when a revolutionary upsurge breaks out, GM will become a direct part of the bloody regime.

All the big banks like Chase Manhattan, Bank of America, and Citibank have big investments in

South Africa. Many U.S. corporations like GM, Ford, IBM, and hundreds of others, have giant factories there. They make huge profits from the semi-slave labor system for Black people which is called apartheid. The liberation organizations in South Africa and their supporters in this country have long demanded that these investments be stopped. In response, the corporations and the big-business news media argue that the U.S. corporations "use their influence to support liberalized race policies in South Africa."

But how can the same corporations that carry out racist hiring practices over here, do anything but support the racist system that makes them rich over there? The discovery of General Motors' secret contingency plan shows without a doubt that U.S. big business stands shoulder-to-shoulder with their partners in apartheid. Now, the "GM Mark of Excellence" and the "Made in USA" emblem can be seen ever more clearly on the chains that enslave the Black people of South Africa.

# WW editor speaks in Norfolk on Ethiopian Revolution

By PHIL WILAYTO

NORFOLK, Va., May 13—Over 60 people, Black, Palestinian, Iranian, Ethiopian, and white, came together today to hear **Workers World** editor Deirdre Griswold deliver a speech entitled "Eyewitness Ethiopia: the continuing Revolution." The public meeting, held at St. Mary's Catholic Church here, was sponsored by the Norfolk branch of Workers World Party.

Griswold, a long-time activist in struggles against racism, sexism, and imperialism, spent three weeks in Ethiopia earlier this year. As part of a group of 125 foreign journalists, she was invited to that country by the Ethiopian government to take part in International Press Week, and stayed on an additional two weeks, speaking with workers, peasants, soldiers, community organizers, and government officials. The result of her travels and interviews is a fascinating first-hand account of a continuing and developing revolution.

The meeting began with opening remarks by Monica Moorehead, a report on the recent anti-Bakke march in Washington, D.C. by Veronica Golos, and a report on the struggle to free Alabama death row prisoner Imani (Johnny Harris), by Bill Doares.

Griswold, after describing the extreme poverty of the vast majority of Ethiopians under the repressive feudal monarchy of Emperor Haile Selassie, related the series of events that led to the collapse of that dictatorial regime and the emergence of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (the Derg) as the new ruling body.

She traced the complex interaction between the popular mass pressure by the workers and peasants and the progressive leadership of the leftist faction of the Derg that has resulted in a revolutionary transformation of Ethiopian society; the attempts by Western governments, especially that of the U.S., to dismember the

new Revolution by encouraging an invasion by neighboring Somalia and secessionist movements in the province of Eritrea; and the essential and progressive aid given to Ethiopia by the Soviet Union, Cuba, and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen).

Especially revealing were the descriptions of the changes in the day-to-day lives of the Ethiopian masses, especially of women. Before the revolution, women were completely relegated to domestic roles and were not even allowed to till the land. Many were forced to turn to public begging or prostitution to survive. Now, however, there are strong and active women's organizations that allow women to play a vital role in community and political affairs, releasing vast reservoirs of energy and determination that are transforming the society in fundamental ways.

The internationalist spirit of the audience was evident in the response both to Griswold's talk and to an announcement of a pro-Palestinian festival to be held later this week. The crowd broke into a loud and enthusiastic chant of "Palestine will win!"

It is especially significant that this meeting took place here in Norfolk, the center of the largest military complex in the world and headquarters for NATO, one of the key weapons used by U.S. imperialism to oppose revolutionary movements in Africa. Each year the city officials here honor NATO with an "Azalea Festival" and parade, and each year the parade is picketed by organizations and individuals opposed to NATO's imperialist role in Africa.

The fact that the truth about the Ethiopian revolution should be publicly revealed and celebrated under the very noses of NATO's high command will surely be a cause of discomfort to the architects of U.S. policies in the Horn of Africa, as it just as surely will be a cause of encouragement and support to those heroic revolutionaries fighting for freedom throughout Africa.



Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam and Premier Fidel Castro in the proletariat!"

## Mengistu in Havana

# 'World belongs to the p

On April 26, Lt.-Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the Council of Ministers of Ethiopia, addressed a Cuban-Ethiopian solidarity rally attended by one million people in Havana's Revolution Square. Following are excerpts from his speech.

Comrades, we live in an era in which socialism is winning decisive victories over imperialism. This is an era in which the frontiers of imperialism are shrinking, while those of socialism are expanding, with the destruction of reactionary and exploitative systems.

Despite this, imperialism cannot be underestimated as an enemy. The internal feuds and rivalries that once prevailed in the imperialist system are now being tempered. At the same time, since the great victories of socialism are more and more all the time, imperialism has cause for concern. Brooding over the humiliation it has suffered over the victories gained first by the oppressed masses in Cuba, then in Vietnam, recently in Angola and now in Ethiopia, imperialism should realize what is inevitably in store for it. (Applause)

The people and the Government of Ethiopia completely back the efforts of the peoples of Latin America to free themselves from imperialist political domination and economic exploitation. (Applause)

On this occasion, I would like to express the solidarity and unity of aims of revolutionary Ethiopia with the Chilean masses in struggle. (Applause)

I want also to express our solemn tribute to the memory of President Allende. (Applause)

On analyzing the situation in Latin America, the case of the Guantanamo base comes to mind. In this respect, Ethiopia demands that the United States immediately

and unconditionally evacuate the Guantanamo base, which is one of the vestiges of imperialism on Cuban soil. (Applause)

Ethiopia also demands that the United States immediately put an end to all plotting against the progressive governments of the Caribbean. (Applause)

It condemns the actions carried out by the United States designed to prevent the people and Government of Panama from exercising their sovereignty and jurisdiction over what is at present known as the Panama Canal Zone. (Applause)

It demands an immediate end to the colonial situation of Belize and the Malvinas Islands. (Applause)

It calls for respect for the Puerto Rican people's right to self-determination. (Applause)

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that revolutionary Ethiopia will strengthen even further in solidarity with the liberation movements of southern Africa so as to speed up their emancipation. (Applause)

Revolutionary People of Cuba:

The Ethiopian Revolution, an inseparable part of the struggle of the proletariat and of that of other oppressed peoples, has reached a decisive phase. To safeguard the significant victories gained in such a short time, the great masses of Ethiopia are strengthening their organizational capacity and military preparation and heightening their political awareness.

To eradicate poverty, sickness and illiteracy in our land; to establish a social system free from oppression and exploitation on the basis of socialism; and to bring up a new generation of Ethiopian revolutionaries: this is the program on which the National Democratic Revolution of Ethiopia has embarked. The struggle to achieve these noble

## The Ethiopian Revolution and the Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism



This updated, well-illustrated, 90-page pamphlet contains reprints from **Workers World** newspaper from August 1977 to January 1978. Covers such topics as: the Somali invasion; the leadership in Ethiopia; the role of imperialism; and the Eritrean question. Contains, as an appendix, the Program of the National Democratic Revolution of Ethiopia.

Order from: World View Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y.C., NY 10010 \$1.25



## Eyewitnesses tell completely different story

# U.S. media lies about Zaire 'massacre'

By ANDY STAPP

MAY 22—The U.S. media is lying about the "rebel massacre of Europeans" in Zaire. There has been a massacre, all right, but most of the victims have not been Europeans but Africans, many hundreds of whom have been killed by the French Foreign Legion, an outfit scraped together from the dregs of the racists.

The press admits as much (in its fine print), but relentlessly reactionary in every way, brushes aside the many Africans killed as unimportant and instead focuses all its attention on the Europeans supposedly executed en masse by the anti-Mobutu insurgents.

Typical of this "atrocities propaganda" is the lead story in the current (May 29) issue of Newsweek which begins:

"Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko stared through the window of a mining-company gatehouse in the shattered city of Kolwezi. The battle-hardened President, a former army sergeant, put his hands to his face and moaned: 'Mon Dieu, they have smashed their heads in.' Inside the guesthouse, 35 European men, women and children lay dead. They had been executed by Katangan invaders before the attackers themselves were driven out of town by the French Foreign Legion."

So claims Newsweek, in an article replete with sensational pictures of the dead Europeans, a crying Mobutu, and French troops making "a gallant rescue effort that came too late."

### EYEWITNESS SAYS

#### "IT WAS MOBUTU'S ARMY"

On May 23, however, the French newspaper Le Monde revealed that it was the troops of the fascist and pro-Western puppet regime of Mobutu Sese Seko who turned on those hated Europeans and shot them.

"The conduct of the Zairian army," Le Monde reported, "has been seriously questioned by several refugees from Kolwezi, among them Mr. Raymond Korczak, foreman in a hoisting firm, who arrived in Brussels late Sunday night."

"He declares that the Zairian

French and Belgians in U.S. planes, and later, for the U.S. armed forces themselves.

