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# workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

Vol. 21, No. 4

Jan. 26, 1979

25 cents

## Carter budget: 'Foundation' for war, poverty



Interns and residents on strike at New York City's Metropolitan Hospital Center in protest against planned hospital closings.

### In a one day strike

## NY MDs hit hospital cuts

By KATHY DURKIN  
 NEW YORK, Jan. 22—This city's doctors and interns staged a one-day strike last week to protest proposed cutbacks in the municipal hospital budget. The work stoppage was organized by the Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR) which represents about 2,000 doctors in the city hospitals and about 3,500 doctors throughout the city.

Joseph Hoffman, ex-cop and head of the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation, is now threatening to take legal action against the interns and residents

who participated in the strike.

The strike which took place at nine municipal hospitals and at different sites, was marked by rallies and picketlines. It targeted New York Mayor Edward Koch's plan to either close or give away at least half of all city hospitals. Koch has recently said that there should be 5,000 beds cut from the New York City hospitals, private and municipal combined.

Already, 23 voluntary and municipal hospitals have been closed due to the city crisis. Thousands of hospital workers

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By BILL DEL VECCHIO

JANUARY 24—Last night President "Jimmy" Carter mouthed hypocritical phrases about building a future of "peace and prosperity" in his State of the Union speech. But in reality he was giving the Pentagon the largest war budget in the history of humanity at the expense of social services for poor and working people.

Working people, who through income and social security taxes, will provide almost all of the \$502.6 billion to be taken in by the federal government in 1980, will get in return a \$15 billion decrease in social services. The slashes will be felt in such areas as school lunch programs, social security benefits, public works and CETA jobs, health programs, and in funds to maintain national parks. Student loans will be ended, along with subsidies to medical schools, certain types of aid to elementary schools, and money to improve deteriorating housing in inner-city areas.

While asking for the most severe cuts in social services in decades, Carter is asking for \$136 billion for the "defense" budget with an additional \$3 billion hidden in the Department of Energy budget for the development of nuclear weapons.

Included in this incredible \$139 billion budget (a sum which is larger than the Gross National Product of most of the world's nations) are funds for just about every weapon of mass destruction the Pentagon has desired.

Among these are the MX missile system, which the Dr. Strangeloves hope will give the U.S. a first-strike capability against the Soviet Union, thereby making a nuclear war "winnable." Also included in the budget are \$2.4 billion for building an eighth Trident submarine, development money for the cruise missile, modernization of the B-52 for launching cruise missiles, \$1.62 billion for a new nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to intimidate oppressed countries, and billions more for an assortment of advanced military aircraft including the F14, 15, 16, and the AWACS radar plane.

Carter's call for sacrifice for the noble cause of militarism conveniently disregards that the

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Jan. 26, 1979

## In Norfolk

# 1,500 march to honor Dr. King

**By JOE CELUKA**  
 NORFOLK, Jan. 14—The 50th anniversary of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birth was observed here by the largest march seen in this area in decades.  
 Some 1,500 people took to the streets today, called together by Bishop L.E. Willis, a prominent local minister, to honor King's memory and to publicize plans to build a memorial to the civil rights leader in the heart of the Black community.  
 The large turn-out was evidently a shock to the white establishment in the area, but it really should have come as no surprise. Over the past year, as the economic situation has grown steadily worse, there has been an escalating series of attacks on the Black community in Tidewater, attacks that have reached into every level and strata of the community.  
 Beginning last winter, local racist lawyers have been carrying out a campaign to remove Judge Joseph Jordan from the bench. Jordan is only the second Black to be appointed to a judgeship in Norfolk since Reconstruction times. While the attacks against

him have centered on his alleged abuse of defendants' rights and the unusually high sentences he hands out to people accused of petty crimes, it is clear that the lawyers' main objection is that he is Black. Because racism is at the center of this attack, the area's Black community has rallied to Jordan's defense.  
 Early in December, five Black announcers were fired from the white-owned radio station WRAP, simply because they had asked for a raise. WRAP is one of only three stations in the area that cater to the large Black community (over 175,000 strong, or 25% of the population of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach). The other two stations, WOWI and WPCE, both owned by Bishop Willis, came under fire last fall by the Federal Communications Commission for alleged violations of broadcasting law. A rally to support the "WRAP Fired Five" is being organized by the Five and by the Center for United Labor Action for Jan. 20.  
 The Health, Education, and Welfare department of the federal

government (HEW) has launched an attack on one of the few Black colleges in the area. Under the guise of concern for integration, HEW has ordered Norfolk State College to merge some of its programs with the 90% white Old Dominion University (ODU). State officials have opposed the plan, not to defend Norfolk State's right to exist as a Black college, but to preserve ODU as a white school. The HEW offensive has provoked rallies and demonstrations by Norfolk State students determined to protect the school's Black identity.  
 While the main thrust of this racist repression has been against poor and working people, the attacks have grown to include all segments of the Black community, threatening lawyers with disbarment and business people with bankruptcy.  
 The straw that broke the camel's back was a letter sent early in January to a local newspaper by a bigoted Norfolk schoolteacher. Berating allegedly low scores on a recent so-called "competency test," Joyce Drew attempted to

(Continued on p. 10)



1,500 marched on Jan. 14 in Norfolk, Va., in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
 WW photo: John Long

## Protesting domestic and foreign policies

# Iranians and Atlanta poor picket Carter

**By T. GRENDEL**  
 ATLANTA, Jan. 18—Last Sunday, while President Jimmy Carter was in Atlanta receiving the Martin Luther King, Jr., Nonviolent Peace Prize, about 600 angry demonstrators chanted their disapproval of Carter's domestic and foreign policies.  
 About 250 Iranians and supporters, representing the Iranian Students Association (Left Platform) and the Association of Iranian Moslem Students, assembled outside the Ebenezer Baptist Church (Dr. King's church) in the freezing weather. Among their chants were "No U.S. military coup in Iran, Down with the monarchy, Down with Bakhtiar."  
 When Carter finally arrived for his award an effigy of Carter holding two hand puppets labeled "Shah" and "Bakhtiar" was burned.  
 During the course of the Iranians' demonstration and in the same vicinity, a picket line was set

up by the Reidsville Brothers Defense Committee. This demonstration was organized to call attention to the case of the Reidsville Brothers—six Black prisoners under indictment for the deaths of a guard and two white prisoners during a brief rebellion last July—and to expose Carter's phony concern for "human rights" right here in his back yard.  
**"PENNIES FOR THE POOR"**  
 "Millions for prisons, pennies for the poor. We won't take it anymore—Put Carter behind the prison door," they chanted. The Iranian demonstration sent representatives over to the prisoner support picket line to lend their voices on this issue, while the prisoner supporters repeated some

of the Iranian chants.  
 After Carter entered the church, 350 people organized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (Dr. King's organization) arrived outside after marching from the center of Atlanta's business district. Their purpose was to protest Carter's broken campaign promises about helping the poor and working people with jobs, and social programs. Speaking from the back of a pickup truck were the Reverends Ralph Abernathy, Joseph Lowry and Joe Boone who had marched and worked with Dr. King for civil rights. Other speakers included Julian Bond, Dick Gregory and Chimurenga Jenga, one of the Atlanta Junior College activists.  
 Speaker after speaker exposed various aspects of "Neutron

Bomb" Carter's hypocrisy in accepting the King Nonviolence Peace Award, and the U.S. president's neglect of poor and working peoples' needs in the face of rising unemployment and inflation. A message of solidarity with the Iranian demonstrators was extended from the SCLC.  
 Eventually, Carter had to come out of the church to face the massed anger of the demonstrators. Although there to promote three seemingly separated issues, the demonstrators showed by their actions of solidarity with one another that they truly understood that their issues have the same root cause—the repressive policies both at home and abroad of the Carter administration and of the big business interests it represents.

## At special gathering in Atlanta

# African freedom fighters hailed

**By ELEANOR RIGGS**  
 ATLANTA, Jan. 16—Participants in the United Nations' Special Committee Against Apartheid session held in Atlanta today were greeted by a support demonstration carrying a large banner which read, "Welcome to Atlanta African freedom fighters! Down with apartheid!"  
 This people's welcome, organized by the Atlanta Coalition Against Repression in South Africa, bore signs supporting the liberation organizations of Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa and condemning the role of U.S. corporations and the Carter administration in propping up the racist apartheid regimes of Southern Africa. The demonstrators were thanked for their anti-apartheid efforts by representatives from the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), the African National Congress (ANC), and other progressive members of the UN Special Committee.  
 The Special Committee meeting, the first ever held outside UN headquarters in New York City, was part of activities commemorating what would have been the 50th birthday of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther

King, Jr. The meeting afforded progressive and sincere foes of apartheid, racism, and colonialism an opportunity to express the appreciation of people in struggle all over the world for the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for justice and freedom. King's statements condemning apartheid and calling for the economic and political isolation of the South African regime were cited many times.  
**MESSAGES FROM CUBA, VIET NAM**  
 Among the many tributes read today was one from Cuban leader Fidel Castro who charged that the retrogressive forces who conspired against King and brought about this death were the same forces who assassinated Patrice Lumumba, committed genocide against the Vietnamese people, invaded Santo Domingo and organized the shameful invasion of Playa Giron (Bay of Pigs). Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, in his message stated "the Vietnamese people highly esteem Martin Luther King, Jr., and are grateful to him for his support to our past patriotic struggle against U.S. imperialist aggression." The

representatives from the USSR, the East European countries, and the World Peace Council all stressed that King was murdered just as he had begun to speak out against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, showing the link between racism and poverty in this country and imperialist wars abroad.  
 In marked contrast were the remarks of U.S. Ambassador to the UN Andrew Young and other representatives of capitalist governments who philosophized about "non-violence" and "peaceful transformation of societies." Following these remarks, the Rev. Gabriel Seteloane of the ANC answered that, "It is high time that it be made clear who the adversary is. Apartheid could long have been taken off the face of the earth if it did not have its roots in America, in Britain, in Japan." He denounced "the economic system of the Western world" as the "killers of us and our children."  
 Dr. Radebi, Director of Finance and representative of the PAC declared that the choice of the people of Azania (South Africa) was to take up arms, that revolutionary violence was the only way to overthrow apartheid.

# Ultra-rightists in U.S. military step up anti-Soviet campaign

By SHARON SHELTON

JANUARY 23—Ominous signs indicate that the ultrarightists in the military are using the crisis for U.S. imperialism in Iran as a pretext to accelerate their war drive and try to step up anti-Soviet hysteria.

One such sign appeared this week with the publication of the contents of a recent letter to President Carter signed by 170 retired generals and admirals warning of "the Soviet threat in the Middle East and Africa" and demanding "increased U.S. military capabilities."

By the officers' own admission the letter is important in that it "marks the first time in American history that a large and distinguished group of military officers has publicly issued such a warning." News of the letter had been reported earlier this month when it was formally presented to Carter, but its appearance now in a full-page advertisement in last Sunday's New York Times signals that a full-scale anti-Soviet war campaign is in the making.

Warning of the "increasing Soviet challenge to U.S. military might" in Iran, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and elsewhere where the masses of people are trying to throw off the yoke of U.S. imperialist domination, the letter protests that not enough is being spent on weapons, attacks the SALT arms limitations accords, and calls for more military support for the puppet Israeli settler state. Of course, the generals know as well as anyone else that the U.S. war machine has grown to monstrous proportions and that the Soviet military has not intervened in Iran or in Africa for that matter. This is not what really is at issue.

## BEHIND THE LETTER

An important factor behind the raving of the arch-militarists is the potential loss of billions of dollars in arms sales to Iran by the powerful military industrial complex. With the consolidation of the Ethiopian Revolution, the arms manufacturers must have rankled with the knowledge that a lucrative market for dumping their horror weapons was lost. But even that could hardly compare with Iran, which (from the point of view of arms sales) has been the U.S.'s largest single customer. Showing the tremendous stake the weapons industry has in Iran is the fact that over the past five years, according to a recent issue of Defense Monitor, the Shah purchased more than \$16 billion in arms from the U.S. These weapons included four of the latest U.S. destroyers, over 600 helicopters, four kinds of fighter planes, and approximately 30,000 missiles. With today's contracting market, Boeing, Lockheed, and the others don't want this source of fabulous superprofits cut off.

Also behind the current, stepped up war campaign reflected in the officers' letter is the recognition that the Iranian Revolution, taking place in a country U.S. imperialism considered "an island of stability," raises the specter of other revolutions in the capitalist world, especially in light of the current economic crisis.

The letter openly attacks Carter's planned SALT arms limitation accord with the Soviet Union and is just another confirmation that the ultra-right is gearing up for a major anti-SALT campaign in the 1980 elections. Sen. Henry Jackson, for example, widely referred to by his own colleagues as the Senator from

Boeing because of his ties to the arms manufacturers and the Pentagon brass, has repeatedly vowed to lead a fight against any ratification of SALT. Another SALT opponent is Alexander Haig, who recently resigned as military boss of NATO, arousing speculation in the bourgeois press that he would use SALT and other issues to build a possible 1980 candidacy for the White House.

## WHO ARE THE SIGNATORS?

Included in the letter's "distinguished" signators are the likes of Gen. Albert Wedemeyer who once denounced the Episcopal Church for supporting the Civil Rights movement and who has openly written for rightwing publications associated with the John Birch Society; Maj. Gen. Sylvester Delcorso, who commanded the National Guard in 1970 which fired on Kent State students, killing four and wounding nine, and who only recently indicated he had no regrets; and Maj. Gen. William A. Cunningham, exposed for his role in a scandal surrounding slot machine rake-offs in U.S. military

clubs in West Germany in the 60's.