With 17 years of collaboration with the U.S. by Mobutu and with 17 years of stepped-up U.S. corporate exploitation of the country without effective opposition, there are perhaps some reasons why the imperialists should be optimistic about enlarged military operations there.

But the people of Zaire have not forgotten that 17 years ago their national hero, Patrice Lumumba, was assassinated by these same imperialists. They have not forgotten that imperialism once reduced their whole population from 30 million to 6 million in one generation.

The people of Zaire have had no experience with the Soviets and the Cubans, as the trigger-happy Carter is pretending. But it is impossible that they could regard either the Cuban or Soviet forces with the hatred they must have for the Belgian, French, British, and U.S. imperialist troops.

Besides, the Soviets that the U.S. will ultimately have to deal with in Zaire are the Shaba Soviet or people's council and other soviets led by a mighty Congress of Zaire Soviets, whose power will come directly from the great African masses and will be deeply revolutionary and militarily irresistible.

armed forces killed in cold blood some 30 people in a house in the mining quarter. 'Mobutu's soldiers,' he explained, 'came to look for some people to evacuate them to the airport; then they led them into a house and shot them down. Only two were able to escape. One told of the massacre, that it had been done by the Zairian army. From then on we were more afraid of that army than of the rebels who, in my neighborhood, behaved very correctly and in a disciplined manner...'

"Several refugees confirmed, in effect, that the Zairian army didn't hesitate to fire with automatic arms and mortars at the houses of the Europeans," adds Le Monde in its report from Brussels.

The Newsweek article, then, like so much of the other super-racist and hysterical media coverage of the events in Zaire (much of which has emanated from UPI reporter Erik Van Ecs, a South African white supremacist), is nothing but a pack of lies.

Even CBS network news (May 21) reported (very briefly) that "Belgian soldiers at Kamina said that some drunken French Foreign Legionnaires had killed six whites,

identified as five Rhodesians and a Belgian, in Kolwezi on Friday."

### INTERVENTION TO SAVE CORRUPT REGIME

Ironically, the French government had claimed that it was sending troops to Zaire "on a strictly humanitarian mission," a sentiment echoed by Belgian Premier Leo Tindemans who said (International Herald Tribune, May 19), "Our purpose in Zaire is uniquely humanitarian."

But the real reason for the NATO intervention was the complete collapse of the Mobutu puppet army before the popular rebel forces. Not all Mobutu's troops turned to acts of mayhem. Some gladly went over to the insurgents. "Many of the Zairian soldiers," said Korczak, "changed sides on the arrival of the rebels."

An engineer from the mining company Gecamines confirmed that the rebels were "from their arrival very organized and disciplined."

This is not the first time since independence was supposedly granted in 1960 that the people of Zaire have been attacked by imperialist invaders. As the New York Times (May 20) notes, "Today's rescue in Zaire seems almost a replay of an action there 14 years ago code-named

Operation Dragon."

What the Times does not print is the kind of unspeakable atrocities the colonial troops committed during Operation Dragon, an invasion also billed as a "mercy mission." But back on November 29, 1964, the following account appeared, written by a disgusted soldier in the European invasion army, in the British newspaper News of the World:

"Our orders were to shoot on sight. And that was what we did—with a vengeance."

"We would thunder into villages in our lorries and armoured cars, blazing away wildly with guns, tossing petrol into the little native homes and setting them alight."

"Sometimes we killed in a frenzy. Sometimes we killed coldly."

"And what sickened me most of all was that occasionally we killed for fun."

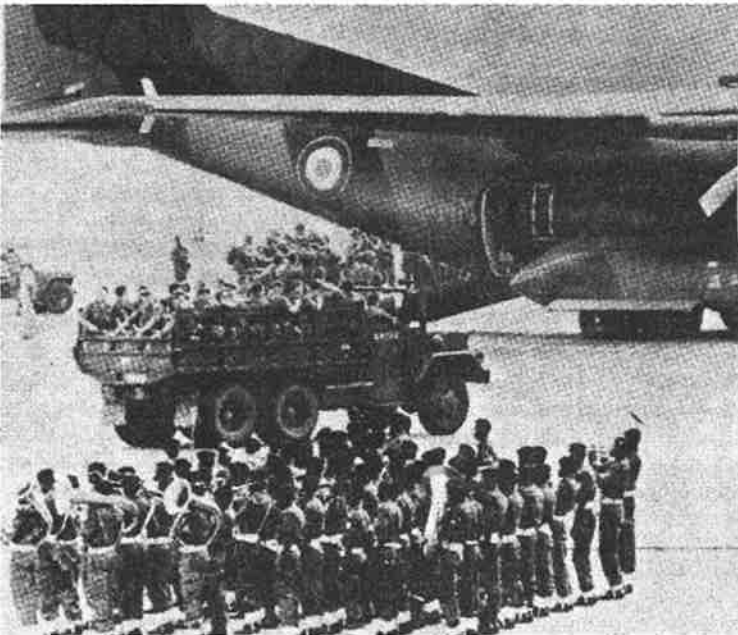
Well over 10,000 Africans were butchered during Operation Dragon, but the Western press focused almost all its attention on the 20 whites who lost their lives in the fighting.

This is the reality of imperialist savagery in Africa. This is the reality that the bosses' media are trying to cover up with their constant barrage of lies about what is happening in Zaire and on the African continent as a whole.

### What about these refugees?

According to the UN High Commission on Refugees, there were 220,000 (that's two hundred and twenty thousand) Zairians who had sought refuge in Angola by 1977.

Why has the imperialist press never sought to find out why entire villages have been uprooted and forced to flee their country? Why haven't the front pages and the TV news interviewed the men, women, and children, the wives, widows, grandmothers, orphans, boyfriends, and elders who have experienced violence and tragedy at the hands of the repressive, U.S.-backed Mobutu regime? Why are we not told their personal stories so we can identify with them as fellow beings rather than seeing them as mere statistics? Aren't those 220,000 refugees news?



The imperialist French Legionnaires arrive in Zaire in preparation for their armed invasion.

### Fascist troops attack political meeting

## Rhodesian army kills 94 civilians

By TANA MARIE LOY

MAY 23—In another desperate attempt to retain control and to contain the opposition to the "internal settlement" (which really means Black majority rule in name only), on May 17 fascist troops of Ian Smith's settler government killed 94 unarmed civilians who were attending a political meeting.

Like the Sharpeville massacre in March, 1960, when 5,000 men, women, and children gathered to protest the racist passbook laws of the apartheid system of South Africa, and the police wantonly opened fire on the crowd killing 69 persons, the massacre in Rhodesia exposes the settler government for the brutal and inhuman system it really is.

Witnesses sharply disputed the Rhodesian government's account of the incident. The government claimed that 50 civilians were killed in "crossfire" between "security forces" and rebel forces holding a political meeting.

However, as reported in the New York Times, May 18, witnesses who had attended the meeting

stated there was a single armed rebel at the meeting, that no one fired except the government troops, and that 94 persons had been killed. The fascist troops fired into the crowd of 200, who were denouncing Ian Smith's so-called internal settlement as a sell-out, and the forces continued shooting for five minutes. There was only one representative of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front present who was killed before being able to return fire. "There was heavy firing, grenades, the whole place was in fire and kids scattered into the forest..." continued the New York Times account. After the firing had stopped, 94 bodies were found and there possibly could be more casualties as many ran into the forest to escape the shooting.

The Rhodesian government continued its lies about the incident to the international press just as it has continued its lie that the internal settlement is a move towards Black majority rule in Zimbabwe.

The internal settlement, which represents nothing more than

bringing a few puppets into the racist government, is a fraud, leaving unchanged the discrimination against the Black majority who earn 10% of the average wages of the European settlers. This settlement would leave real power in the hands of the racists.

This attack was really an act of desperation by the Smith regime. The people of Zimbabwe are not fooled. It is clear that the freedom fighters of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front led by Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo represent the masses of Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe Patriotic Front has already liberated 40% of the country. It is this very fact that terrifies Smith and therefore the imperialists who continue to supply the needs of Smith's regime despite the boycott ordered by the United Nations years ago.

Just as the Sharpeville massacre lives in the memory of the struggling masses of South Africa, the killing of 94 civilians and the lies to cover it up will ultimately only intensify the growing liberation movement in Zimbabwe.



Castro in Cuba. "The world belongs to the proletariat!"

## the proletariat'

objectives is long and arduous. The great masses of Ethiopia have risen in unison to overcome all difficulties. They also have your firm internationalist aid. The destiny of the masses of our two revolutionary countries, that have already firmly established their unity in struggle despite geographical distances, will henceforth be indissolubly united. I feel honored and happy to say here, now, that your struggle is ours and that our struggle is yours. (Applause)

Long live the eternal friendship between the peoples of Cuba and Ethiopia! (Shouts of "Long Live!")

Long live proletarian internationalism! (Shouts of "Long Live!")

The world belongs to the proletariat! (Applause)

## —U.S.-NATO troops

(Continued from p. 1)

made a point of saying that Cubans had "provided training for the Katanga rebels while they were in Angola."

"In effect," said the anti-Africa U.S. press, "the Administration was laying the groundwork for holding the Cubans and Russians ultimately responsible for the Zairian fighting."

"In effect" the Administration was really laying the groundwork for an anti-communist, anti-African onslaught by the U.S. in an attempt to strangle African freedom.

Still smarting at the "loss" of Ethiopia, where the Soviets and Cubans aided the profound revolution against domestic feudalism and foreign (i.e., U.S.) imperialism, Carter is trying to justify a big military offensive into Africa.

Zaire, he thinks, will provide the easiest point of entry—first for the



## Bankers crack the whip at NYC

New York City is once again being pushed into a crisis by an alliance of bankers and government officials. They are conspiring to place the 8 million people of the city into the strait-jacket of dictatorial controls and forced "austerity." Their aim is to guarantee the profits of the bankers by closing more schools and hospitals and other essential services and by erecting a permanent system of wage controls over the 250,000 municipal workers here.

Massive cutbacks in social services and attacks on public employees are not confined to New York alone, but are being repeated in scores of places around the country. From Proposition 13 in California to payless paydays in Ohio, the imprint of the bankers can be clearly seen.

At the core of the present crisis in New York is the refusal of the Municipal Labor Coalition of 55 trade unions, representing more than 200,000 municipal workers, to completely surrender to the fiercely anti-labor and racist administration of New York City Mayor Edward Koch. The bankers are manipulating the threat of municipal bankruptcy (as they did three years ago when they first plunged New York into financial crisis) to bulldoze the unions into accepting a retrogressive contract with no real wage gains and various so-called union "give-backs." Along with this the bankers and their politicians are plotting to impose still deeper cutbacks on the people of New York while blaming them on the unions.

### THE POWER OF THE BANKS

All economic entities in this country depend upon credit. The federal government, for example, is fast approaching a \$1 trillion indebtedness (that's \$1,000,000,000,000!) to the banks. And likewise, New York City relies on bank credit and is also deeply in debt. The banks thereby have a powerful lever with which to control government policy. By withholding credit, as they are now doing with New York City, they can embroil their victims in a crisis and make heavy demands upon them.

What are they demanding of New York City?

The banks have let it be known that before the city may borrow again, the state legislature must create a permanent body to replace the Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB) which is due to expire at the end of this year. In keeping with the bankers' demands, the proposed legislation now awaiting passage in Albany would extend the Control Board's existence for as much as 30 to 50 years.

The EFCB was foisted on New York three years ago as a shadow government with veto power over the city's elected officials. Specifically, it was invested with the power to nullify any labor contract duly negotiated between the city and a union. This tool of the bankers, the EFCB, makes a mockery of government that is supposedly elected to represent the people. It denies labor the right of free collective bargaining. It is a dictatorial committee whose purpose is to deprive the people of their right to apportion their own tax receipts as they see fit.

In addition, the Control Board holds in reserve the power to take over the city government entirely. It can seize the city's bank accounts and leave the city's elected government penniless and unable to govern. The New York Times reported (May 18) from Albany that "The entire process [of passing new control board legislation] has taken place in extraordinary secrecy, with ideas on creating a mechanism to restructure the New York City government for the next 2 or 3 decades traded in closed sessions." (Our emphasis—W.W.)

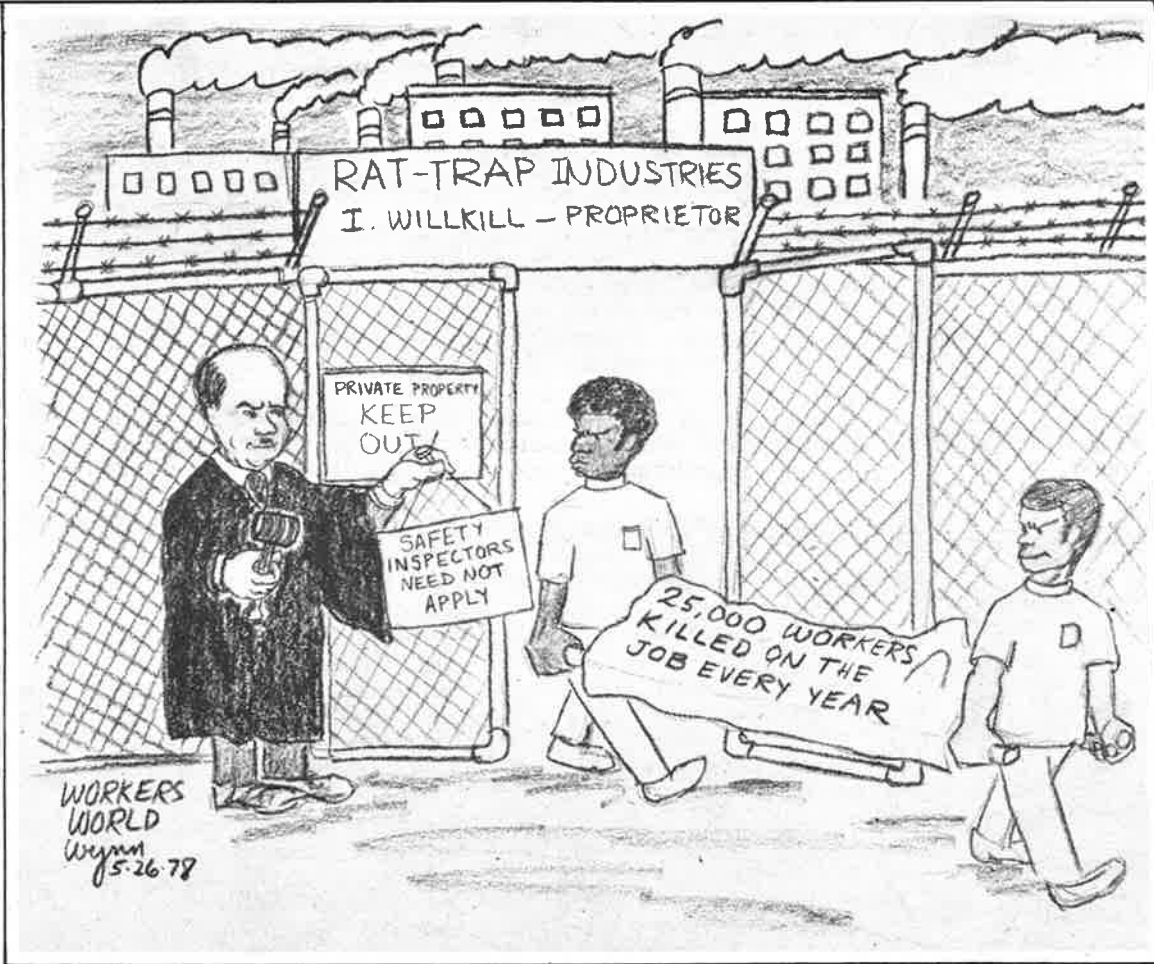
### AN AVID SERVANT OF THE RICH

Mayor Koch, who also sits on the Control Board, has proven himself to be an avid servant of the rich. He has carried out the anti-union and racist policies of the banks with real gusto. Their "austerity" plans for New York are coming on top of already high unemployment and the highest cost of living in the U.S.

Carter, too, is a pliant tool of the bankers. Treasury Secretary Blumenthal rejected plans to extend the EFCB for seven years as "inadequate," while Carter's plan to aid the cities is a mere pittance.

There is talk now of another recession. Those politicians who claim a "hardline" position on government spending are really using a code-word for lowering the people's income and dismantling needed social services. They have no intention of cutting the \$120 billion (and still growing) military budget. Yet it is this fantastic level of arms spending combined with keeping a large part of the population under- or unemployed that is driving New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and other cities straight to the poorhouse.

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## U.S. invasion plan for Europe

By FRED GOLDSTEIN

MAY 23—Secretary of Defense Harold Brown laid out new U.S. plans for a virtual invasion of Europe to a NATO ministers' conference in Brussels last week.

Brown "promised the defense ministers of other Atlantic Alliance countries today that in the event of any crisis in Europe the United States would double its army in two weeks and triple its aircraft in a week," according to Drew Middleton, Pentagon reporter writing in the New York Times of May 19.

The aggressive forces of the U.S. in Europe are already at massive levels according to Middleton. The Seventh Army has 205,000 troops, including two armored divisions, two mechanized divisions, three mechanized brigades, and two armored cavalry regiments. The emergency airlift aims to bring that level to 400,000 troops, 350,000 of them combat troops.