Also Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub, former chief of staff of U.S. forces in Korea who attacked Carter's announced plans to withdraw troops from Korea in 1977. (This withdrawal plan actually ended with an increase in troops there, and Singlaub was "punished" by Carter by being kicked upstairs to the post of chief of staff of the Army Forces Command before retiring.) Elmo R. Zumwalt, a former commander of Naval forces in Viet Nam who was appointed by Nixon as Chief of Naval Operations; and other notoriously reactionary militarists.

Although all the signators are retired, they undoubtedly express the sentiments of their cohorts still on the job in the Pentagon, daily pressing for increased military spending over and above Carter's outrageous handout of \$136 billion all totalled in his new war budget and who are going ahead with new and more horrible weapons of war.

## NEW SUPERMISSILE PLANNED

That the military industrial

## Urban League's Jordan foresees

# 'Blacks will rebel over worsening conditions'

By LARRY HOLMES

JANUARY 23—Citing "increased anger and frustration" among Blacks, Vernon E. Jordan, president of the National Urban League, warned Carter last week that worsening economic conditions for Black Americans are providing all of the ingredients for widespread social unrest, including rebellions in the inner city

ghettos.

In issuing the Urban League's annual report, which focused on the deteriorating economic and social condition of Black America, the moderate civil rights leader said the "possibility of a fresh recession hitting a Black community that has not recovered from the last one," combined with a widening Black-white employ-

ment gap, is fraying the country's social fabric, and that "frayed social fabric cannot sustain the racial and class pressures a new recession would bring."

Jordan attacked Carter's pro-war, anti-poor budget, exclaiming that the Black masses would resist devastating budget cuts in job programs, health, social security, schools, and all other vital needs.

He said "a restoration of modest amounts is not enough. Only a full scale commitment to job creation programs that put today's unemployed to productive work can forestall significant erosion of the state of Black Americans in 1979."

The severity of the crisis for U.S. Blacks is documented in the League's 1979 report. Some examples of the report's findings are:

- Black unemployment is at its highest level in history, 23.1%.
  - The Black-white unemployment gap is widening, a finding supported by Department of Labor statistics.
  - Black families earn on the average 70% less than white.
- The report also cited the disastrous impact that new reactionary and racist causes, such as the so-called "tax-payers revolt," and anti-affirmative-action court cases like those of Alan Bakke and Brian Weber, have had on the Black population.

## Lance bought White House job with special loan to Carter

By ANDY STAPP

JANUARY 22—A report prepared by an audit committee in conjunction with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Committee revealed last week that former Carter Budget Director Bert Lance, acting as head of the National Bank of Georgia, had in early 1976 ordered the bank to give special interest rates on loans to the Carter family peanut business.

The loans, which were extended to Carter before he entered the White House, came to almost \$7 million. The same report also revealed that "the bank permitted the Carter warehouse company to run up nearly \$500,000 in overdrafts on its peanut accounts."

In return for this favored treatment, Carter appointed Lance to the head of the powerful Office of Management and Budget, a clear case of office-selling and out-and-out conflict of interest in violation of criminal law.

## "BLAME IT ON BILLY?"

On Jan. 18, Carter had White House mouthpiece Jody Powell state that "the President had no knowledge of these practices." All the blame was implicitly dumped on Carter's brother Billy, who last Fall refused to answer questions put to him by an Atlanta grand jury concerning the Lance loans and overdrafts, claiming that such answers could be self-incriminating.

It will not do to push the entire scandal into the lap of the president's brother, however. For it was not Billy Carter, but Jimmy himself who ordered the Justice

Department to drop its investigation of Lance just two days after appointing him to the cabinet. Subsequently Lance, whom Carter had called "indispensable" and "a man of competence, honesty and integrity" was forced to resign from office after having been exposed for bad check passing, misuse of corporate aircraft, a close connection with a convicted

embezzler, fraud, perjury and a host of other corrupt schemes. At the time, one White House aide nervously told Newsweek magazine (Sept. 12, 1977), "The enemy fire is getting dangerously close to Jimmy."

Last week's developments would seem to indicate that Carter has taken a direct hit in the continuing saga of his shady pal Bert Lance.

## Nixon invited to White House Fete as

# Mitchell is released from prison

By KENNY PETERSON

JANUARY 23—Former U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell, the convicted Watergate criminal, was released from federal prison last week. He had served only 19 months of a two-and-a-half to eight-year sentence for conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

With Mitchell's release on parole, there are no longer any Watergate figures being held in the federal prisons. At the same time, there are countless individuals who are languishing behind bars whose only "crime" is to be poor, or Black, or Latin, or Indian.

While the Watergate scandal which rocked the Nixon administration and ultimately drove him from office began apparently as a break-in into the offices of the Democratic National Committee during the 1972 election campaign, its broader implications were quickly realized. The Watergate scandal was in fact the

surface manifestation of a deep division within the U.S. ruling class over then-President Nixon's attempt to erect a police state with all the reins of power in his own hands. This aspect of Watergate—known as Nixon's June 5th Conspiracy—was revealed initially by former FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover (for his own reasons) and was then suppressed by the bourgeois-factional opponents of Nixon.

## NIXON'S "REHABILITATION"

John Mitchell's release from prison comes at a time when the central figure of the Watergate crimes, Nixon himself, is about to return to the White House bearing an invitation from Jimmy Carter for the state dinner and reception honoring the Chinese leader Teng Hsiao-ping. Nixon's "rehabilitation" indicates that the U.S. ruling class, and its present clique of office holders in Washington,

are anxious to "mend their fences" with their counterparts of the extreme right, who still regard Nixon as their "elder statesman."

Also, another high-ranking Watergate conspirator, who like Nixon was never indicted, may be returning to the White House. Alexander Haig, Supreme Commander of NATO and former Nixon aide, is interested in more than one evening's visit. If press reports are accurate, Haig, who recently announced that he will be resigning from his NATO post in June, is planning to enter the 1980 presidential race.

According to Special Watergate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski, one of Haig's jobs in the Nixon White House was "to try to placate me while helping Nixon frustrate me . . . in the search for truth." In Jaworski's book on Watergate, he points out that Haig tried hard to reduce the Special Prosecutor's investigation to a charade.



Carter will spend \$1 billion on the MX missile [above] in 1979, but the generals want even more.



World outcry demands of Carter:

# Free the Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners!

By P. MEISNER

JANUARY 23—A broad world-wide campaign to free the Four Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners from U.S. jails may culminate within a few days in a decision by President "Jimmy" Carter on whether to release the Four. But despite the international pressure put on the Carter administration, forces within the U.S. ruling class are resisting what even many moderate bourgeois politicians in the U.S. and Puerto Rico would accept as "a humanitarian act."

The imprisonment of the four Nationalists—Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irvin Flores, and Oscar Collazo—exposes the severe repression meted out by the U.S. imperialist rulers against Puerto Rican patriots and the total hypocrisy behind Carter's "human rights" campaign. The first three prisoners, along with Andres Figueroa Cordero (who was released a little more than a year

ago only because he had contracted terminal cancer in prison) have each served almost 25 years for their attack on the U.S. Congress in 1954 to dramatize the colonial plight of their island nation before the world. Collazo has been imprisoned for more than 28 years (the longest held political prisoner in the Western Hemisphere) for his attack on the temporary White House (Blair House) in 1950 in protest of the brutal repression of his compatriots rebelling against Yankee colonial rule at the time in Puerto Rico.

## FIGUEROA IN CRITICAL CONDITION

According to late reports from the island, Figueroa fell into a state of critical condition yesterday, and doctors now fear that his one lung, operating at 40% capacity may not sustain him. It is ironic and cruel that the ultra-reactionary, pro-statehood

governor of Puerto Rico, Carlos Romero Barcelo, would have just sent a letter to Carter warning against the release of the remaining four Nationalist prisoners on the grounds that Figueroa and the Four are likely to incite "new terrorist crimes."

The colonial puppet governor's vicious stand against the Nationalists has not only shocked most governments and peoples around the world, but it has isolated him from some of the most conservative political figures in Puerto Rico, most of whom concede that the Nationalist prisoners have served such long prison terms as to warrant their release "as an act of justice, of humanitarianism."

Leaders of Romero's own pro-statehood party, the New Progressive Party (PNP), have split from him over the issue and have joined a long list of colonial bourgeois politicians in Puerto Rico, such as the previous four

governors of the island—Luis Munoz Marin, Roberto Sanchez Vilella, Rafael Hernandez Colon (all from the pro-colonial and pro-Commonwealth Popular Democratic Party—PPD) and Luis Ferre (the founding president of the PNP) in calling on Carter to free the Nationalist prisoners.

In Washington, Congressman Robert Garcia (Dem.-Bronx, N.Y.C.) has been rounding up last minute Congressional support to press Carter to release the Four. On Dec. 5, Garcia and 11 other members of the House of Representatives, including Ronald Dellums (Dem.-Oakland, Calif.), signed a letter addressed to Carter asking for the release of the Four Nationalists on the basis of human rights. In New York City, Councilman Gilberto Gerena Valentin will introduce a resolution this week before a City Council session in favor of freeing the Nationalist prisoners.

Internationally, the Carter

administration was further pressured to release the Four by the passage of a UN resolution last September which called for genuine self-determination for the colonized people of Puerto Rico to be exercised by "the complete transfer of all powers (from the U.S.—P.M.) to the people of the Territory (Puerto Rico—P.M.)." The resolution, overwhelmingly passed by the UN's Special Committee on Decolonization, also states:

"Urges the United States to unconditionally release the four Puerto Rican political personalities (Nationalist prisoners—P.M.) who have been incarcerated for 24 years."

The Cuban government delegation was the primary mover of the resolution and once again showed its consistent and militant support for the cause of Puerto Rico's liberation and the imprisoned Nationalists. Cuba has also put the Carter government on the spot by offering the release of four high-level CIA officers captured inside Cuba as an unofficial exchange for the release of the Puerto Rican Nationalists.

Many progressive organizations in Puerto Rico and in the U.S. have been waging an intense campaign over the last few years to free the Nationalist prisoners. This has included mass protests and rallies in San Juan, New York City, Washington, and other cities in the U.S., petition drives, propaganda campaigns, and legal work. In Puerto Rico, the main work has been carried out by the umbrella organization called the National Committee to Free the Nationalist Prisoners, while in the U.S., a mass campaign is currently being organized by the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee (PRSC). In light of the impending decision by Carter, the PRSC, at its National Board meeting last weekend held in New York City, urged everyone to send telegrams to the White House demanding the immediate and unconditional release of the Four Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners.

## In daring confrontation off Puerto Rican island's coast

# Vieques fishermen block U.S. naval maneuvers

By C. BESSON

JANUARY 23—This past Saturday, the courageous fishermen of Vieques gave the United States Navy the choice of suspending the "Operation Springboard" maneuvers in the waters of Vieques, or of blasting them and their fleet of small fishing boats out of their "restricted" waters. The fishermen of this Puerto Rican island were victorious and the Navy was forced to suspend the maneuvers "until further notice."

The confrontation was repeated again yesterday with moments of tense drama interspersed with the highly comical humiliation of the U.S. Naval Goliath at the hands of several score of audacious fishermen whose only means of defense is their wit and the justice of their cause.

The challenge to the scheduled maneuvers began at 8 o'clock Saturday morning when the fishermen occupied the beaches and waters targeted for aerial and naval bombardment and amphibious exercises. When the flotilla of 20 fishing boats and about 100 fishermen returned to shore, having succeeded in forcing the Navy to back off from a direct confrontation in the opening scene of the struggle, Carlos Zenon, president of the Fishermen's Association of Vieques, declared that they would return to challenge the Navy every day of the planned operation, "and when they appear we will be prepared to deal with them," he said.

## "OUR SHIELD, OUR PRIDE"

Later that day, an enormous and beautifully lettered sign was planted on the beach where the maneuvers are scheduled to be held until February 7. The sign, bearing the emblem of Vieques and the flag of Puerto Rico, read: "Our shield, our pride, our land, our island. In testimony to the struggle of the people of Vieques to rescue their lands, sea, and air."

In the informal ceremony that accompanied the raising of the sign, Zenon stated, "This sign represents what will be the future of Vieques. As we plant this shield here today, we hope to plant schools, housing developments, and hospitals on this very spot. This is only the first stone."

Some moments later a jeep drove up bearing Navy Lieutenant



U.S. federal marshals, M-16 in hand, chase after boat of fishermen's leader Carlos Zenon, threatening him with arrest.

Chuck Lee, in charge of that particular firing range, and another public relations official. They had come to announce that this once tranquil beach, now scarred with bomb craters, was peppered with innumerable

unexploded bombs and was therefore "extremely dangerous." They failed to see that that was precisely why this act of defiant protest was taking place. Handfuls of sand and derisive remarks were hurled at the departing jeep.

Yesterday morning, a more serious "battle" occurred. After the fishermen had taken up their positions, a guided missile destroyer about a mile off shore began firing its guns over the

(Continued on p. 10)

## Mass demonstration in NYC on Feb. 3

# Support Nicaraguan people against Somoza, U.S.!

By DAVID PEREZ

NEW YORK, Jan. 22—The Coalition for a Free Nicaragua, which is composed of various groups and individuals (including a large number of Central and South Americans from Ecuador, Panama, Nicaragua, Chile, and other countries), is calling for all progressive people in this city to come out and demonstrate this coming Feb. 3 in solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Nicaraguan people against the brutal dictatorship of Gen. Anastasio Somoza and his principal backer and financier, U.S. imperialism.

The past couple of weeks have witnessed an intensification of the armed struggle led by the Sandinist Front for National Liberation (FSLN) against the hated Nicaraguan National Guard. At least 100 Guardsmen have been killed so far.

There have been reports of the masses setting fire to Somoza's property, not to mention the fact that a pro-government radio station from which Somoza has often made announcements, was blown sky high a couple of weeks ago.