The U.S. command in Europe presently has over 600 aircraft including 400 Phantom F-4's, 156 F-111's, and 75 F-15's. The aim of the Pentagon is to boost that to 1,900 on a week's notice. The U.S. is already stocking weapons, ammunition, vehicles, fuel, and other supplies to accommodate its invading force.

Whether the precise figures given out by the Pentagon are exaggerated bluster or understated to conceal even larger plans, the general thrust is clearly a menacing invasion threat directed at all the peoples of Europe and particularly the USSR. The announcement of the invasion task force, officially sanctioned by NATO, is a sequel to a series of "preparedness" studies of the Seventh Army which allegedly showed a high degree of battle readiness. In the context of the present U.S. war drive, including Cruise missiles, neutron bombs, arms "packages" to the Mideast, encouragement of the rearmament of Japan, etc., such "studies" and announcements can only be interpreted as threats.

### SOVIET "THREAT" A LIE

The so-called "crisis" that Brown and all other militarists allude to is the alleged "Soviet threat." This threat is patently false. The USSR is threatening nobody with aggression. The socialist system owns no factories,

mines, or banks abroad. It does not live by exploiting colonies, by wage slavery or profits and has no need to conquer other peoples. On the contrary, the USSR has been attacked by imperialist aggressors twice, after the revolution in 1918 and by Nazi imperialism in 1941 at a combined cost of at least 25 million killed! The U.S. on the other hand has by its own admission intervened over 200 times in other countries since World War II. It shouldn't be forgotten that it was the U.S., not the USSR, that invented the atom bomb, the hydrogen bomb, nuclear attack submarines, MIRV missiles, and the neutron bomb, among other weapons of mass death and destruction.

Thus the plan to airlift 200,000 more troops must be seen as aggressive in intent and part of the overall drive by the U.S. to intimidate the USSR out of aiding the liberation struggles, particularly in Africa.

### FORCE FOR COUNTERREVOLUTION

In evaluating the airlift plans it must also be remembered that Zbigniew Brzezinski and James Schlesinger, both of whom are highly influential in the Carter administration, are ardent representatives of those factions in the military and big business who favor trying to roll back the borders of socialism in Eastern Europe. One of the great frustrations of U.S. imperialism in Czechoslovakia in 1968 was that the capitalist counterrevolution was able to carry out successful political subversion but the U.S.

was unable to intervene militarily to carry out the complete overturn of socialism. Plans to meet a "crisis" in Europe undoubtedly include support for counterrevolution in Eastern Europe.

Another "crisis" (for the capitalists) in Europe which is not mentioned by the Pentagon but never leaves their minds is the upsurge of the working class in Western and Southern Europe. Under the impact of inflation and unemployment millions of workers in Italy, France, Spain, and Portugal have gone on strike, taking to the streets to demand socialist solutions to the capitalist crisis. Both the Ford and the Carter administrations threatened France and Italy not to let the Communist Parties into the government. During the 1975 revolution in Portugal, NATO carried out military maneuvers off the coast of Portugal. And the Pentagon's contingency plan must also be viewed as a preventive measure against revolutionary action by the European working class.

Finally, it must be said that these vicious plans are also directed against the poor and working people in the U.S.—Black, Latin, Asian, Native peoples, and white. The invasion plans have been made behind the backs of the people; they are paid for by cuts in schools, hospitals, daycare, housing, and wages; and they are designed to have U.S. workers fighting against the working people of the USSR and Europe instead of against our real enemies the rich bosses, bankers and landlords, right here at home.

An answer to the theory of "Soviet social-imperialism"

by Sam Marcy  
**THE CLASS CHARACTER OF THE USSR**

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## Who should be disarmed?

# Zaire, NATO, and disarmament

By SAM MARCY

MAY 23—Let there be no mistake about it. The military intervention into Shaba province in Zaire by Belgium, France, and the U.S. was an organized, orchestrated, and coordinated effort of NATO, headed and engineered by the U.S. and by NATO commander General Alexander Haig.

It was organized in the manner of a fascist, military blitzkrieg to destroy a national liberation movement and to keep a rebellious people under the thumb of world imperialism. The horror stories about the killings of Europeans are a smokescreen, a cover story, a rerun of what took place in January 1959 when the first anti-imperialist insurgency took place in the then-capital city of Leopoldville at a time when Zaire was called the Congo.

In 1959, screaming headlines about the killing of some European settlers were used as a smokescreen to cover up the birth of a national independence movement and its attempt to take destiny into its own hands. And today, the so-called massacre of Europeans in the province of Shaba, assuming that even one-tenth of what has been said is true, is only the tiniest bit of the entire panorama of political struggle by the people of Shaba and all of Zaire against the brutal, dictatorial puppet regime of Mobutu.

Nowhere do we see how many hundreds or thousands of casualties have been inflicted on the people of Shaba by the brutal invasion of the imperialists. Only the smallest and most incidental elements of the general uprising against the Mobutu regime are described.

### NATO'S CLASS FUNCTION

The fact that it took the combined military strength of Belgian and French paratroops with "only logistical support" (if not much more) from the U.S. illustrates one of the fundamental purposes for the existence of NATO: as a counter-revolutionary force to suppress the liberation struggles in Africa and also as a counter-insurgency force against the Western proletariat, something for which the imperialists are most certainly preparing.

The present military intervention is in some respects even more abhorrent than the imperialist effort to install Mobutu in 1965, four years after the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the President of the then Congo Republic. It was assumed by all that that might be a short-lived affair, that a progressive revolutionary regime would soon follow on the heels of Mobutu's installation as a puppet of the Western imperialists.

But it is the coordination of the major imperialist stake-holders in Africa which is responsible for the survival of the Mobutu regime for so long and for the crushing, even if only temporarily, of the rebellious people for the second time in only the space of a year.

How are the imperialists able to accomplish this monstrous crime—a crime which not only has elements of the repressions of the early 1960s, but is a throwback to the days of the 1890s when the African continent was being carved up by finance capital? It is partly because imperialism was also able to raise a monstrous smokescreen in the form of anti-Soviet, anti-Cuban hysteria. Their propaganda operates on the principle of the big lie in a manner which differs little from Goebbels'

Nazi lie factory and can succeed only thanks to there being a deep division among the socialist countries and also a proletariat in the metropolitan imperialist centers that is disoriented and taken in tow by anti-Soviet and pro-imperialist interests.

### ANTI-SOVIET EXCUSE

In the early 1930s General Smedley Butler, an ultra-rightist Marine with a peculiar slant of his own, said in a burst of brutal frankness, "If Soviet Russia didn't exist, the great powers would have to invent her."

The imperialists always need to divert attention from their crimes in order to entice, bewilder, and confuse the working class and the oppressed. Anti-communism and anti-Sovietism has been a handy tool whenever a social, political, or

the imperialists who are not fighting the Soviet Union hard enough, that NATO is not strong enough, that the West and the Carter administration are appeasing the USSR in the Horn of Africa and in Africa generally! It is all too plain which side they are taking in this crucial struggle in Zaire. No revolutionary rhetoric can cover it up.

Le Monde of May 21-22 reports that the official Chinese press "has presented favorably the intervention of France and Belgium. On Wednesday China had officially expressed its 'total' support of Zaire in a declaration by Minister of Foreign Affairs Huang Hua denouncing the offensive of 'Soviet-Cuban mercenaries' in Shaba."

A dispatch by John Fraser to the Toronto Globe and Mail picked up

use euphemisms and code words and speak their real thoughts. Thus the New York Times in a news story (not even an editorial) on May 18 says about Brzezinski that "more than other American officials he has been interested in playing China off against the Soviet Union and in trying to exploit their dispute against the Russians."

Here in a nutshell is what we have been saying over the years. They even say it openly in almost the same language: the U.S. policy is to play off one against the other and to "exploit"—yes, to exploit!—"the dispute against the Russians." The only thing that is missing in this brutally frank admission is the conclusion: that they are planning not merely to exploit the differences and to play them off against each other but to

remember the genesis of nuclear weapons in the first place.

The Pentagon was the first to develop an atomic bomb and the U.S. was the first and only one to use it. And it is the U.S. which has consistently raised the nuclear threshold by producing more complex and sophisticated weapons systems with each passing year. Concrete proposals for reducing or eliminating the development, testing, and production of weapons systems by the U.S., the USSR, and other nuclear powers should not be opposed but encouraged.

But it is an altogether different proposition to sow illusions that general disarmament can prevail while imperialism exists. The U.S. agreed to ban the testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere only because it no longer had an advantage; the USSR had caught up with the U.S. SALT I was agreed to only because a rough equivalence in nuclear weapons systems seemed to have been reached.