Large demonstrations have taken place in many cities and towns in Nicaragua. This past Jan. 10, in Managua, capital of

Nicaragua, ten thousand marched to mark the first anniversary of the Somoza regime's brutal slaying of liberal opposition newspaper editor Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. This outpouring of people into the streets was an act of courage and defiance, especially when one considers that 10,000 were massacred during the mass uprisings last September.

Yes, the fascist dictatorship of Somoza is getting shakier by the day; a second popular insurrection is expected soon and there's always the fear (sometimes the greatest fear of puppet regimes and their imperialist masters) of large and militant strikes. Just look at how strikes, particularly those of the oil workers, have deepened the revolution in Iran!

## CONDECA TROOPS AID NATIONAL GUARD

A particularly dangerous development, and one that shows the weakness of the Somoza regime, is the recent landing of troops of the Central American Defense Council (CONDECA) in Nicaragua to assist the National Guard against the Sandinists. CONDECA is composed of the puppet armies of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. This military alliance was conceived and armed by none

other than the Pentagon. To be sure, these troops have been moved to Nicaragua with the consent (and possible urging) of the Carter administration.

The Carter administration is frantically trying to save its interests in Nicaragua. The U.S. government is trying to arrange a plebiscite, and supposedly the people would vote on whether Somoza should stay in office or not. However, under this plebiscite scheme even if Somoza loses he would still remain the head of the National Guard! And Somoza, by the way, is against even this maneuver.

The whole plebiscite business is just a ploy of U.S. imperialism to keep "Somozism" without Somoza—to maintain a repressive regime with or without Somoza that would be friendly to U.S. imperialism and permit U.S.-based transnational corporations to continue to extract millions of dollars in profits from the sweat and blood of the workers and peasants. This is what Washington probably prefers, since Somoza is universally hated by the Nicaraguan people. The plebiscite would serve to exclude the FSLN, the United People's Movement (MPU), and other progressive organizations from a

new government that might be formed.

Estella Vazquez, leading member of the Coalition for a Free Nicaragua, told *Workers World* that "in the face of these new attacks against the Nicaraguan people and the FSLN, the movement of solidarity in this country must be increased."

Momentum has built for the demonstration. Over 40 organizations have endorsed the action including the Association for Human Rights in Nicaragua, United Central-Americans Committee, El Comite MINP, United Tremont Trades, American Indian Movement, Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Iranian Students Association (Left-platform), Workers World Party, and many, many others.

Beautiful posters (printed in Spanish and English) that explain and advertise this upcoming demonstration have been pasted up in many communities, train stations, and schools in this city.

The demonstration will take place in front of the Nicaraguan Consulate at 51st St. and 6th Ave. It will begin at 1 p.m. For leaflets or any other information call (212) 657-9158, 926-7331, or 876-2922. All out Feb. 3! Victory to the Nicaraguan people!

# Unions confront school board meeting over Newark layoffs

By JESSE LEE  
NEWARK, N.J., Jan. 20—More than 1,500 school workers, students, parents, and community people packed a hearing today to oppose the planned layoffs of 1,103 workers by the Newark School Board.

Chanting, shouting, stomping their feet and clapping their hands, people jammed into the auditorium, with standing room only, to let the school board know that no one in this city will passively accept the severe cutbacks in education that are being proposed. The 300 who were at first locked out of the meeting, forced the school board to open the doors so that everyone could come into the hearing.

Today's meeting was forced by a two-month struggle of the school unions and the community against the layoffs. A judge ruled last week after a union challenge that the Board of Education would have to hold a full hearing with 48-hours notice for the layoffs to be legal.

Included in the layoff plan is what the Board calls "Back to Basics," which the Board claims will be a great new advance in education. The unions and community members, however, denounced it as a "Less is More" plan—that is, the Board will give the people less in educational services while claiming it is more.

The hearings were long with more than 200 people signed up to speak. By the middle of the afternoon, the anger and disgust with the open contempt shown by the Board members, who were casually walking in and out of the meeting, led to a mass walkout initiated by Newark Teachers Union President Carol Graves. Though the Board ended by voting 7-to-1 for the layoffs, the walkout showed that the community has nothing but contempt for the Board's decision.

## "WORKERS WILL STAND TOGETHER"

Before the walkout, there were many thoughtful and militant speeches by union members and their community supporters. "The workers are going to stand together," declared Graves, as hundreds jumped up to shout their agreement. "No teacher will do a cafeteria workers job, a music or art teachers job," she continued.

"The 'Back to Basics' plan includes giving teachers the jobs of those who are being laid off. Graves charged that with a \$20 million budget surplus in the city this past year, there is certainly no need to eliminate jobs in the schools.

Mary Ciano, president of the School Librarians Association, said, "With the proposed layoffs

of 22 (library) staff members, it will especially affect the elementary schools. The state asks for one librarian for 500 children, we'll be providing one librarian for every 1,643 elementary school children. If we are concerned about our children being proficient in reading, how can we in good conscience close library doors and limit students' accessibility to them?"

One of the most popular speeches was given by well-known Black activist Amiri Baraka who laid the blame for the layoffs on the crisis of capitalism and the losses of imperialism in Asia and Africa. The response to Baraka's speech was supportive and militant, with long cheers and shouts of "That's right." This response



Newark Board of Education meeting. "Chanting, shouting, stomping their feet and clapping their hands, people jammed into the auditorium."  
WW photo: G. Dunkel

from the overwhelmingly Black audience reflects a deepening political understanding.

This highly political response from the people who have fought tooth-and-nail to keep their schools from being cut back, frightened the local rulers, who kept it out of the bourgeois media.

With their forces united against the cutbacks scheduled to go into effect on Feb. 5, the unions face an intransigent city administration

and School Board and a federal court injunction against strikes which was brought down last week.

The school unions have pledged to resist the layoffs and the reorganization plan. That they have broad community support was demonstrated by the widespread student walkouts that virtually shut the schools last week, and by the large turnout today of community people.

## Another broken promise

# Carter cancels S. Bronx project

By JULIE OCASIO

NEW YORK, Jan. 20—It has been a year and a half since President Carter's visit to Charlotte Street in the South Bronx. At that time, he was given extensive coverage in the establishment press for showing "concern" for the cities and the poor. The bourgeois press made much of Carter's

"promise" to allocate \$1 billion for new construction in the devastated South Bronx.

This publicity stunt behind him, Carter has reduced proposed federal aid to the South Bronx to a 732-unit low-income housing project for the Charlotte Street area. Although it was approved only 2 months ago by the New

York City Board of Estimate, this meager allotment has now been halted by the Carter administration due to alleged differences with the Koch administration of New York City.

Mayor Ed Koch was reportedly trying to get the White House to commit itself to the concept of a 27,500-unit housing development in the South Bronx. Koch said he viewed such a commitment as a prerequisite before the city went ahead with such plans as the Charlotte Street project. He claimed that the project could only succeed if it receives additional major units of housing from the federal government so that it doesn't become a "small clump in a desert."

## A POLITICAL FOOTBALL

Without the commitment from the federal government for all 27,500 housing units, it seems that the Charlotte Street project will not go forward. Carter has decided to withhold approval of the low income housing project until it determines what "supporting services" are necessary to make the project "succeed." In other words, Carter and Koch are continuing to play political football while the oppressed people of the South Bronx struggle day to day just to exist.

Of course, even this meager allotment from the Carter administration finally came about because of the pressure from a broad coalition of progressive community organizations and individuals based in the South Bronx who united around a struggle for decent housing and community control of jobs.

In a period when the Carter administration is projecting budget cuts of \$29 billion in federal programs affecting food stamps, Medicaid, CETA jobs, and housing restoration for oppressed communities, Koch's ultimatum strikes the people of the South Bronx as somewhat unusual. This view is reinforced by the knowledge that Koch is widely seen as a racist who, among other things, recently wiped out the Drug Detoxification Program at Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx.

While Koch's maneuver may be intended to make him look good and shift the blame to the feds, it is painfully obvious that a government that was truly representative and responsive to the needs of the people wouldn't hesitate to push forward both a short range and long range plan immediately for housing in the South Bronx instead of pitting one against the other.

# Chicago hit by snowstorm and snow job

By JEFF SOREL

CHICAGO, Jan. 18—The biggest snowstorm in Chicago's history has dealt a devastating blow to the livelihoods of millions of poor and working people. A blizzard on Jan. 14 which left 29 inches of snow on the ground was followed by several days of subzero temperatures, resulting in impossible streets and near-total collapse of public transportation.

For at least three days workers could not get to their jobs, and

most will see this time docked from their paychecks. Sick and injured people could not get to hospitals. Senior citizens could not reach life-sustaining supplies. Food shortages developed as delivery trucks became mired in the ice and drifts. Roofs collapsed on many houses as the snow piled up.

But the really big snow was coming not from the sky but from City Hall. Every TV news show for days featured Chicago Mayor

Michael Bilandic assuring everyone that "We have everything under control." If only the people would cooperate, he kept saying, the city would be back to normal in no time.

It took only a few steps away from the TV set and into the street, however, to see how everything was getting worse—not because of the weather as much as because of the inaction of the city government. Why weren't streets being plowed? Why weren't cars blocking intersections being removed? Why wasn't the ice being treated and melted on the expressways?

## WHY WASN'T MORE DONE?

Bilandic kept assuring the people that all available equipment was on the streets. But the people kept asking: Why is so little equipment available? Why haven't our tax dollars been used to buy modern equipment? What about this chemical we heard about that melts ice in subzero weather?

City Hall's reply was lack of money. That chemical, the people were told by the Mayor, "isn't cost effective." Apparently the new football stadium he's planning is cost effective. The streets will be cleared eventually, he said, but "we're lacking in manpower."

These statements don't show much respect for the poor and oppressed in the city, who are suffering the most from the snow storm. It is becoming a widespread feeling in Chicago that if the army of precinct captains, city inspectors, and other patronage hacks were mobilized to clear the snow, just as they're mobilized every few years to get demagogues like Bilandic elected, there would be no problem. But then protecting the safety and livelihoods of poor, elderly, and working people is not "cost effective" to big business politicians like Bilandic.

As for Illinois Governor James Thompson, he flew over the city in

# Jersey tenement fires: multiple murder of the poor

By RAY RAMOS and JANE KAATZ

HOBOKEN, N.J., Jan. 22—Within the past 48 hours, fires which authorities believe were deliberately set, swept through two Hudson County tenements killing a total of 28 people.

In Hoboken, 21 Hispanic and Asian-Indian poor had no chance to escape a fire that turned their tenement into a blazing inferno. Then, in the early hours on Jan. 22, a two-alarm blaze roared through a Jersey City tenement taking the lives of 7 people, 6 of them from one family.

"The fire was definitely malicious," said George Crimmins, Chief of the Hoboken Police Department. And in Jersey City, Fire Director Ray Malone termed the fire there as malicious and said that a plastic container had been found in the first floor hallway along with evidence that flammable liquid had been widely spread.

## NO CHANCE, NO CHOICE

The Hoboken fire began at 4 a.m. Families, most of whom slept 8-10 to a room, had no time, no chance, no choice. Those who were alerted could not escape through windows taped shut against the

cold, nailed down for protection; could not use fire escapes that became too hot to touch; could only jump—some to their deaths.

A neighbor told these reporters that the building was engulfed in 10 minutes. "The brick outside was a camouflage because the building's insides were made of lina" (firewood in Spanish). "Living as a Puerto Rican in this country is like always living in danger," another said as he nodded to the "For Sale" signs on the gutted building—a warning to those who live here that these buildings are no longer profitable to their owners.

The tenements are not part of the bankers' plans for Hoboken—a shorefront city along the Hudson River just a 7-minute commute by rail to Wall Street. It is no coincidence that fire destroyed the

(Continued on p. 10)

Who is responsible for what seems to be a scorched-earth campaign against the poor?

See editorial on page 8.



“Critical events in the world situation”

WWP Chairman speaks on Iran, Kampuchea

By ROBERT DOBROW  
NEW YORK, Jan. 22—Sam Marcy, chairman of Workers World Party, was the featured speaker last Saturday night at a meeting of the New York City branch of the party called to discuss “Critical events in the world situation.” About 200 people heard Marcy give Workers World Party’s analysis of the unfolding events in Iran as well as

the recent developments in Southeast Asia and China. Addressing himself first to the struggle in Iran, Marcy began his talk by extending solidarity to the Iranian Revolution “and wishing it well on the road to its logical conclusion—the socialist revolution.” Now that the Shah is gone, Marcy noted, the political crisis in Iran is reaching a showdown stage.

The character of the Bakhtiar regime as well as the role of Ayatollah Khomeini, the leader of the opposition movement, were carefully analyzed as Marcy cut through the bourgeois myths that Bakhtiar represents “Western enlightenment” and Khomeini “religious backwardness.” “The new Bakhtiar regime is properly regarded as a tool of U.S. imperialism, the military and the Shah. It is a puppet regime,” he stressed. The continued presence of U.S. General Robert Huyser, a deputy chief of NATO, in Iran which is a non-NATO country, is another example that the Bakhtiar regime “is a version of a neo-colonialist conspiracy.”

On the other hand Khomeini, who is both a religious as well as a political leader, is not to the right of the Bakhtiar regime, Marcy stressed. He is proposing a liberal, bourgeois-democratic solution for a republic which is very popular with the broad masses. The people are also attracted to him because of his “boldness, initiative, and daring” against the reactionary, pro-imperialist regime.

“In this phase of his development Khomeini is very much like Nasser of Egypt during the height of his struggle. He’s leading an all-national struggle, but it has its limitations because his program and ideology are bourgeois.” In such a situation it is necessary, Marcy said, to give “critical support” to Khomeini in the struggle against Bakhtiar, the Shah, and the U.S. But it is

necessary for the workers of Iran to have their own party, with their own independent program, to fight for their own ends.