The present impasse in the SALT treaty doesn't lie in any difficulty over resolving technological questions or finding means to ascertain whether it's in the realm of possibility to limit or stop the race in the particular field of nuclear arms. The difficulty lies in the overall geopolitical position of the unbridled militarists and the military-industrial complex and their interlocking community with the banks and industrialists generally. This requires of them a constant, never-ending chase for super-profits and calls for the wildest adventures and the most flagrant abuses of power in the name of maintaining the so-called free enterprise system.

### IMPERIALISTS WILL NOT DISARM

Disarmament, as viewed by the imperialists when they speak frankly, is an illusion. Only the other day an assistant to the Arms Control Division of the Defense Department, Harold Blechman, said that disarmament was an illusion (CBS news of May 22). He gave the imperialist rationalization for it: "religious differences," "nationality differences," "political factionalism of all sorts," and so on. However false his basic explanation is, his general conclusion serves the ruling class well—to maintain arms at a level necessary to suppress the masses and to continue wars of destruction to serve the ends of imperialist finance capital.

The lesson of the Zaire invasion is that the workers and the oppressed in the metropolitan imperialist centers, who are for peace, must not be confused with pacifist ideology. Lenin taught as long ago as 1916 that Marxists and pacifists both desire peace. But Marxists view the issue of peace in the light of the class struggle, in the light of the existence of two mutually opposed classes, the exploiters and the exploited. The exploiters never fail to arm themselves to maintain their domination and to keep the masses at home and abroad under conditions of suppression. From this Lenin drew the conclusion that an exploited class which does not and will not learn the use of arms will forever remain enslaved.

Lenin's contribution after the Revolution was to teach that a workers' republic and the workers everywhere have a duty to render political, material, as well as military support in the struggle for liberation from the yoke of im-

(Continued on p. 11)



*"The military intervention into Shaba province in Zaire by Belgium, France, and the U.S. was an organized, orchestrated, and coordinated effort of NATO, headed and engineered by the U.S. and by NATO commander General Alexander Haig." Above, invading French paratroopers force residents of Kolwezi in Zaire to show documents to "prove" their right to be there. What gives the French the right to be there?*

economic debacle engulfs the capitalist system—an especially necessary ideological tool to divert the masses when their real enemy is preparing a predatory military adventure. The intervention into Zaire is a classical example taken right out of the book.

Force alone cannot maintain the suppression of a rebellious people who are struggling for liberation from the yoke of the trans-national corporations. The imperialists' present, temporary success can partly be accounted for by the division in the international workers' movement, as we said, and above all else by Sino-Soviet relations.

Aiding and abetting the anti-Soviet drive, in fact trying to be in the forefront of it, is the current leadership in the Peoples Republic of China. The constant barrage that emanates from Peking attacking the Soviet Union and its allies, particularly Cuba, for their aid to the liberation struggles differs in form but not in essence from that of the imperialists. It is this element which differentiates the present period from that of the late 1950s and early 1960s.

At that time the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leadership was attacking the USSR (and this when Khrushchev was at the head of the Soviet state!) for not fighting hard enough, not being revolutionary enough in the struggle for national liberation—particularly in the Congo, as Zaire was called then. But later the CCP line swung 180 degrees. Now the Chinese leaders maintain that it is

today by the Christian Science Monitor reports on the visit to China of U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and his welcome by the Chinese leadership. At the state banquet for Brzezinski, Foreign Minister Huang Hua stated that "The struggle for hegemony [a codeword referring to the USSR] is the main source of global intranquility. The shadow of social imperialism [another codeword for the USSR] can be seen in almost all the changes and disturbances in every part of the world." Well then, who sent paratroopers into Shaba province and dealt death and destruction with sophisticated weapons? Was it "social-imperialism"?

Who invaded southern Lebanon—social-imperialism? Who is carrying on a war against Chad and Polisario? Who is fighting against the liberation of East Timor? Who is torturing the Irish freedom fighters? Who everywhere on the face of the globe is the fundamental oppressor and exploiter of the world's oppressed? Who continues to threaten Korea, Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos?

The Peking leaders seem to have forgotten all that they ever learned when it comes to the contemporary relations of the USSR with the U.S.

But the U.S. has not forgotten. The Pentagon and the State Department, as well as the White House, are in general agreement on what they want vis-a-vis the USSR and China. So clear is their motivation that they often forget to

involve them in a military conflict after which U.S. imperialism in concert with its Western imperialist allies would pick up the pieces.

Hasn't that always been the blueprint for world imperialist domination?

A great deal is made out of the so-called division in the Carter administration between hard-liner Brzezinski and soft-liner Vance. But successive administrations over the last 30 years have shown that while factions arise based on a variety of different tactics, all are equally interested in the same objective—not merely curbing or subverting, but destroying the socialist countries as the surest way to suppress the world liberation movement, using the massive weapons with which imperialism seeks not merely to improve its position but to maintain world superiority.

### DISARMAMENT SESSION

High on the agenda at the current UN Special Session on Disarmament will unquestionably be plans to curb the sale of arms. There may be proposals for limiting or even eliminating the use of not only such horrendous weapons as the neutron bomb but of all other nuclear weapons.

Such proposals are all good. The overwhelming bulk of humanity is thoroughly opposed to not only the use of nuclear weapons but to their production and would like to see them destroyed as soon as possible.

It is important, however, to

# Lessons of the Paris Commune



French workers resist being disarmed by the bourgeois government in the opening battle of the Paris Commune of 1871.

By SHARON SHELTON

"A specter is haunting Europe..."

With these words, Karl Marx began the Communist Manifesto, which for the first time in history pointed the way for the working class to break through centuries of exploitation and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat, thereby setting the basis for freeing all humanity from class oppression. Only 23 years after Marx wrote, all of Europe was stunned by an unprecedented event—an insurrection of the working people of Paris, an initially successful insurrection which established the Paris Commune of 1871. Although it lasted only two months before being drowned in blood, the Commune gave concrete form to Marx's words of two decades earlier. The Commune was the first workers' dictatorship ever to exist, the embryo of a new world order, and its lessons—both its contributions and its mistakes—armed generations of revolutionaries to come.

Today, more than ever, the specter of workers' rule is haunting the oppressing classes throughout the world as the war fought by the heroic women and men of Paris continues still—in revolutionary Ethiopia, in Cuba, Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and everywhere else the workers have taken power. The Paris Commune was not an isolated event, but an integral part of the historical process of labor's striving for emancipation. The Commune was the first chapter in the world proletarian revolution.

What were the events that led to this great undertaking by the

workers of Paris? Why didn't the Paris Commune succeed? What are its lessons for revolutionaries today?

## HOW THE COMMUNE AROSE

The event that immediately sparked the Paris insurrection was the Franco-Prussian war, a national war between French and German capitalism. Not only did the war and the suffering it brought wrench the people from their everyday life, arouse their distrust of their rulers, and throw them into struggle, but the war also required the arming of the Paris workers in the National Guard to defend the capital—and, as Marx later wrote, "Paris armed was the social Revolution armed." This the bourgeois government headed by Thiers learned only too well when it attempted to disarm Paris by sending regiments to seize its artillery, the legal property of the National Guard. The Paris workers resisted.

On March 18, revolutionary Paris declared war on the government sitting at Versailles, and on March 28 the Paris Commune was proclaimed. The Commune lasted 62 days before a conspiracy between Thiers and the German Chancellor, Bismarck, his national opponent but class friend, enabled it to be crushed. A bloody reprisal followed with the men, women, and even the children of Paris mercilessly hunted down and murdered by the enraged French bourgeoisie.

## COMMUNE HAD NO REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

The workers' struggle in France was too young, too inexperienced, too lacking in leadership for the

Commune to have succeeded. Charting unknown ground and having too little time, the Commune was also surrounded by hostile forces and was cut off from its allies in other major French cities as well as from the peasantry in whose interests it struggled. The Communards themselves were too lenient toward their oppressors: they allowed them to organize freely inside Paris; they did not nationalize the Bank of Paris, that bastion of bourgeois power; they did not go on the offensive against the Versailles counter-revolutionary regime, but tarried and allowed the bourgeoisie time to plot the destruction of the Commune.

The Commune had no revolutionary party at its helm, armed with the experience of past class battles. Such a party would have enabled the young workers' government to make swift decisions, to go on the offensive, to break through the wall of isolation forced on it and cement ties with the peasantry, and to prepare for and direct the seizure of power and the construction of the new proletarian state.

Marx himself had realized that the conditions were not ripe for the Paris Commune to succeed and initially had even warned the Parisians not to rise up. When the insurrection was underway, however, Marx gave it his wholehearted support and enthusiasm. He realized that to "storm the heavens" and lose was far better than to abandon the struggle once it was underway. He knew that even an unsuccessful attempt to establish a workers' government was infinitely preferable to demoralizing the workers and would yield invaluable experience for future tests of strength between the contending classes.