Marcy showed how the brutal CIA-organized coup in 1953 which overthrew the Mossadegh government had a devastating effect on the progressive movement in Iran. One of its effects was that many of the left-wing groups in effect “lost their revolutionary momentum.” This helps explain why a religious figure like Khomeini has such a strong hold over the masses at present.

Marcy also sketched the history of Soviet-Iranian relations beginning with the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 which renounced all Czarist claims to Iranian territory and granted genuine self-determination to Iran (Persia), up to the period of the Second World War. He showed that there was no basis in historical fact for the slander that the Soviet Union poses an “imperialist threat” to the Iranians.

“What is new and significant,” Marcy concluded, “is the tremendous popular upsurge, the wide popular movement” which has embraced untold millions into the struggle. This, he emphasized, is the most important ingredient in the struggle.

“We cannot close the book on history and must pay close attention to concrete developments,” he said.

The second half of Marcy’s talk was devoted to the critical developments in Asia and their

Was this meeting



Former U.S. President Gerald R. Ford, left, and the Shah of Iran, right, are shown in a meeting. Ford claimed that this meeting with the Shah was a coincidence, in truth it can be seen as a highly visible signal (this picture and magazines all around the world) that the Shah completely abandoned its puppet regime intended as a threat against the Iranian people.

Iranians in NYC: ‘Shah is out, Bakhtiar is next!’



NEW YORK, Jan. 19—On the same day as millions demonstrated in Tehran, and while Gerald Ford was meeting with the Shah in Egypt, more than 100 Iranian students took to the streets of this city today to celebrate the ouster of the Shah and to warn the U.S. government to get out of Iran.

With banners demanding “U.S. advisors, CIA agents out of Iran,” and “We kicked the Shah out, Bakhtiar is next,” the demonstrators made their way in freezing weather from Columbus Circle to the Iranian Consulate, past Iran Air to the United Nations.

WW photo: Bill Hackwell

Anti-Pol Pot movement began in 1975

Official of new Kampuchea describes stages in struggle

On Jan. 16 the French press agency [AFP] was granted an interview with Ros Samay, head of the Kampuchean delegation to the 7th presidium conference of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization being held in Hanoi at that time. Ros Samay is also a member of the central committee of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation [KNUFNS] and was formerly an officer in the military headquarters of the Khmer Rouge. The full text of the interview follows.

AFP—What is the military and administrative situation in your country?

Ros Samay—The People’s Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea controls the whole of the country.

What has become of Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan and the other leaders of the old regime?

The administrative machinery of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique has been completely smashed. Some among the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique had fled to Peking before the liberation of Phnom Penh, some others have been arrested, the rest are fleeing. We are lenient toward those who have repented their crimes and now accept just policies.

What has happened to Mr. So Phim who, according to some quarters, was one of the instigators of the May 1978 uprising?

So Phim was the author of the May 1978 uprising involving a very big force. The Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique suppressed it utterly but resistance was also very powerful, but So Phim fell heroically in the fighting.

When did the underground struggle for liberation begin and what have been the principal

stages of its development?

As early as 1975, because of the regime’s notoriously regressive policies, the population, including responsible members of the administration and the party, as well as army officers and soldiers, rose up in many places to oppose it.

In September 1975, an important opposition movement erupted in the northern part of Siem Reap province. The enemy massacred a whole village of 300 inhabitants. Then other uprisings followed in 1976 in various parts of Battambang, Siem Reap, Kohkong and Kandal provinces.

In 1977, uprisings took place in areas of Battambang, Kandal, Kohkong, Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Memdulkiri, Stungtreng and Kratie. These uprisings made members of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique suspicious of each other, giving rise to a bloody internal purge in their army and in their administrative machinery.

The number of deaths amounted to dozens of thousands. Their military forces, having been sent to the frontier to wage a border war with Viet Nam, had suffered heavy losses. Consequently, they had great difficulty controlling the uprisings which were spreading among the population and army of Kampuchea.

The founding of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation on 2 December 1978 marked the high tide of the general offensive and uprising to crush the reactionary Pol Pot-Ieng Sary force and to liberate Kampuchea completely.

What is the nature of the aid Viet Nam has supplied to you?

The struggle we are waging is a just struggle supported by Viet Nam and many other socialist countries, countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America,

national, democratic and progressive forces in the world, many international organizations and the whole of progressive mankind. This has found vivid expression at the Seventh Conference of the Presidium of the Afro-Asian People’s Solidarity Organization.

Did Phnom Penh resist before the liberation?

There was no resistance.

Did you capture Chinese advisors?

We have captured many prisoners.

What is the military strength of the KNUFNS including the soldiers who rallied to the Front?

The Kampuchean Revolutionary Armed Forces are very strong because they enjoy the support of the entire people.

How do you estimate the losses in human lives in your ranks and in the enemy ranks?

The losses were not many because the enemy disintegrated rapidly when confronted by the powerful uprisings of the population throughout the country in coordination with the general offensive.

What is the situation of the diplomats in Phnom Penh?

Almost all diplomats had left before the liberation of Phnom Penh.

Are you ready to open negotiations with Viet Nam on the questions of the border and the sovereignty over the islands in the Gulf of Siam?

This has already been specified in points (1) and (2) of our declaration on the external policy of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation.

What do you think of the many statements made in Peking on Monday by Prince Sihanouk?

Mr. Sihanouk lived under

surveillance by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime. He himself has admitted that he had had to lie. Even now he is not free.

Will you accept his returning to Cambodia if he expresses such a desire?

When he raises this question, we will examine it.

What will be your attitude towards the military and officials of the old regime? And towards those personalities and people taking refuge abroad?

Our policy is one of great national unity. The KNUFNS, born in the spirit of genuine independence of the Kampuchean people, unites with all nationalities in the country, rallies all the patriotic forces of Kampuchea regardless of political tendencies, beliefs and religion, and includes workers, peasants, intellectuals, Buddhist monks, inside and outside the country.

Will you retain the name “Democratic Kampuchea”?

On 10 January 1979, the People’s Revolutionary council declared that the name of our country is the “People’s Republic of Kampuchea.”

Will you form a new party or will you keep the Communist Party after having expelled from it those who had served the old regime?

The Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique has turned the Communist Party of Kampuchea into their own instrument to repress the people and they have suffered a lamentable defeat. The party leading the Kampuchean Revolution must be an authentic Communist party, sound and strong, entirely devoted to the interests of the country and to the cause of the people.

Will you adopt the flag of the KNUFNS as a national emblem?

The flag of the KNUFNS is the national emblem.

PLO leader assassinated

Israel attack

By HILLEL BAILIN

JANUARY 23—A leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization was assassinated yesterday in Beirut, Lebanon, Ali Hassan Salameh, also known as Abu Hassan, was head of security for the Al Fatah guerrilla movement.

Hassan was driving in a car with four associates when a bomb in a parked car exploded by remote control. All five were killed. Five unknown people walking by were also killed. A Palestinian spokesman said the assassinations were done by Israeli agents. The remote control bomb also seemed to be the same type used by Chilean secret police agent Michael Townley to assassinate former Chilean ambassador Orlando Letelier.

The assassination came only three days after Israeli troops invaded Lebanon and attacked villages more than ten miles inside Lebanon’s border. Hundreds of Israeli soldiers fired on the towns of Aishiye, Nabatiye and Hammodiye. Israeli gunboats also shelled villages near Tyre on Lebanon’s coast.

According to reports from Lebanon, the invaders killed over 40 people and wounded many more. The Israelis also blew up many houses in the villages. Members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and anti-imperialist Lebanese forces resisted the attacks. Reports say at least seven invaders were killed or wounded before the Israelis pulled back across the border.

Yesterday’s raid was the biggest since last March when thousands of Israeli troops went deep into Lebanon. It was also the first time that the Israelis went north of the

# ing a coincidence?



ld Ford, Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat in Egypt last week. Although Ford and the hated Iranian butcher and Sadat can only be described as an official visit, the picture has been printed in newspapers (the world) that U.S. imperialism has not puppet Shah. Such a message is clearly the Iranian Revolution.

socialist countries. The genocidal U.S. aggression could only exacerbate any conflicts between the two, particularly when the overall struggle for existence was so desperate.

"If the border conflict between the two countries took place isolated from the world struggle, it would be one thing. However, it's not an isolated event and imperialism is not impartial. It took place immediately after the U.S.-China normalization agreement which was not a normalization but an abnormal, anti-USSR, anti-Viet Nam agreement."

Marcy attributed the fundamental cause for the terrible conflict to the Chinese leadership's inciting and manipulating of the Kampuchean regime against Viet Nam. He particularly castigated

(Continued on p. 9)

## inated

# cks Lebanon, murders 40

Litani River in Lebanon. Since March, Israel has claimed the Lebanese territory south of the Litani to be part of Israeli's "security zone."

In the past, Israel has tried to justify its raids by calling them "retaliation" for acts of Palestinian resistance. The establishment news media in the U.S. linked yesterday's invasion to a bomb explosion in Jerusalem the day before. But the Israeli government did not even try to use this poor excuse. Instead, Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman arrogantly said at a news conference that his army had the "right" to enter Lebanon at will!

The invasion showed again that the Washington-orchestrated "peace talks" and "peace efforts" of Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin are not designed to bring peace, but only more war against the Arab masses and their vanguard, the Palestinian liberation struggle. The United Nations "peace-keeping" force of 6,000 soldiers in Lebanon did nothing to stop the Israeli attack. These troops have also done nothing to stop the activities of the Lebanese Fascist Right militia in the area.

The only thing the UN army seems to do is harass the Palestinians and progressive Lebanese forces near the border, and therefore help the Lebanese Fascist Right, the Israeli invaders, and their puppet masters in the U.S. government. In fact, the Israeli raid took place on the very day that the UN Security Council voted to keep the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) another five months!

## As Khomeini announces plans to return

# Iran revolt continues against Bakhtiar regime

By JOHN CATALINOTTO

JANUARY 23—In the week since the Shah was driven from Iran millions of Iranians have marched in Tehran, thousands of Air Force personnel have demanded the exit of U.S. advisors, and workers throughout Iran not only continued the strikes that paralyzed the Iranian economy but began to seize control of their factories.

The Ayatollah Khomeini, the most popular figure in the Iranian Revolution, announced from Paris his plans to return to Iran this Friday. And Leftists marched in a demonstration independent of the religious leadership.

On Jan. 19 an enormous throng, millions strong, walked in nine feeder marches from the outskirts of Tehran to the downtown area, massing for a rally in the central square. With army trucks and armored cars gathered before the palace, the airport, and nerve centers of the capital, the giant demonstration passed through the streets of Tehran without meeting a single soldier.

The mood of the population had already changed from that of simple joy at the Shah's departure. Their sisters and brothers had spilled their blood not simply to remove the monarch, but to change their lives. The change was represented by their demands to replace the Bakhtiar regime with a government headed by Khomeini, and to drive out the U.S. imperialists along with their puppet Shah.

On the same day a major revolt shook the Iranian Air Force, supposedly the most loyal of the armed forces. On Friday at the Shasrokhi air base in western Iran,

close to 3,000 personnel held a march in which 11 women were arrested. In protest, the troops began a hunger strike. When news of the hunger strike spread to the Persian Gulf base of Bandarabbas, another 1,000 officers and men announced their support of the hunger strikers and issued a seven-point statement calling for the withdrawal of all U.S. military advisers and CIA agents.

The airmen also said they would not support a military coup, would kill anyone issuing orders for a coup, and would not obey any orders "against the people of Iran." (Newark Star-Ledger, Jan. 22.)

These clear demonstrations of anti-U.S. and anti-coup attitudes at the air bases were reinforced by a general disintegration of military discipline in the Iranian armed forces. The rank-and-file soldiers have continued to turn away from their tyrannical senior officers and toward the rebellious people.

## WORKERS SEIZING PLANTS

Progressive Iranians informed **Workers World** that Iranian workers, better organized each week, have been taking over factories in some areas of the country. Khomeini remains a popular figure, but in some places the workers are demanding not an Islamic government so much as a seizure of the capitalists' property.

Since the general strike shut down the normal means of distribution of food, gas, and other necessities of life, the population has been forced to organize communally to take care of these matters. With the disappearance of the uniformed police from the streets, citizens are directing traffic and taking up functions normally assumed by a government.

The biggest immediate challenge to the Bakhtiar government was the announcement by Khomeini forces that he will return to Iran this Friday. There he will lead a procession through Tehran to the city's main cemetery, where many martyrs of the Revolution are buried. Khomeini's return is expected to spark a confrontation between the military and the people that could topple the weak Bakhtiar regime.

Ayatollah Taleghani, the religious leader in Tehran, announced yesterday that the council set up by Khomeini was determined to push aside the Bakhtiar cabinet. Gen. Abbas Gharabaghi, Chief of Staff, said that the armed forces would back Bakhtiar.

Taleghani answered the military threat saying that if the army "wants to carry on like this and apply more pressure, the people can take up arms and start an armed struggle against anyone, including the army. And we will be victorious."

U.S. imperialism, realizing the popularity of the Khomeini forces and the inability of Bakhtiar to survive without some compromise with them, has been looking for an opening to Khomeini. But the main support of U.S. imperialism remains behind the Bakhtiar government and the military.

For the first time in the recent revolutionary struggle in Iran, Marxist groups this week marched separately from the pro-Khomeini forces. On Sunday in Tehran, thousands of leftist demonstrators, up to 20,000 according to the BBC, marched through the city in the university district.