Indeed the many measures carried out by the workers of Paris during those two months in the spring of 1871 have proved invaluable. The Commune separated church from state, abolished night work of bakers, banned fines in the factories, made tuition free, and began the process of expropriation by decreeing that the operation of factories abandoned by the bosses would be transferred to workers' associations. Showing an awareness that the class ties of workers everywhere are stronger than national allegiances, the Commune also passed a measure giving equal rights to foreign workers, carried out the destruction of the Place Vendôme, a national war monument, and even

had a German, Leo Frankel, on its national committee.

Although these highly progressive measures alone set the Commune apart from all previous governments in history, it is the Commune type of state itself that is its essence and provides its greatest lesson. At the heart of the Paris Commune was the fact that it showed for the first time what a dictatorship of the proletariat would be.

The Commune was directly linked to the people themselves, functioning as both a legislative and judicial working body with all its members elected, subject to recall at all times, and paid the wages of the average worker. The Commune burned the hated guillotine, freed all political prisoners, and abolished the police and standing army, replacing them with the authority of the armed workers.

This was the form of government that was the great discovery and contribution of the Paris Commune. The Commune showed how a state could rest on the armed might of the working class. And it illustrated the impossibility of the workers running in their own interests the bourgeois state and its institutions—the standing army, the court system, the prisons, the legislative and executive branches. It showed that the bourgeois state had to be done away with and replaced with the dictatorship of the proletariat, the most democratic and humane form of government since the dawn of class society. This transitional regime would not signify the end of class rule, but would be a necessary precondition for its end, since it would safeguard the interests of the vast majority, the exploited classes,

until such time that all people would become workers and class oppression and the need for a state would cease to exist.

## PARIS COMMUNE LIVES TODAY

Exactly 107 years old this spring, the Paris Commune and its lessons are every bit as valid now as they were over a century ago. Today, although the path charted by the Commune has been confirmed many times over by the successes of the great social revolutions, the misleaders of some of the European working class parties, the so-called Eurocommunists, have turned their backs on the revolutionary heritage the Commune provides, denying the necessity of a dictatorship of the proletariat and upholding the bourgeois state. However, the same conditions that gave rise to the Paris Commune are present everywhere today and are propelling the workers and poor in Europe, Africa, and all of the world into revolutionary struggle. The aspirations of the working class persist, despite any defeats and misleadership, and will only be fulfilled by a socialist revolution guarded by the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The dictatorship of the proletariat, the rule of all those who have been oppressed and exploited, is the sole answer to the suffering brought by capitalism, which promises only war and more crises to come. The Paris Commune was the first giant step of the world working class in the struggle to shed its chains and to end exploitation forever. Every strike, every demonstration, every uprising, every revolution stands on the shoulders of the Paris Commune.

## Get in the struggle with Youth Against War & Fascism and Workers World Party!

Workers World Party and Youth Against War & Fascism are organizing and responsible for many of the struggles you read about in the pages of this paper. These groups are made up of women and men, Black, white, Latin, Asian, and Native peoples, young and old, gay and straight, working, students, and unemployed, who fight on all the issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society.

If you would like to find out more about Workers World and YAWF, or if you would like to join them in their struggles, contact the branch nearest you from the list below.

ATLANTA—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, GA 30301. [404] 523-8990.

BALTIMORE—Workers World Party, 2402 St. Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21218. [301] 366-3713.

BOSTON—Workers World Party, 419 Boylston St., Room 204, Boston, MA 02116. [617] 247-1778.

BUFFALO—Workers World Party, 170 Franklin St. [Crosby Bldg] Room 410, Buffalo, NY 14202. [716] 855-3055.

CHICAGO—Workers World Party, 542 S. Dearborn, Room 310, Chicago, IL 60605. [312] 922-0326.

CLEVELAND—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 12576, East Cleveland, OH 44112. [216] 371-9293.

DETROIT—Workers World Party, 229 Gratiot, Third Floor, Detroit, MI 48226. [313] 962-4979.

GREELEY—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 1863, Greeley, CO 80631. [303] 356-9408.

HOUSTON—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 52115, Houston, TX 77052. [713] 759-9463.

MILWAUKEE—Workers World Party, 150 E. Juneau, Milwaukee, WI 53202. [414] 224-0422.

NEW YORK CITY—Workers World Party, 46 W. 21 St., New York, NY 10010. [212] 255-0352.

NORFOLK—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 7032, Norfolk, VA 23509. [804] 627-0870.

PHILADELPHIA—Youth Against War & Fascism, P.O. Box 9894, Philadelphia, PA 19140. [215] 227-3517.

ROCHESTER—Workers World Party, 171 State St., Rochester, NY 14614. [716] 546-6429.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Workers World Party, 932 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20001. [202] 347-0138.

## —Court kills OSHA

(Continued from p. 1)

by one-half. At the present annual rate of inspections, it would have taken OSHA 230 years to visit all of the country's 4.1 million job sites.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act was passed in 1970 after a bitter struggle against the corporations. The representatives of big business in Congress succeeded, however, in weakening OSHA to the point where its enforcement powers were seriously impaired. The most serious penalty that OSHA can inflict on corporations which violate the modest health and safety codes is a \$1,000 fine. The average fine, however, which OSHA has actu-

ally imposed is in the area of \$20.

Now that the Supreme Court has dealt this new blow to job safety, workers themselves need to insist on safety regulations and enforcement procedures in each plant. Each contract that a union negotiates should have an occupational health and safety section. Workers can demand that in the contract the corporation agrees to allow OSHA inspections without a warrant. Or, workers can demand the right to stay off the job until safety violations are corrected. At the same time, workers should press for new legislation that makes the enforcement of occupational health and safety a real priority.



## —Zaire, NATO

(Continued from p. 9)

perialism. This was also often the theme in China in the years preceding the final split.

Why should it be considered a virtue for the imperialists to arm their puppets to the teeth in Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia, and now Zaire just to name a few countries, but wrong for a socialist republic or a grouping of socialist states to render not only political but material assistance in the struggle against imperialism, which the CCP leaders used to call the "main enemy of mankind"? Why is it "correct" to train Mobutu's forces, who are prone to demoralization at the mere sight of the insurgents, but "wrong" for the USSR, Cuba, and other socialist countries to extend training and military equipment to the rebellious people trying to throw off the yoke of the imperialist-dominated Mobutu regime?

Is this not the essence of proletarian internationalism?

### INTERNATIONALISM MEANS MATERIAL SUPPORT

Every movement of necessity is duty-bound to rely first and foremost on its own inner forces, to get the backing of the masses. But internationalism is of key importance. The Soviet republic, according to Lenin himself, owed its final victory over the imperialist powers, who intervened to crush the Bolshevik Revolution, to the intervention of the European proletariat—from Germany to France to Britain. Even the American soldiers under General Graves were also infected with mutiny, and all this was the result of the tremendous internationalist sentiment displayed by the Revolution itself.

The Chinese Revolution was

aided in its struggle for survival by the Soviet Union. Both China and the Soviet Union aided Vietnam. The existence of both China and the Soviet Union and the support from both of them (in spite of their differences) to the Cuban Revolution and in solidarity with Cuba against U.S. imperialism, especially during the dark days of the Missile Crisis, was of course helpful for the success of the Revolution.

So why is it such a great danger to the world for the Soviet Union and Cuba to help in Angola or Ethiopia—or for that matter in Zaire, where there really has not been any evidence to date whatever of Cuban or Soviet support, except in a political sense? It should be noted that Prime Minister Fidel Castro called in the U.S. representative in Havana to promptly and categorically deny that there was any Cuban involvement in Zaire.

Why then has there been such a mighty uproar? Why the smokescreen put up by the imperialist press? Is it the fear that once the insurgents gain the upper hand, it is possible they will ask for Soviet or Cuban assistance and perhaps be in a position to get it? But is that not appropriate for a national liberation movement struggling for its life against the combined forces of NATO?

It seems to us that merely to ask the question is to answer it.

The experience of the Zairian invasion demonstrates that the question relating to arms and disarmament should be posed in the following manner: arm the exploited and oppressed masses, ideologically, politically, and where appropriate and necessary, militarily; disarm the exploiters and oppressors. That alone will pave the way for a peaceful world, a socialist world.

## —Labor law reforms

(Continued from p. 3)

This was the motivation behind the Carter administration's original backing of the bill. Labor Secretary Ray Marshall continues to voice support for the bill in public, but in private it has been reported that Carter is demanding that AFL-CIO President George Meany make a pledge to hold down wage demands before the administration helps push through the bill.

### ANOTHER CARTER BETRAYAL

This represents another one of Carter's stabs in the back of the very people who got him elected: working people in general, and the

labor bureaucracy in particular. Carter's betrayal shows once again that "labor-management" cooperation always winds up being a losing deal for working people.

Working people need the labor law reform bill and any other concession which can be wrung from the union-busters on Capitol Hill or in the White House to give some relief from shrinking wages, rising prices, and growing unemployment. But those concessions will only be granted as the results of victories won on the picket line, and the new law will only be as meaningful as the working people make it through their struggle.

## —Tucson ERA rally

(Continued from p. 2)

Judith Maximov, chairwoman of the ERA Coalition, on "Homemakers and the ERA," and Meridith Little, member of the National NOW Board of Directors, who updated the progress of the ERA.

A particularly stong speech was given by Ruth Saludes, a young single mother, who said, "Any woman who has had anything to do with the welfare system, deserves a gold certificate. And that certificate should be written with the blood of the state legislators who refuse to improve conditions of those women receiving welfare funds, and the blood of those officials who sit behind their desks allocating those funds with no effect on their consciences. We must demand that the government respond to our needs, not their own!" Arizona is one of the states yet to ratify the ERA. All women and

men are urged to demand that the governor and legislators pass the ERA. Illinois will be voting on the amendment soon, and postcards were supplied by NOW to be sent to state officials demanding passage of the ERA there, too.

## —Lesbian mothers

(Continued from p. 2)

organized by the Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund and the Washington Coalition for Sexual Minority Rights was endorsed by the Grey Panthers and the Native American Solidarity Committee. The demands put forth by the demonstration are: Stop Initiative 13, defend gay people's rights to children, homes, and jobs; and halt the right-wing attacks on women, minorities, and workers.

## POLITICAL PRISONERS



## Prisoner burned alive

NEW YORK, May 20—On Wednesday, May 10, at approximately 5 a.m., there was a fire in one of the cells at Greenhaven prison in New York State. The fire claimed the life of Sunni Muslim prisoner Musa Abdul Mu'min (William Peterson). Although prisoners who smelled the smoke from Musa's cell banged on the walls demanding attention from the two guards on duty nearby, they refused to answer. After a long delay in removing Musa from the cell and after 11 hours of agony, he died.

**The prison administration claims Musa caused the fire by smoking in bed. But every school child knows that Sunni Muslims do not smoke.**

The following is an eyewitness account by Yusuf Abdul Alim. Because he is a prison organizer, Alim himself is the target of a setup by Greenhaven administrators on charges of attempted murder of a guard. Alim made this statement public at great risk to himself.

"On the morning of May 10, 1978, I, along with the other men housed in SHU smelled smoke and called out for the officer. We yelled for over half an hour before the cells were opened. That is, all the cells but my cell and Musa's, where the fire was. In fact, my cell and Musa's cell had to be opened by an inmate, because the officer refused to open them. The officers also refused to go down the

gallery in order to get Musa out of the burning cell. There is no doubt in my mind that if the officer had responded when he was first called I would not be giving this tragic account today. I also state for the record, that my life has been threatened a number of times by the officers at this institution within the past few days."

Sunni Muslim leader Shu'aib A. Raheem, the Imam (spiritual leader) at Greenhaven, stated, "A full investigation by the Muslim community is forthcoming and an all-out effort to ascertain the facts of this case will be had."

For further information contact Shu'aib A. Raheem, Imam, Drawer B-74-A-2617, Stormville, NY 12582.

## 'We will free Imani'

**Workers World thanks the Committee to Defend Imani [Johnny Harris] and Stop the Death Penalty for passing along the following excerpted letter by a prisoner who supports Imani in his struggle to stop Alabama from carrying out a racist death sentence for political reasons. See article on Imani, page 12.**

Greetings of Solidarity,

My name is Kasiem Akbar and I'm writing concerning the continued confinement and harassment and railroading of Brother Imani by these racists in

the state of Alabama. Although I'm in a super-maximum security block myself, it's my job to continue the struggle by any means necessary.

Due to these racists here confiscating literature etc., it's hard to keep abreast of any type of news dealing in the struggle. We must all unite and fight back and stop the racist plan to execute our comrade.

It has been over six years since Rockefeller's gunslingers killed 43 people in cold blood and no fascist administrator has served a day in jail. We can never forget

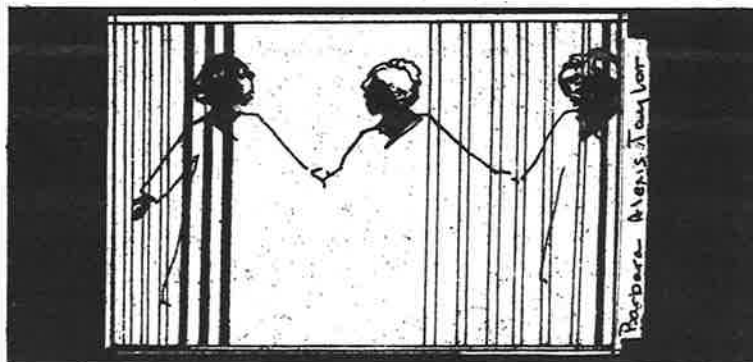
Attica, My Lai, the Atmore-Holman rebellion, and countless other states of genocide, nor can we sit back and let it happen again.

I'm only 23 and I've been imprisoned here for six years and I have yet to let these fascist prison administrators suppress my feelings, nor destroy my dignity as a warrior or a man.

I would like all information concerning Imani and how to go about supporting him because this is a case all must get behind. I would like to do my part whether it be through petitions to the Governor of Alabama or whatever. More organizations and people can do more to free Imani. Time is short and we must act before it's too late. I'll close.

We the people will free Imani.

In Love and Struggle,  
Kasiem Akbar, #102249  
Virginia State Penitentiary,  
P.O. Box 27264,  
Richmond Virginia 23261



## 'I felt she was my sister'

NEW YORK, May 15—"A lot of things are just coming out that have always been going on, there's nothing really new about it." The speaker was Louise Covington, a member of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee in Norfolk and a struggling Black woman. She spoke to **Workers World** about her experience of the oppression in prison of transvestites and transsexuals.

The struggles of sexually oppressed people have brought to light many of the sadistic attacks of bigotry carried out in this country. While many people are learning of these atrocities for the first time, they are hidden aspects of American society that have long existed, as the following interview with Covington shows.

Louise Covington worked at Rikers Island in the early 1960s on a state-operated methadone program for prisoners.

### THE STORY OF HELGA

"I think about it now," she said. "I could go home every night, but these prisoners had no place to go. Being isolated, no privacy and all your personal dignity being arbitrarily taken away. They segregated the gays, whites, and Blacks," she remembered.

"Helga was a white woman, she had had the operations and she was a woman now. The state didn't consider her a man or a woman, so they put her in isolation, you know the ancient, terrible, archaic laws they have putting someone in isolation."

"Helga went through one year of operations and the pain was so bad she became addicted to drugs in the hospital. That's how she was busted, on drug-related charges."

Once in Rikers Island, Covington remembers the terrible things done to Helga. "They used to bring the guards over, men and women guards, to look at her. They would force her to strip naked. They asked her ignorant, obscene questions, degrading questions like: 'What did they do with your penis?' They would pinch her breasts and ask her if they were real and they would pull her hair. If the warden didn't organize it then she was well, well aware of it."

"It was like the epitome of oppressed people. I used to read about slavery and how the people were forced to strip and show themselves."

Covington pointed out that Helga is just one of many sexually

oppressed prisoners who face daily abuse in U.S. prisons. "My friend told me about a transvestite prisoner when she worked at Rikers just two years ago. They got hassled just even over going to the library to get a book. 'Whatta you want to read for, you'll never learn anything' they'd tell the prisoner. The indignities they have to suffer just to read a book is unreal."

"I think about Helga a lot," Covington said. "After all she went through, I felt she was my sister."

### Prison letter

I'm writing on behalf of all the men herein (administrative segregation), at the Georgia Diag. and Class. Center. We would like to commend and salute **Workers World** newspaper on its effort to obtain current and pertinent information on Human Rights for prisoners, prison injustice, the oppressed, Blacks and other Third World peoples (poor people generally).

Thank you very much!  
Edward Earl Jones, H2-22,  
G.D. & C.C., Jackson, GA 30233

### Defending victims of police assault on Chicano community

## Houston group plans speakout on police violence

By GLORIA RODRIGUEZ

HOUSTON, May 22—The Moody Park Barrio Defense Coalition has been formed to defend all the victims of the recent Moody Park Rebellion here and to put the blame for the incident back where it belongs: with the Houston police and the overall oppression facing the Chicano community in housing, city services, employment, and education.

The Moody Park Rebellion took place on May 7 during commemoration of Mexico's victory over French colonialism. The rebellion began when police swarmed into the park following a brief fight and it continued for two nights as the people fought hundreds of heavily armed cops with their bare hands, rocks, and makeshift barricades. Scores were arrested and beaten in the indiscriminate police sweeps through the area.