According to the Tehran correspondent of L'Unita, newspaper of the Italian Communist Party, they carried portraits of Khomeini, as well as

those of non-religious martyrs, and chanted for hours the slogan "Workers, peasants, intellectuals unite! Long live Khomeini!"

The French paper Le Monde today reports that the demonstration was composed of "nearly 10,000 young students and workers," and that their slogans included paying the salaries of laid-off workers, a call for a workers' government, and a demand to "tear up the roots of colonialism."

The marchers were followed around the streets by a group of a few hundred anti-communist religious youth, who chanted "The only party is Allah's party and the only leader is Khomeini," while communist-baiting the marchers. Similar pressure was put on Marxist contingents in the mass march on Friday.

L'Unita described another confrontation between the non-religious left and the more anti-communist of the religious forces. A group of students from an Islamic tendency occupied the offices of the newspaper Kayhan, one of the most important dailies of the capital, calling the editorial policy too leftist and pro-Marxist (owners of the daily press have all fled Iran).

In answering the charges, Kayhan printed on its front page an open letter from the fedeyeen—an armed Marxist group—to Khomeini, in which they raised the danger from "groups that use Islam to revive the holy inquisition."

While there is an apparent divergence between the Marxist left and sections of the religious movement, the sharpest conflict for the present is between the mass movement, which is still following the Khomeini leadership, and the Bakhtiar government and the army, backed by the U.S.

# The imperialist stake in Iran

By ROBERT DOBROW

JANUARY 21—The honeymoon is over for U.S. big business in Iran. For over two decades, under the iron heel of the Shah's brutal dictatorship, scores of U.S.-based transnational corporations have enriched themselves off the sweat and blood of Iran's super-exploited working class and peasantry.

Not only the giant oil companies, but auto, rubber, copper, construction, weaponry, electronics, and many other U.S. industries have enjoyed the lucrative tax and investment conditions, the meager wages paid to workers, the virtual non-existence of trade unions, and the many other conditions which have made Iran so "fruitful" for foreign investment.

But today the workers and peasants of Iran are standing up against their political and economic enslavement. And Wall Street and their servants in the White House are frantic at the thought of their super-profits coming to an end.

An unusually revealing article in the New York Times (Jan. 17), entitled, "Iranian Festival Is Over For American Business" describes big business' stake in the events in that country. "Among the hundreds of Western companies operating in Iran," the article begins, "none had a greater stake in the Shah's heady ambitions than the American merchants of technology, factories and weapons."

"There are signs," the article

continues, "that any new regime will be likely to shift the focus from lavish and large-scale projects to development efforts that could touch the lives of most Iranians."

In other words, rather than business as usual with profits galore, it is likely that the economy will now be shifted to meet the needs of the people, and this would run into direct antagonism to the interests of the corporations.

(The article fears to mention what is probably foremost on the minds of the corporate owners. That is the prospect of not just losing some of their profits, but losing their capital altogether. The sight of general strikes and workers demanding "U.S. out!" must send the cold chill of expropriation tingling down the spines of the bosses.)

The much-touted "modernization" and "industrialization" efforts by the Shah have all amounted to nothing more than opening up the doors to these imperialist corporations to invade the country. The list of American companies operating in Iran includes: General Motors, Du Pont, General Tire, Warner Lambert, Gillette, Pfizer, Pepsi-Cola, Colgate-Palmolive, Coca-Cola, Shell Oil, Johnson & Johnson, Exxon, Squibb, Standard Oil of California, Brown & Root, and AT&T. Sound familiar? True, roads and bridges, communications networks, pipelines and refineries, auto plants, railroads, planes, and much more have been built. But it has all been done by impoverishing

the people and enriching a tiny minority of the nation at the expense of millions who are worse off than ever.

Among those that have made the most from the big business "Iranian Festival" are the oil and weapons industries. General Dynamics, McDonnell-Douglass, Textron, and Boeing have supplied the Iranian Army with the most sophisticated military hardware in the world, making the country the largest arms customer for the U.S. And since the Second World War the notorious oil companies have made a killing in Iran. Last year about \$6 billion was taken out of Iran by U.S.-based transnational corporations.

But today, according to the Times article, dozens of contracts are being cancelled. Fearing "instability" (to put it mildly) hundreds of U.S. executives are fleeing the country in the wake of the Shah's exit. Plants are closing left and right and the mood on Wall Street is gloomy. Practically every foreign corporation in Iran has been crippled by strikes and the bosses don't know what to expect when the workers come back to work.

As a recent account in the Wall Street Journal put it, "Whether any of the companies will be allowed to return to their former working ways in Iran will have to be settled by the new rulers there." And of course what they fear the most is the possibility that it may be settled by the workers themselves.



# EDITORIAL

## Arson for profit

In less than 48 hours, two tenement fires in New Jersey's Hudson County have taken a heavy toll of lives. On Saturday, 21 died in Hoboken, many of them children, when their dwelling at 131 Clinton Street went up in flames. On Monday seven people, including a mother and her five children, were burned to death less than two miles away in Jersey City. Besides the close proximity of these disasters, two other similarities link the blazes: the buildings were destroyed by arson and the victims were poor, oppressed people, Latin and Asian-Indian. Moreover, officials have declared "there were many similarities" (New York Daily News, Jan. 23) between the two arson atrocities.

Although these are the worst fires since 167 were killed in Southgate, Kentucky in May 1977, acts of arson have become quite common in the U.S. in recent years.

Who is responsible for the spread of this terrible crime? Last summer the Permanent Investigations Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate held hearings on the question of arson, and even the senators were forced to admit that the evidence showed landlords were a major culprit, "torching" property in order to cash in on the insurance.

One professional arsonist, Michael Smith, told the Committee he had personally set over 100 fires for pay over a seven-year period.

"If a businessman wanted his place burned by us (i.e., organized crime), we would demand 25% of the final insurance payment for the loss, with 25% of that up front." (El Diario-La Prensa, Aug. 28, 1978.)

### "CLEARING OUT" WORKING CLASS NEIGHBORHOODS

Insurance fraud alone, however, are not the only reason for this savage scorched-earth campaign against the poor. In both Hoboken and Jersey City, for example, big business would like to drive out the poor people in order to redevelop the area for the benefit of financial interests and the well-to-do. On Jan. 22, the Jersey Journal quoted Paul J. Byrne, the Director of Economic Development for Jersey City as saying how attractive the area was becoming for "the New York business centers."

"The Port Authority," said Byrne, "is completing a master plan for development of Industrial Parks in Jersey City, Newark and New York." This is also true of Hoboken, which many of the big money men have been eyeing as a potential "bedroom community" across the Hudson River for Wall Street executives.

In the light of the plans to "clear out" these poor, working class neighborhoods, one can only be suspicious about the large number of arson-caused fires in the region. Such suspicions are greatly bolstered by the attitude of city government officials who have virtually declared war on the poor. Jersey City Councilman Gerald McCann laid out the program as crudely as possible at the beginning of this month when he said, "We simply can't afford the high number of low income people we have here," adding the even more incredible statement that "we should start forcing some low income people out of the city" (Jersey Journal, Jan. 5).

Were those killed in Monday's Jersey City holocaust—Maria Gonzales, her children Annette, Suzanne, Albert, Edward and Popo—were they the first victims of this openly proclaimed campaign to "start forcing some low income people out of the city?"

Would a government that napalmed and burned alive hundreds of thousands of people in Viet Nam have any real scruples against overlooking arson attacks against the poor right here at home?

Whatever the details of the recent fires in Hoboken and Jersey City there can be no doubt that all across the country the cities are burning and that the corrupt and cruel city politicians, the landlords and the big developers and their lucrative schemes for "urban revitalization" are both the accomplices and in many cases instigators of the crime.

## —NYC hospital cuts

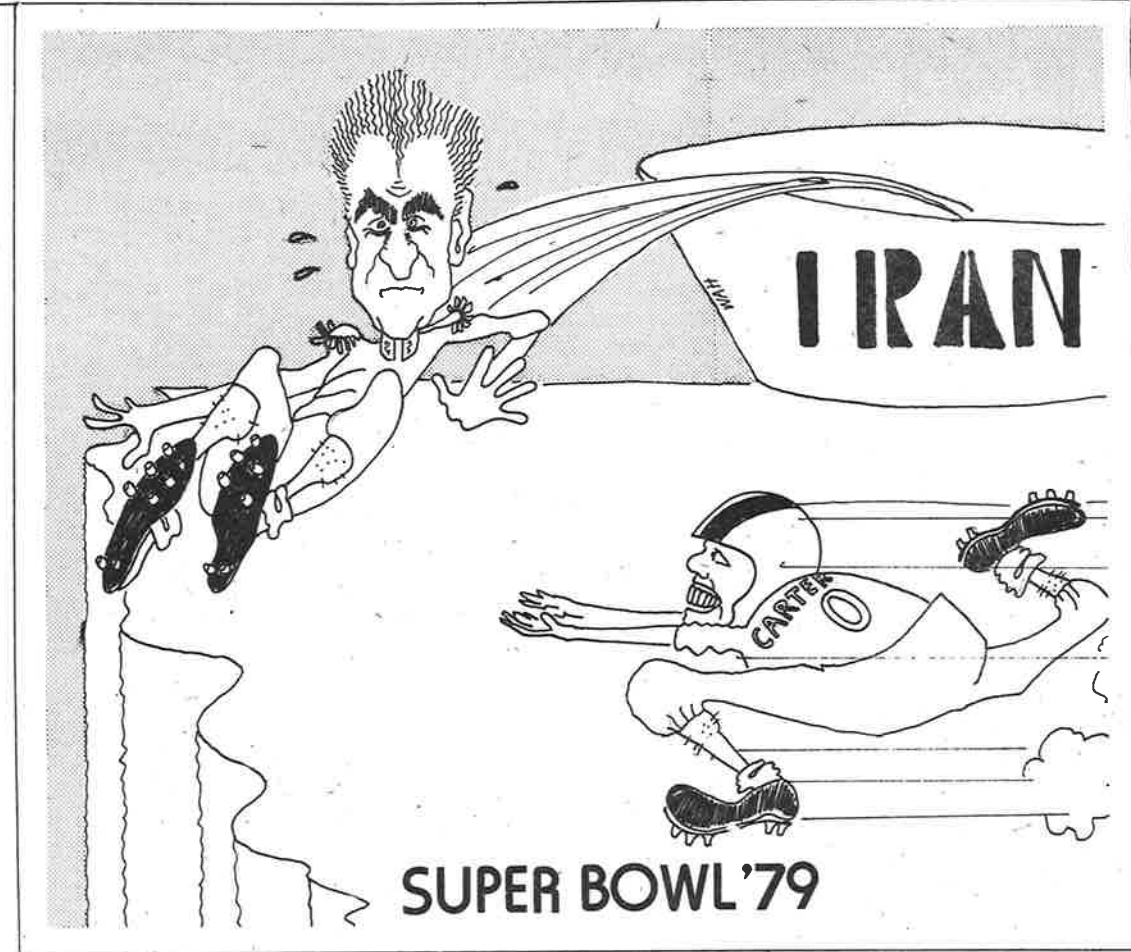
(Continued from p. 1)  
have lost their jobs and many more poor and oppressed people have been seriously effected by the closing of health care facilities in their communities.

City hospitals are vital for the health care of the majority of people in this city. According to CIR, "city hospitals are the back bone of the health care system of New York. They supply vast amounts of emergency care, out patient care, care for the chronically sick and the indigent. The city hospitals have long suffered from a chronic lack of

support and now Mayor Koch threatens them with extinction. Koch wants to close or give away at least half of all city hospitals. His excuse is that it will save the city money. This is not true."

According to CIR, city hospitals actually make money for the city: 70% of the hospitals' budget come from Blue Cross, GHI, Medicaid or Medicare; and less than 25% of New York tax money earmarked for health care goes to city hospitals (voluntary hospitals and nursing homes get most of it.)

Many city hospitals today are understaffed and receive low



## Ethiopian official tells of material aid to African fronts

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

NEW YORK, Jan. 17—Major Dawit Wolde Giorgis, Deputy Foreign Minister of Socialist Ethiopia, told a press conference here today that Ethiopia is now giving active material support and training to the liberation movements of Zimbabwe and Namibia.

For some time, explained Major Dawit, Ethiopia had given moral and political support to the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe and SWAPO of Namibia, but now, despite the fact that Ethiopia itself is a poor country, the Revolution has been consolidated at home and she is in a position to extend concrete material aid.

Ethiopia played a key role this September in promoting solidarity among the African and Arab liberation struggles and the socialist countries. It hosted an important international conference in Addis Ababa which featured representatives of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, SWAPO of Namibia, the ANC of South Africa, Polisario of the Western Sahara, and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

### "REVOLUTION IS NOW STABLE"

Major Dawit covered a wide range of topics in today's press conference, from Ethiopia's domestic situation at the present time to its views on a number of vital international questions. He opened with a review of the many successes of the Ethiopian Revolution in the past year.

"Last year," he said, "we were faced with internal counter-revolution; Asmara and other cities in the province of Eritrea were surrounded, and Somalia occupied one-fifth of our territory. Ethiopia was at a very critical moment."

"Now the Revolution has eliminated all the reactionary

budget allotments; the hospitals are often undersupplied and overcrowded; waiting time is very long and much of the time, the quality of care is not what it should be. But for many people who live in New York it is the only health care available.

It is hard for people on Medicaid to get care in the voluntary hospitals and it is nearly

forces inside the country, and is in a very stable situation. All our territory has been recovered from the Somali aggressors. Ethiopian forces could easily have crossed the border in hot pursuit, but as a matter of principle we respected the territorial integrity of Somalia. Now we are trying to rehabilitate the people in the area affected by the war.

"In Eritrea, after an intensive politicization program plus a military offensive, the province is now in a stable situation. Over 85% of the province is under the control of the revolutionary forces, and all the roads are open and safe. The militia and the political cadres have been working very hard to bring the people to the Revolution and to explain its program. The secessionists have retreated to a very remote area near the Sudan border and the Red Sea."

In discussing the struggle in Eritrea, Dawit emphasized its class character. The Ethiopian Revolution, he pointed out, is part and parcel of a worldwide liberation movement against all forms of oppression. It has been the puppets of imperialism—he mentioned the Sudan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Kuwait—who have been aiding the secessionist movements.

### "IMPERIALISM MAY TAKE DESPERATE MEASURES"

The Deputy Foreign Minister noted that now, with the revolutionary developments in Iran, a more progressive government will undoubtedly have a different position toward Ethiopia. "The first question is the removal of the monarchy. But we think that there will be a long struggle before the Iranian Revolution is resolved. The people of Iran are not ready to accept a military dictatorship," he predicted.

impossible for the 1.4 million people without medical insurance in New York to get health care in voluntary hospitals (which are not legally obligated to see all patients). If the city hospitals close or are turned over to the voluntary hospitals, where will the over 1.4 million New York residents who are without Blue Cross, medicare of medicare, go for health care?

Dawit reviewed the blows that Arab reaction has received in the area, and the many significant achievements of the revolutionary movements around the world, mentioning Afghanistan, Iran, Namibia, Nicaragua, and Zimbabwe. But he warned on the situation in the Middle East, "Imperialism might take desperate measures as a result of the blows it is receiving in this area."

To a question from **Workers World** on the National Development Campaign that has been launched in Ethiopia, Dawit put it in the context of the developing Revolution:

"The purpose of our Revolution was to elevate the standard of living of the people. But for four years we've been conducting a bitter struggle to survive. Now we can turn our energies to the second phase of the Revolution, the economic campaign."

He explained that in its initial stages, the emphasis will be on increasing production within the context of Ethiopia's present capabilities, with available labor, industry and agriculture, and natural resources. All land, industry, finance, and other vital elements of production in Ethiopia have been nationalized. The emphasis at present is on eliminating illiteracy, prostitution, and unemployment, and it is through the mass organizations that this can be accomplished.

But over the longer term, Ethiopia will be establishing larger industries. In this effort, it will be greatly assisted by technological aid and training from the socialist countries. The Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, Lt.-Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, recently visited seven socialist countries to get assistance for development.

"We have ample assistance," concluded Dawit.

But these proposed cutbacks will not go unchallenged.

Dr. Jonathan House, chairperson of the CIR strike committee, and resident at Harlem Hospital stated that "this strike would only be the first in a series of actions to protest the cuts in care and the giveaway of the city hospital system by Mayor Koch."



## On the eve of the crisis

# The Sunday working-class demonstration in Iran

By SAM MARCY

JANUARY 24—At last, at last, the first significant working-class demonstration has taken place against the Bakhtiar puppet regime of U.S. imperialism. The bourgeois press in the West variously estimates it as between five and ten thousand. Friends of the Iranian workers' movement with ties in Iran estimate it as much larger.

The real importance of the demonstration cannot be judged solely by its size. In a revolutionary situation, such as that which Iran is experiencing today, the magnitude of the forces in motion can change very rapidly. What is of the greatest significance is that this is the first visible, open manifestation of working class interests as distinct from any and all other groups in the broad opposition front against the Bakhtiar regime and the military.

While some may scoff at the social composition of the demonstration (allegedly a substantial number were students), this does not detract from its being a programmatic expression of proletarian class interests.

### WORKING CLASS BACKBONE OF THE STRUGGLE

A revolutionary situation exists in Iran primarily because the working class in its hundreds and thousands and millions has virtually paralyzed the country with its monumental strikes and political support to the opposition movement. Without working class participation, without working class support, without bold initiative and endurance, not to speak of self-sacrifice, devotion, contribution of skills, and inexhaustible revolutionary energy, the opposition movement would be reduced to skirmishes with the entrenched forces of the repressive state apparatus of the Shah and his supporters.

It is without question the general strikes of the workers and the support of the petty-bourgeoisie which has converted the giant protest movement against the Shah and his successors into a revolutionary situation. But the working class has not spoken in its own name. It has not advanced slogans and demands which clearly express the historical needs of the working class as against the bourgeoisie, whose interests are irreconcilable with the fundamental interests of the workers and the success of the revolution.

Throughout the long period in which the current of revolutionary struggle has run ever deeper, encompassing ever wider sections of the population, the proletariat has been merely the physical force which has enabled the representatives of the bourgeois opposition to climb higher and higher on the rungs of the revolutionary ladder. The bourgeois opposition acts and speaks as though it were at one with the workers, as though there was a complete identity of class interests between them. This is because the bourgeois opposition leaders from Khomeini to Sanjabi all the way down to the lowest echelons of the bourgeois opposition, assume that the workers will accept the interests of the bourgeoisie as their own interests.

### FIRST EVIDENCE OF INDEPENDENT ROLE OF WORKING CLASS

The demonstration on Sunday, however, demonstrates that this is not so. No matter how the bourgeoisie may minimize the significance of the demonstration, may counterpose the small numbers at the demonstration to the huge giant outpouring of last Friday, for instance, it will not invalidate the fact that the Sunday demonstration has been an objective expression of working class interests, interests which are of



"A revolutionary situation exists in Iran primarily because the working class in its hundreds and thousands and millions has virtually paralyzed the country with its monumental strikes." Here, demonstrating youths hold up wanted posters with the Shah's picture on it.

fundamental historical significance and which are diametrically opposed to the predatory interests of the bourgeoisie.

It may also be pointed out that the demonstration was composed of a variety of Marxist groups with widely differing programs and deep political differences. However vital these differences may be, however paralyzing they may prove to be at a later date, it is of tremendous importance that all, or almost all, who are called Marxists and Communists (as the bourgeois press phrases it) came out in one demonstration immediately on the heels of the giant Friday demonstration which the bourgeoisie interpreted as solely a referendum on Khomeini and his program.

While it is maintained in some quarters that the Tudeh Party (the Iranian Communist Party), for understandable reasons, may have taken a more cautious position by not openly coming out in support of the demonstration, it would be erroneous to assume that their members and sympathizers did not participate in it.

The Jan. 22 Wall Street Journal, the organ of U.S. high finance and industry, triumphantly proclaimed that the Sunday working class demonstration indicated that the "broad opposition front was fragmenting." But this was merely wishful thinking on the part of the Wall Street Journal. There are also others on the "left," so-called, who are so solicitous of the bourgeois opposition and who immediately branded the demonstration as "disruptive" of the "unity of the movement." Nothing could be further from the truth.

An assertion of working class identity, of proletarian independence, has nothing in common with fragmenting, disuniting, and disrupting the broad united front movement against the Bakhtiar regime and the military junta, the would-be legatees of the Shah.

A closer look at the broad opposition movement discloses that there are many discordant voices and disparate class interests in it, but this does not at all militate against united action of virtually the bulk of the population against the regime. Unity in action is the crying need of the hour and disruption of that would be a crime against the Revolution.

As an indispensable necessity for the success of the revolutionary struggle, the working class has the right to raise, separate and apart from the bourgeois opposition demands, its own general demands, such as for a workers' and peasants' government, and/or

specific demands such as for the convocation of a Constituent Assembly, when the critical moment for it is appropriate. The question of timing is most important.

It would be incorrect to raise it, for instance, if the Bakhtiar regime should suddenly make a promise for an election to a Constituent Assembly under the aegis of the present regime and under the guns of its military supporters. That would be a fraud.

The imperative need of the hour is unity and concerted action for the overthrow of the Bakhtiar regime. On that the working class and all its allies are completely in accord with the bourgeois opposition to the extent, of course, that the opposition is willing to go along with the working class on this crucial question.

There is wavering at the pinnacles of the opposition movement on how far to go with that. The workers, on the other hand, and the mass of the population generally have given no vocal expression to any wavering or any hesitation on that score. All the more is it necessary for the vanguard organizations of the working class, which means the various political groups in the movement, most of which were represented at the demonstration, to organize demonstrations independently, to convoke a congress of working class organizations for the purpose of implementing a program of concrete immediate demands of a fundamental character to meet the needs of the revolutionary movement of the workers and peasants.

For too long, workers' political organizations have tended in the contemporary period to tail the bourgeois parties and find themselves completely submerged, their initiative sharply curtailed and their independent class program completely shelved.

In moments of revolutionary crisis such as the present in Iran, the working class vanguard elements face both a challenge and an opportunity to bring the inexhaustible revolutionary potential of the proletariat center-stage politically. The bourgeois parties, even the most extreme and radical, can only carry the revolution forward within the framework of existing bourgeois class relations, while fighting for more elbow room for themselves by changing the form of the state. The proletariat has an even greater stake in changing the present repressive form of fascist state, but the ultimate success of the revolution as a whole can only be carried forward to its ultimate and logical

demands, its own general conclusion by overthrowing the oppressive class relationships between exploiter and exploited.

During all these weeks and months when the revolutionary storm was gathering and finally breaking out into the open, it appeared that the working class was like putty in the hands of the bourgeois politicians in the struggle against the Shah. Certainly that's the way the bourgeois press reported it. It did not appear that any assertion of proletarian independence was possible.

The bourgeois leaders take it for granted that the proletariat will confine itself to narrow economic and trade union demands in the framework of the same old bourgeois system, minus the Shah. In other words, merely an alleviation of repression and some "basic democratic reforms."

### DEMOCRATIC REFORMS AND WORKERS' POWER

Of course, an end to political repression and basic democratic reforms are most welcome and absolutely indispensable. It is to be noted, however, that these are by-products of the current revolutionary struggle and by and large have virtually been won by the workers. They can, however, only be **guaranteed** by workers' power. Hence the need to widen and deepen the intervention of the working class and its vanguard organizations into the political process and not permit the bourgeois opposition to monopolize it.

Organizing the workers on an independent political basis, of which the Sunday demonstration was a vivid example, is not sowing disunity or separatism in the broad opposition movement. It is being true to one of Lenin's principal teachings on successful strategy and tactics in the course of the revolution.

Now that the Bakhtiar government and the military camarilla, undoubtedly under the direction of the Pentagon, have brought the crisis to a head by closing the airports in Tehran and elsewhere so as to prevent Khomeini and his associates from landing in Iran, the stage has been set for a full-scale confrontation and the possible outbreak of civil war.

The vanguard organizations of the working class will not only have to learn to cooperate ever more closely to forge a common working class front. They will also have to demonstrate by their revolutionary determination, dedication, and skill that they can be and ought to be in the very vanguard of the revolution itself.

## —Critical events

(Continued from p. 7)

the new Teng-Hua grouping who have envenomed and accelerated the struggle.

He also took up the domestic policies of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary grouping and the many serious mistakes that were made in trying to build socialism in war-torn Kampuchea. These errors isolated the leaders from the masses and antagonized the population. Their domestic mistakes, however, were compounded by their reactionary anti-Viet Nam campaign, egged on by China. This made any peaceful settlement of the dispute impossible.

"The Kampucheans were driven on by their belief that they had '800 million Chinese people' behind them. 'Instead,' Marcy stated, 'all they had was the contempt of Teng.' The fact that China would not or could not come to the assistance of its allies in Kampuchea revealed how weak the Chinese leaders really were.

"In all this, imperialism has not lost sight of its own interests. All the concessions on Taiwan don't satisfy them. Nothing satisfies them." Marcy predicted that imperialism would now try to wrest even more concessions from the Chinese leaders.

(This point was confirmed today by the announcement that two "liberal" Senators—Edward Kennedy and Alan Cranston—were introducing a resolution into Congress to "protect the security

of Taiwan.)

Developments in China as well as Kampuchea's attacks on Viet Nam took a sharp turn with the destruction of the left-wing of the Chinese Communist Party following the death of Mao, according to Marcy. The new leaders are hell-bent on dismantling the achievements of the great Cultural Revolution and are steering China towards an unholy alliance with imperialism against the Soviet Union, other socialist countries, and the national liberation movements.

Nevertheless, despite errors, setbacks, and internal changes, both China and the USSR still remain socialist countries—workers' states—where the bourgeoisie has been overthrown, property nationalized, and centralized planning instituted.

"We look forward," Marcy concluded, "to a quick and peaceful termination of the struggle between Viet Nam and Kampuchea, and for peaceful relations between them and between China and the USSR, as well. We look forward to supporting all the socialist countries."

At the same time, he explained, such developments point to the need for revolutionary, working-class independence in the struggle against the imperialist system—which in the final analysis is the most basic cause of all the problems and divisions in the camp of the workers and oppressed.

# British strikers reject 5% government wage ceiling

By PADDY COLLIGAN

JANUARY 23—Industrial actions continued to disrupt Britain this week as unionized workers rejected the government's 5% ceiling on wage increases and went on strike in growing numbers. Yesterday several hundred thousand municipal employees including hospital orderlies, sanitation and sewerage workers, school maintenance and cafeteria workers, and ambulance drivers held a one-day strike to support their demand for a 40% wage hike. These municipal workers are among the lowest paid workers in Britain and have suffered greatly from years of inflation. They rejected the 8% offer already

made by the municipal authorities.

Truckers now on strike for three weeks may be a little closer to a settlement. The government announced that trucking companies would be allowed to raise their haulage rates in order to raise the wage offer they could make to the struck workers.

In other sectors, trainmen called their third 24-hour strike for today and planned another on Thursday. Waterworkers won a 14% increase in a settlement reached on Friday. Miners are due for a raise increase soon.