#### DEMANDS OF COALITION

The Coalition is demanding that charges be dropped against all

those arrested around Moody Park and that the City Council rescind the emergency powers and all restrictions of civil liberties it put into effect since the incident. The emergency powers gave the mayor the right to impose a curfew, to ban the sale of firearms and ammunition, and ban the sale of liquor and beer. Also, the City Council passed a new ordinance making it difficult to get a permit to use a bullhorn. The Coalition plans to challenge this ordinance.

Over 60 people, representing a dozen organizations and Chicano social-service agencies, have been attending the Coalition meetings as have many individuals, including 10 of the defendants and their families.

Plans are underway for a speakout to be held by the Coalition at Moody Park on Sunday, June 11. Some of the defendants and other victims of police violence in Houston will present their cases there. Also, a party is planned for this weekend

to begin raising the necessary funds for the court cases.

All the victims contacted so far by the Coalition have no funds for lawyers, and many families had to take up collections from neighbors or borrow money just to get people out on bond. Four lawyers working with the Coalition have volunteered to defend, free of charge, those arrested. The Coalition will raise the money necessary for court costs and expenses.

#### INNOCENT MAN BRUTALIZED BY COPS

One of those arrested, Daniel Gamez, was rounded up by the SWAT team at 4 a.m. as he slept in an apartment in the housing project next to Moody Park. Though he pleaded with the cops to treat him carefully as he had just gotten out of the hospital and his internal organs were hanging in a plastic bag outside his body, the cops pushed him around, shoved him against cement walls several times, and threw him to the

floor. Gamez was charged with aggravated assault on a police officer.

A similar charge was filed on Christina Acosta, who weighs less than 100 pounds and was also arrested by the SWAT team in the housing project. Another victim, Victor Leal, was picked up by the Houston police as he was washing his truck at a car wash across from Moody Park during the fighting. He was charged with felony criminal mischief and originally held on \$5,000 bond.

Three members of People United to Fight Police Brutality were indicted on "inciting to riot" charges and each are being held in lieu of \$500,000. Today bond was reduced to \$25,000 each.

The murderers of Jose Campos Torres were given a \$10,000 bond and then released on their own personal recognizance after the murders. Torres was murdered by six Houston cops last May after being arrested, brutally beaten, thrown into a bayou, and left to

drown. According to Frank Alvarez, an attorney and spokesman for the Coalition, "There is a new crime in the city of Houston. It is misdemeanor murder. It is the murder of a Mexican or a Black by a policeman. The punishment is a \$1 fine and one year in jail. This is what our Coalition is going to fight."

Members of the Coalition include the Irvington Village Tenants Union, the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, La Raza Legal Alliance, Centro Aztlan Community Center, the Houston field office of the Texas Farm Workers union, Workers World Party, the Equal Rights Council, the National Lawyers Guild, the Southern Conference Education Fund, Workers Viewpoint Organization; the Socialist Workers Party, and the Communist Party (M-L). The Coalition can be contacted at (713) 926-8771 and the attorney can be reached at (713) 526-5235.

### A temporary victory in Alabama

## Court postpones setting of execution date for Imani

#### Special to Workers World

MAY 18—On Tuesday the Supreme Court of Alabama, in a unanimous decision, denied a motion by the Alabama Attorney General to set a new execution date for Black death row inmate Imani (Johnny Harris).

The motion had been filed by Attorney General William Baxley who had personally prosecuted Imani in 1975 on frameup charges of killing a prison guard. Baxley had moved for a new execution date after the expiration on May 9 of a 60-day stay granted by Federal Judge Virgil Pittman of Mobile, Ala.

Imani was sentenced to death for his part in a 1974 prison rebellion in Atmore prison's (now G.K. Fountain Correctional Center) segregation unit during which a guard and a prisoner died. No direct evidence was ever introduced to link Imani with the stabbing of the guard-hostage, and Imani and his supporters have pointed out that he stabbed no one and participated in the protest to defend his own life and those of other inmates. The jury, however, had been instructed by the Attorney General and by the trial judge to convict Imani if they found that he had participated in the rebellion and was therefore "as guilty as if he had stabbed the guard himself."

The conditions and beatings being protested by the prisoners in the 1974 incident were later declared "unconstitutional as cruel and unusual punishment" by Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson in Montgomery, Ala.

Imani's attorneys argued against setting a new execution date on the basis that his conviction is under appeal. In one appeal, the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit Court in Baldwin County, Ala., has set June 20 for a hearing

on the question of discrimination by race and sex in the selection of the jury pool from which Imani's all-white, all-male jury was drawn, and on other issues.

Imani is also appealing the life sentences he received in 1971, which made the death sentence mandatory in the 1974 charge. Imani received the death sentence under a Confederacy-era statute that calls for execution of a person serving a life term who is convicted of first-degree murder.

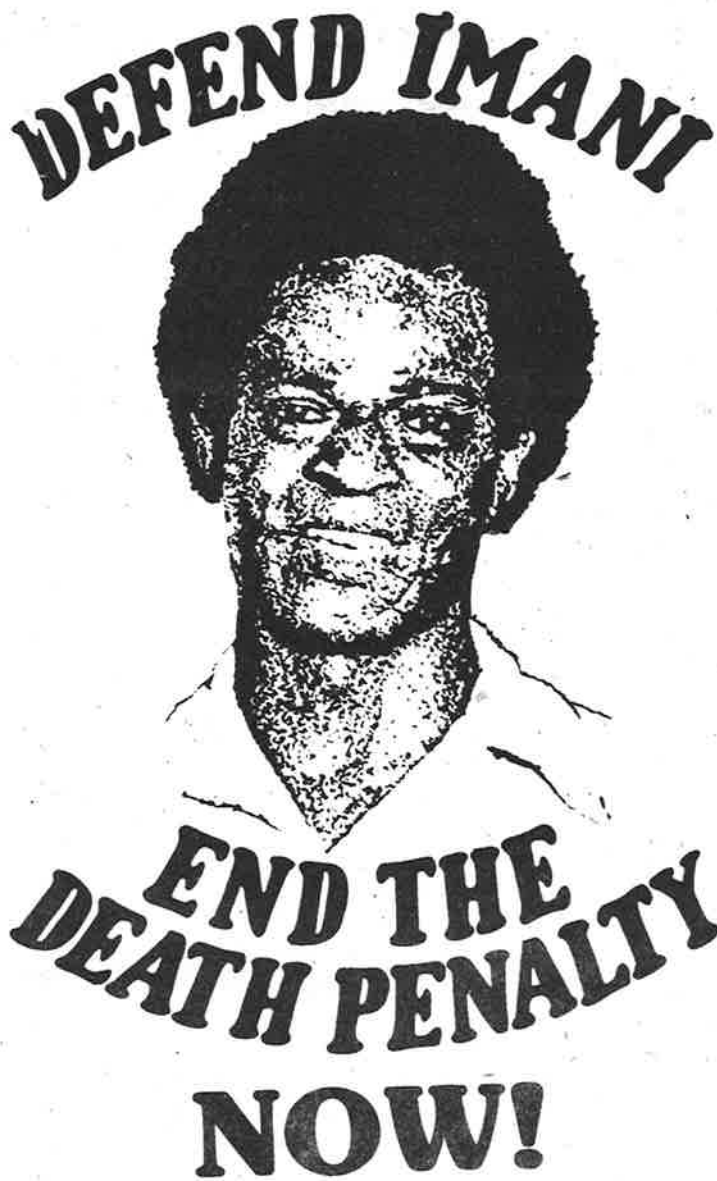
#### IMPRISONED FOR BEING BLACK

Imani would have never received the 1971 life sentences had he not been Black. His was the only Black family in a white neighborhood and was the target of an intense campaign of bigotry and harassment. It was during this racist harassment campaign that Imani was falsely arrested on his way to work and later charged with robberies of \$11, \$67, \$90, and \$205, and with rape. Following his arrest, he was coerced by his lawyers to enter a plea of guilt, even though he told them he had

done nothing. His current lawyers are arguing that the original charges should be thrown out on the basis that he had not been represented by competent counsel.

Commenting on the decision, Susan Schneur of the Committee to Defend Imani (Johnny Harris) and Stop the Death Penalty headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., said, "This is a temporary procedural victory which we of course welcome. But the fact the Attorney General would move for an execution date while Imani is still appealing his conviction shows Baxley's callous desire to use this execution for his own political ambition to succeed George Wallace as Governor of Alabama."

Schnur added, "We have seen more and more support for Imani as public awareness of his case has grown here and throughout the world. We will continue to publicize and protest Alabama's attempt to execute an innocent man for the 'crime' of being Black and standing up for his and others' human rights against the barbaric conditions of Alabama's prisons."



## Southern Populism and Black Labor



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