Some shortages in industrial supplies appear to have occurred although the government is deny-

ing any serious disruption in food or other essentials. Some essential supplies are passing through the picketlines by agreement with the workers. Thousands of workers have been laid off in some industries. British steel production is off by 20% and one of Britain's largest companies, ICI, claims losses of nearly \$2 million a day. The situation has not come close to the scare predictions the trucking companies, the opposition Conservative Party, and much of the press were using to whip up hysteria against the striking workers.

The industrial actions and worker militancy are very real



National Union of Public Employees mass in London's Hyde Park during one day general strike on Monday.

responses to the tough economic conditions facing the British working class. What is more striking, however, is the vicious anti-worker, anti-trade union campaign that British capital has launched around this current upsurge of worker militancy. On the most demagogic level, workers and union leaders are told they are selfish and must "mitigate human greed"—this despite continued high corporate profits. The British bourgeoisie is trying to maneuver the Callaghan government into breaking the power of the unions for them. At the minimum they want a no-strike clause in any

municipal worker settlement.

It isn't that the economic situation is particularly worse now in Britain than it has been over the past few years. It seems mainly to be that after several years of bearing the brunt of double digit inflation, workers are no longer willing to continue losing ground. They have rejected the so-called "social contract"—a labor "peace" or capitulation agreement—arrived at by their union leadership and the government in 1975 and are now intent on exercising the power that withdrawing their labor can give them to regain some of what they have lost.

# Russell Tribunal exposes repression in West Germany

By JOHN HUTTON

JANUARY 15—The opening of the second session of the Russell Tribunal on Human Rights in the Federal Republic of (West) Germany has again focused attention on the repression which hides behind the mask of "democracy" in West Germany. The first session of the Tribunal (last March and April) dealt with the purge of progressives from teaching and civil service jobs (through what is called the "Berufsverbote," or job-ban) and from the labor unions. The new session is devoted to censorship.

Unlike the socialist German Democratic Republic (East Germany), where fascism and exploitation were uprooted in the 1940s, capitalist West Germany is dominated by the same corporations and reactionary officials who brought the Nazis to power in 1933. More than 3,000 people have lost their jobs through the "Berufsverbote." Censorship is on the rise. The bourgeois press conducts slander campaigns against what they call "terrorist sympathizers"—virtually anyone who speaks out against the

witchhunts. The opposition Christian Democrats have called for drastic restrictions on the right to strike and freedom of speech, and for the banning of all revolutionary organizations. The "liberal" Social-Democratic government has contributed to this wave of reaction, creating police terror squads such as the Mobile Strike Commandos, a German SWAT team on a national scale. Strikes and demonstrations, (including a recent solidarity action with the struggle of the Iranian people,) have been brutally attacked.

## LEFTISTS CHARGED WITH "SLANDERING STATE"

While neo-Nazi groups and fascist hate-sheets operate freely, progressive groups and journals have come under attack from the regime. Typical is the case of Kai Ehlers and Jurgen Reents of the left newspaper Arbeiterkampf (Workers' Struggle). They have been charged with "slandering the state." Their "crime"? They issued a booklet calling the new police hit squads the nucleus of a new Gestapo (Hitler's secret

police). In addition, they energetically exposed the unbelievable government story of a "mass suicide" by imprisoned anarchists of the Red Army Faction in Stammheim Prison in October 1977. Even bourgeois newspapers around the world found it hard to swallow this story, so reminiscent of Nazi claims of prisoners "shot while trying to escape."

The West German regime has also lashed out at the Russell Tribunal, claiming that it is being "persecuted" by the Tribunal. People found distributing information on the Tribunal have been fingerprinted and interrogated. A major newspaper, Die Welt, charged that the Tribunal's intention is "to make the Federal Republic defenseless against a Communist seizure of power." (!)

The clumsy efforts of the West German government to cover up repression and silence dissent have only further exposed them before the world and added further evidence for the Russell Tribunal's deliberations.

## —Norfolk march

(Continued from p. 2)

blame Black schoolchildren for all the social ills that affect both Black and white students. The racist slurs and lies in the letter evoked an immediate and angry response from the Black community, and was probably responsible in large measure for the huge turnout today.

The outrage and anger that Black people in Tidewater feel over this barrage of racist assaults was more than evident at the rally that followed today's march. Loud applause, shouts, and standing ovations interrupted speakers from labor, business, and community groups as the same basic theme was repeated again and again—"We must fight for economic justice!"

All of the speakers, such as Miles Billups, vice-president of the International Longshoremen's Association, Rev. L.P. Watson of the NAACP, and especially Bishop Willis, were warmly received.

However, one indication of the militant mood of the audience was the gasps and cries and then standing ovation with which they greeted the surprise appearance of long-time Black liberation fighter Stokely Carmichael. Carmichael, who was in town for a speaking engagement at Norfolk State College, praised Martin Luther King as a man who "fought injustice wherever he saw it" and urged today's Black leaders to really lead the people and "Push, push, push!"

As the continuing economic crisis grows deeper, the racists in office and in power in this area are trying to destroy unions and to silence any type of spokesperson or activist organization in an attempt to head off any resistance by working people. This is especially true in regard to the Black community, but it is clear that here in the Norfolk area Black working people are determined to resist, to organize, and to fight back.

# Support for German leftist group's struggle against censorship

JANUARY 24—The Kommunistischer Bund (KB) of West Germany has appealed for international solidarity against censorship and repression in the arrest of their comrades who put out the paper Arbeiterkampf (described in the accompanying article).

The response to this appeal has been overwhelming. Over 600 publishing houses and leftist groups throughout Europe have sent in supporting letters and dozens have signed the following declaration of protest and solidarity:

"The undersigned protest against the latest charges under paragraph 90a ("defamation of the state") against J. Reents-Verlag/Hamburg. The book **After Schleyer: Special Units in the FRG—The Steady Development of the new Gestapo** shall be prohibited from publication through Reents-Verlag. This book is alleged to defame the Federal Republic of Germany, as it compares today's measures of "internal security" with the policies of the National Socialist regime.

"With regard to the contents, there is a link to another charge

against the newspaper of the Kommunistischer Bund/KB, **Arbeiterkampf**, published by Reents-Verlag. One year ago **Arbeiterkampf** publicly doubted whether the deaths of the Stammheim prisoners were "suicides."

"These charges represent a serious assault on press freedom: anti-fascist information, criticism of a development towards a police state, even the raising of doubts about unproved claims on the side of the state are to be made illegal.

"The prosecutions against Reents-Verlag are at the same time an obvious threat against other publications that have hinted at "tendencies towards the establishment of a new GeStaPo." A successful prosecution would make it easier for the state security to proceed against other alternative newspapers, against publications such as **konkret**, **Extradiens** and even against **Stern** [a picture magazine].

"But not only publishers and editors, even individual journalists and authors are under threat to their freedom of opinion.

"We join H.M. Broders, who stated in **Frankfurter Rundschau** (15-8-78): 'The seizure of the KB

book could become a dangerous precedent. The law is measuring up to see how far it can define the extent to which criticism of the present situation can go, and what elements of the past must be left alone. This must be taken into consideration by anyone who believes that this book is not worth the protest."

"We demand the charges be dropped immediately."

## —Jersey fires

(Continued from p. 5)

only residential hotel for Latin men last year, or that Hoboken's major Black church was destroyed by fire during the final stage of its renovation. It's no coincidence that a tenement with the first Hispanic tenants organization was torched in the downtown business area, and that just hours after this most recent blaze, the 54-residence YMCA was almost destroyed by fire.

## —Vieques victory

(Continued from p. 4)

heads of the fishermen who had stationed themselves on shore and in their boats. The latter continued patiently fishing. When it had become evident that the attempted intimidation had failed, a Navy vessel approached the fishing boats that were returning to shore to give the impression that it was forcing them to retreat. The fishermen responded by doubling back, and cutting circles round and round the befuddled launch, they jeered and shouted with derisive hilarity.

At this point, two Coast Guard launches appeared on the scene, and having spotted Zenon, they set off after his smaller and slower craft to serve a summons on him for fishing in restricted waters. The other fishermen rushing to his rescue made violent turns with their boats, producing waves to impede the chase. After several

near-collisions, one of the Coast Guard ships was nearly on top of Zenon's boat. While one of the federal marshals kept his M-16 trained on Zenon, the leader of the Fishermens Association simply pretended to ignore the commotion at his back. Apparently officers of the other Coast Guard ship, seeing the danger, called off the chase. A huge throng of Viequeses, who had followed the action closely from the shore on their citizens band radios, greeted the returning fishermen with a joyous celebration of victory.

Every day may bring a critical turn in events for the people of Vieques in their ongoing struggle to save their island and their fishing waters (on which they depend for their livelihood) from U.S. Navy maneuvers. The heroic fishermen and their families are steeled in their determination to win their struggle against the U.S. military colossus.

**Free Puerto Rico!**



## A major victory

# Lesbian mother wins child custody

By JAY ANDERSON

DETROIT, Jan. 18—A major victory was won here today for gay parents and their children. After a two-and-a-half year court battle Margareth Miller, a lesbian, was granted custody rights for her 13-year-old daughter Jillian. The Michigan Supreme Court reversed two lower court rulings that Miller was an "unfit" mother just because she is a lesbian.

Miller said that indications are that this case, the first to be heard before a state supreme court, may set a precedent for lesbian rights. It is a landmark decision that can be used to support other cases, with the full impact yet to be seen. The case may also make it easier for other gay parents to be able to win cases in lower courts.

Often the court battles are so lengthy and costly that many gay parents cannot continue the fight to keep their children. In a telephone interview with **Workers World** Margareth Miller said that her daughter Jillian was the primary reason for her continuing the long court battle. Another reason, she added, was her own fury at being judged not competent because of her private life. The struggle for "gay, parent, human and children's rights" was an integral part of the motivation

to keep going, Miller continued.

Jillian Miller's desire to stay with her mother was never taken into consideration by the lower courts. Margareth said she feels that while the two-and-a-half year long fight was a strain on their lives, there is a greater closeness between Jillian and herself. "My daughter knows that I would fight for her. I've done it twice now, once to adopt her and now to be able to stay with her."

### "WE HAVE THE POWER"

"The victory has proven we have the power," said Miller. She feels that the victory will encourage all people to fight for their human rights. In particular, she hopes that all gay people and their straight supporters will continue to stand up for gay rights. "If we stay in the closet, someone will close the door." Stonewall set the stage with gays coming out into the streets to fight for and insure gay rights. The courts are keenly aware of the strength of the gay struggle and its support.

Many people were affected by this case, said Margareth. One woman, who at first opposed Margareth and Jillian's fight to stay together, was completely turned around after following the case. She became a strong supporter and donated \$100.

Another woman sent a \$20 donation with the message to "keep on fighting, don't give up."

The fight is not over yet. Since a local paper printed the Miller's home address, threats against them have taken a more serious tone. Friends and neighbors have organized to insure safety for the Miller household. These threats show the all-too-real fact that the struggle for gay rights is a fight to be able to live a full, free, unthreatened life.

The Margareth and Jillian Defense Committee is still organizing to help pay off the \$6,000 in debts resulting from the case. Any contribution will help the Committee and "make you a part of the victory," Margareth said. Send donations or write to: Margareth and Jillian Defense Committee, 3407 Michigan Union, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, (313) 763-4186.



Margareth Miller and her daughter Jillian. After more than two years in court, victory!

## NYC meeting demands women's right to choose abortion

By SUE DAVIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 19—A banner reading "Abortion is every woman's right" set the theme for tonight's meeting, which marked the sixth anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion. Harriet Cohen of the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse opened the meeting by announcing that as of tonight a spring offensive was being launched for reproductive freedom.

That freedom—one of the primary goals of the women's movement—is being threatened by the so-called right-to-life forces, which were able to see the Hyde Amendment enacted in 1977, which denies Medicaid funding to poor women for abortions.

Cohen urged everyone to mobilize for an international day of action on March 31 under the

slogan: "Contraception and abortion are a woman's right. No forced sterilization."

Among the nine speakers was Ruth Gilbert of the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church, Rhonda Copelon of the Center for Constitutional Rights, and Carl McCall, the head of the New York State Senate Health Committee. McCall charged that those organized against abortion, particularly the right-to-life forces, support "mandatory motherhood for the poor, with freedom of choice for the rich." Ruby Jones, the New York City President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, urged the gathering to "unite, march, demonstrate under the banner of solidarity forever."

### ABORTION FUND SET UP

The establishment of the Rosie Jimenez Fund to help poor women

pay for abortions was announced by Ellen Frankfort. Rosie Jimenez, a Chicana mother and full-time student, died on Oct. 3, 1977, from a badly performed illegal abortion. All the members of Congress who voted for the Hyde Amendment will receive a letter about Rosie Jimenez to remind them that she is a victim of the Hyde Amendment and to expose the hypocrisy of the so-called right-to-life forces.

Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trias of the Committee to End Sterilization Abuse raised the importance of the current occupational health case against American Cyanamid, where women had been forced to become sterilized to keep their jobs. She concluded by stressing that the struggle for reproductive freedom will not be won through the courts, but only by a united movement.

## Bigot of the Month



WW photo: Philip Renard

By CONNIE HARRIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 20—Today over 80 lesbians and gay men picketed at the Home of City Councilman Thomas Cuite in Brooklyn.

Cuite, Majority Leader of the City Council, has played a leading role in engineering the defeat of gay rights legislation for the past seven years. He was chosen by the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights (CLGR) as their first "Bigot of the Month."

New York City's lesbian and gay community was particularly angered by the most recent failure of the City Council to pass gay rights legislation last November. At that time, more than 3,000 lesbians and gay men demonstrated to show their refusal to stop fighting for their rights. At a rally following this demonstration it was proposed that City Council members who voted against the gay rights bill be targets for future demonstrations.

Present at today's demonstration were CLGR, Lesbian Feminist Liberation (LFL), Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), Gay Youth, and Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF), among others.

Chants linking Anita Bryant, John Briggs (author of Proposition 6, an anti-gay, anti-worker amendment defeated in California last November), and Cuite, stressed that the attacks on lesbians and gay men have been nationwide. A YAWF placard reading "Lay off City Council Bigots—Not city workers" was also adopted as a chant. The linking of the struggle of lesbians and gay men with that of working and oppressed people was further emphasized by the chant "Gay, straight, Black, white—Same struggle, same fight."

## —Carter budget

(Continued from p. 1)

masses of working and unemployed people are already living on a "lean and austere" budget. Working people's purchasing power has declined by a full 3.5% since last year because of runaway inflation, increased taxes, and cuts in benefits and even wages. Despite Carter's smug

claims that unemployment has decreased, an estimated 10 million people remain without jobs or hopes of finding one, and the consensus of economists is that a new recession is on the way.

Despite this expected increase in unemployment, Carter's plans call for a 258,000 reduction in CETA jobs, 250,000 more summer jobs

cut, and all this on top of a layoff of 15,000 federal workers under the guise of "civil service reform."

### DEFENSE BUDGET REALLY WAR BUDGET

Although the U.S. ruling class likes to call a certain section of its budget the "defense" budget, in reality the entire federal budget is geared towards maintaining the armed might of U.S. imperialism. If the budget were for defense, why is it so much more massive now when, as Carter noted last night, the U.S. is at peace, than what the Pentagon budget was at the height of the Viet Nam War?

Not included in the "defense" portion of the federal budget is all the money spent on officers' and GIs' pensions, disability, and educational benefits. It also doesn't count the interest payments to the big imperialist banks for loans incurred to pay for past imperialist wars, costs which the people continue to suffer from as a result of the inflation these wars unleashed.

Predictably, Carter's budget proposals are setting into motion a massive movement of opposition. Leaders of Black and other oppressed peoples, women's organizations, unions, anti-war and environmental groups have all voiced their opposition to Carter's war budget.

By turning these voices of opposition into a movement of militant protest, Carter, Congress, and the Pentagon can be stopped.

## —New Imani evidence

(Continued from p. 12)

however, testified that Dobbins was threatened by Harding. Prisoners heard Harding say, "Dobbins, you're a walking dead man; you just don't know it."

Inmate Jesse D. Jett has recently filed a complaint in the Federal District Court of Montgomery stating that he was shot at by a guard on Sept. 27, 1978, and alleging that he was "...transferred to the farm [Atmore] because he witnessed the murder of George Dobbins on January 18, 1974, while in lock-up at Fountain Correctional Center (Atmore Prison Farm), and J.O. Davis, [currently] Warden, and Willie Frank Hall, farm guard, had a part in this murder. At that time, J.O. Davis was Farm Supervisor, and Willie Frank Hall a farm guard."

Marion B. Harding, who was warden at the time and in charge of suppression of the protest, is now Chief of Police in Auburn, Alabama.

### BLACK CONGRESSMAN DEMANDS INVESTIGATION

Assemblymen John Conyers, a Black U.S. Congressman from Detroit, who is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Crime and of the Judiciary Committee, has sent a letter to the Justice

Department forwarding this new information and asking them to reopen an investigation of Imani's case. "This new information," the letter reads, "presents a shocking depiction of the events on Jan. 18, 1974 and in my judgement is substantial cause to warrant further examination by the Justice Department. Conyers also called for action to insure Imani's well being."

The Committee to Defend Imani (Johnny Harris) and Stop the Death Penalty has renewed its call that Harris and the other convicted prisoners be set free since they had no part in the death of guard Luell Barrow.

The Committee further renews its insistence that an investigation, indictments, and vigorous prosecution be undertaken against those officials responsible for the death of three inmate leaders: George "Chagina" Dobbins, murdered at Atmore, Jan. 18, 1974; Tommy "Yukeena" Dotson, beaten to death by guards at Holman Prison, March 12, 1974; and Frank X. Moore, hanged in his cell at Escambia County Jail on April 26, 1975.

Imani's lawyers are examining the new evidence brought forth by Jett and will bring it to the attention of the courts considering the appeal of Harris' death sentence.

# workers world political prisoners

## New evidence questions who shot cops

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 19—Fund-raising and organizing efforts to support Terrence Johnson, a 15-year-old Black youth accused of shooting two racist cops, have intensified the last few weeks before the scheduled Jan. 29 trial date. Tension mounts. Just two weeks before court will begin the defense has uncovered new evidence. Racist forces are mobilizing to get a conviction of this innocent Black youth, and the KKK is threatening to attend the trial.

This past Saturday a successful spaghetti dinner-fund-raising event was held at the Glenarden Recreation Center in the Black community of Glenarden, Md. The organizers of this event had to fight for the right for the dinner to be held. Up until 2 days before the fund-raiser the state of Maryland (through its Park and Planning Commission) tried to stop the dinner charging "improper handling of a permit application" necessary to utilize "community" centers.

Through the determination of members of Prince George's County People to Fight Racism and Police Brutality, which

organized the fund-raiser, and with the assistance and concern of a local minister who works with the Terrence Johnson Legal Defense Fund Committee, as well as "interest" from local media, the State was forced to allow the fund-raiser to occur.

Over 150 people, Black, Latin, and white, attended the dinner in spite of heavy rain and sleet. Several hundred dollars was raised, and many supporters vowed to attend the trial and raise more money in their communities.

### POLICE RACISM AND BRUTALITY

Last June, Terrence and his brother, Melvin, were picked up by Prince George's County cops (Prince George's County is a suburb of Washington, D.C.) for supposedly emptying a laundromat coin box. The two brothers were taken to the police station, hand-cuffed, separated, and "questioned." Their parents were not called until much later even though they are both under 18!

Both arresting cops, Swart and Claggett, were abusive, both verbally and physically. Terrence, who is only 5 feet, 5 inches, and

110 pounds literally feared for his life.

There is much evidence to support Terrence's fear. The racism and police brutality of Prince George's County cops are well known in the Washington area. Just one day previous to Terrence's arrest a cop was dismissed from the Prince George's police for "excessive force" used in the murder of an unarmed Black "suspect" who allegedly stole two hams! Morgan was not indicted, however, for this outrageous crime. In fact, no Prince George's County cop has ever been indicted for the killing of a Black person.

And Officer Claggett, one of the cops Terrence is accused of shooting, was described by 20 witnesses in a brutality suit in 1975 as the cop who beat a Black man, Thomas Peete. Peete later "drowned while trying to escape" when stopped by police two years later!

### NEW EVIDENCE: ANOTHER GUN USED?

The cops' version of the events on June 22, 1978, claims that Terrence went "wild" and began shooting, killing both Claggett and Swart. However, two weeks before

the trial is to begin defense attorneys have forced the state to release FBI reports that raise the question of whether Terrence shot both cops or whether one of the cops was shot by another cop! This week, the presiding judge denied a defense motion to postpone the trial in order to further study this startling new evidence. The state, obviously upset by the potential of this evidence, is attempting to railroad Terrence to jail as quickly as possible.

Threats by the KKK to attend the trial which will be held in Upper Marlboro, Md., have not diminished the growing support for Terrence and, in fact, have convinced even more people of the importance of showing visible support for him in court.

Prince George's County People to Fight Racism and Police Brutality is encouraging all who oppose racism and injustice to write letters in support of Terrence to Judge Levin, County Court-house, Upper Marlboro, Md., and to send contributions to: Terrence Johnson Legal Defense Fund, care-of Prince George's State Bank, George Palmer Highway, Glenarden, Md. For further information, call (202) 783-6531.



Melvin (r) and Terrence Johnson



Imani

### Prisoner witness blasts state's lies

## The guards are the murderers, not Imani!

ATLANTA, Jan. 22—New evidence has emerged in the case of Imani (Johnny Harris), the Black Alabama prisoner who sits on death row as a result of his alleged role in the death of a guard during a prison conditions protest on Jan. 18, 1974, at Atmore Prison Farm (now G.K. Fountain Correctional Center). It was reported in this morning's edition of the Birmingham Post-Herald that white Alabama prisoner Jesse David Jett has come forward as a direct eye-witness to the death of guard Luell Barrow, as well as to the other death which occurred that day: that of prisoner leader George "Chagina" Dobbins. Dobbins, a Black prisoner, was chairman of the Inmates For Action (IFA), the prisoner group which led the protest.

Jett states, according to the report, that Imani was not involved in the killing of Guard Barrow, who had been taken hostage at the beginning of the protest. And he further states that prison officials murdered George "Chagina" Dobbins.

According to the Post-Herald, Jett was imprisoned in the Atmore segregation unit where the rebellion took place. During investigations prior to Imani's murder trial, prison records listed Jett as "escaped." He was found in Ohio and fought extradition to Alabama for four years. Jett states that shortly after his forcible return to the Alabama prison system in September 1978 a guard shot at him and tried to kill him in order to forever silence the only non-participant eye-witness to Dobbins' murder.

Dobbins was shot during the suppression of the 1974 prisoners' protest against beatings and inhumane conditions in Atmore. Although prison officials reported that Dobbins died from the shotgun wound, State Toxicologist Nelson Grubbs, who examined Dobbins, and all autopsy reports agreed that he died from "nine severe stab wounds to the face and head."

### NO GUARDS INDICTED

Until now, no eye-witness had

identified Dobbins' killer. The Attorney General of Alabama, the Escambia County Grand Jury, and the U.S. Justice Department all terminated investigations of Dobbins' death with no indictments. Extensive investigation of the entire incident by Montgomery Advertiser editor and publisher Harold Martin yielded only the conclusion that "Dobbins death is still a mystery." (Alabama Prisons, 1974)

For the death of the guard, however, the Alabama Attorney General's office did prosecute and convict four prisoners: Oscar Johnson (31 years); Lincoln Heard (life); Grover McCorvey (life); and Imani (death sentence). A fifth prisoner, Frank X. Moore, was indicted but was "found hanging" in his cell before he came to trial. There was no direct evidence presented at any of the trials to directly link any of the defendants to Barrow's death; the prisoners were convicted under a broad interpretation of Alabama's aiding and abetting law on the basis of having participated in the protest.

The state relied on testimony by prison officials such as former Warden Marion B. Harding to the effect that these particular defendants were the "ring leaders" of the rebellion.

The Post Herald report at least indirectly puts into serious question the credibility of such witnesses, as their main concern may have been to cover up whatever knowledge they had of the murder of Dobbins.

Harding was the warden at Atmore in 1974. It was he who ordered a shooting attack by guards on the unarmed prisoners in order to suppress the protest. According to Harding's own testimony in the trial of State v. Grover McCorvey (No. 525, Circuit Court of Escambia County, Alabama, Feb. 12, 1975), Harding ordered guards to shoot Dobbins because Dobbins threw "a piece of commode" at him. Harding and other official witnesses offered no further information concerning Dobbins' death.

Several inmate witnesses, (Continued on p. 11)

### United Steelworkers of America announce

## Virginia shipyard strike set

By JOE CELUKA

NORFOLK, Jan. 20—The strike is on for Jan. 31.

United Steelworkers of America (USWA) spokesman Jack Hower announced this week that his union has set the last day of this month for the beginning of the long-awaited strike at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. (NNSD).

The date, said Hower, is "very symbolic" because it will be a year to the day that the USWA won the right to represent the yard's 17,000 production and maintenance workers. Company officials have refused to recognize the union, and although the USWA was formally certified as the winner by the National Labor Relations Board in October, the company has gone into federal court with

complaints of alleged election misconduct by the USWA. This obvious stalling tactic has left the yard's workers, the biggest civilian workforce in Virginia, with no union representation. The workers had been "represented" for the previous 40 years by a no-fight, no-strike, no-win company union called the Peninsula Shipbuilders Association (PSA).

The impending strike will have enormous implications for this area and for the labor movement as a whole. NNSD is owned by the giant Houston-based Tenneco Corporation, a mammoth conglomerate with assets of almost \$9 billion. The USWA, on the other hand, with 800,000 members nationwide, is one of the largest and most powerful of the AFL-CIO unions. Local papers have

called their confrontation "possibly the biggest test of labor since World War II" because it has become a showdown between labor's right to organize and big business' determination to destroy all unions, especially in the South. NNSD is probably the largest single workplace to be organized by any union in the U.S. in decades.

Class lines are clearly drawn in this battle, and the shipyard and state and local governments seem determined to make their predictions of a "long and possibly violent" strike come true. Company officials have installed barbed wire over plant gates and have loaded "crowd control" water cannons on their fire trucks. Virginia governor John Dalton has promised to send State Police to

Newport News, and city officials have stated that they may ask for the Highway Patrol and the National Guard. The city attorney has also drawn up an ordinance allowing the mayor to declare a "state of emergency" and giving the chief of police "the power to make up rules and regulations to control crowds." (Since for all intents and purposes the mammoth yard is Newport News, this would in effect mean setting up a mini-police state in the area.) Meanwhile, the ousted PSA leadership has urged its remaining members to scab on the strike and there have been reports of PSA promises to use baseball bats to break through the picket lines.

As company and government pressure builds against the USWA members, other unions in the area

have begun to come to their aid. According to a report in the Jan. 10 Newport News Daily Press, area Teamsters, Rubber Workers, United Auto Workers, Operating Engineers, and Communications Workers have agreed to back the Steelworkers at the shipyard. Rank-and-file workers are especially anxious to see the Steelworkers win because the presence of such a large and militant local would significantly change the balance of labor-management forces in the area. A defeat, on the other hand, would go a long way in driving Virginia workers back into the 19th century.

As the date for the beginning of the strike approaches, the tensions and the attention of Virginia's working people continue to mount.