



# workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!



# Reagan breaks election vow for serious arms talks

## U.S. arms manufacturers greedy for 'Star Wars' profits

By Andy Stapp

JANUARY 3—"Don't expect too much from the arms talks." That's the word being spread on the eve of the upcoming Geneva meeting by the capitalist news media, based on background briefing by the usual unnamed "high government sources." Failure is predicted before the negotiations even begin.

Of course that's not the way Reagan was talking last fall with all his peace demagoguery and pledges to make weapons negotiations a top priority. Back in October, previous statements by the president relegating the USSR to the "ash-heap of history," were shelved and replaced by assertions that increased U.S. military power now made serious talks possible.

But now when the actual negotiations are about to commence, how can the Geneva meeting make any real progress when the U.S. negotiators have been instructed to tell Moscow that the Pentagon's star wars is virtually non-negotiable. Research and testing will not be stopped, even though deployment of outer space weaponry represents a drastic escalation of the arms race, violates the 1972 treaty banning anti-ballistic missiles, and amounts to a blatant attempt to, in effect, disarm the Soviet Union.

Even the closest imperialist allies in London, Paris and Bonn have been visibly unenthusiastic about the prospect of Reagan playing Buck Rogers with space nukes, and innumerable U.S. scientists have testified that after about thirty years and many hun-

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PHOTO: NOVOSTI

Since the revolution in Afghanistan, over one million people have learned to read and write. See article, page 5.

# Viet Nam ambassador explains role in Kampuchea fighting

By Monica Moorehead

NEW YORK CITY, Jan. 3—The ambassador from the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (SRV) to the United Nations, Mr. Hoang Bich Son, held a press briefing this morning here at the Vietnamese mission. Much of Hoang's remarks focused on the current military situation that exists within its neighboring country, the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK), formerly called Cambodia, and along the Thai-Laotian borders.

For the past several days, the U.S. big-business press has been giving a great deal of attention to these developments, characterizing the role of the Vietnamese troops in the conflict as "aggressive."

In 1978, at the request of the revolutionary forces inside of then Cambodia, Viet Nam intervened and played a decisive role in toppling the reactionary Pol Pot regime. Today, the Vietnamese troops are fighting along side the PRK government forces against remnants of the Pol Pot-led Khmer Rouge forces and also the U.S.-backed reactionary troops in Thailand. The Thai government has strengthened its ties with

U.S. imperialism in the form of more military aid and the completion of joint military exercises between the two countries.

The U.S. used Thailand's eight military bases as a major military launching pad to carry out its infamous bombing missions against Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos during the 1960s and early 1970s.

The ambassador pointed out that during 1984, the PRC, with Thailand and other counter-revolutionary forces, have escalated their attacks against the SRV, the PRK and Laos. Hoang stated, "China has stepped up their armed provocations along the northern border of Viet Nam with military forces equal in strength to the 1979 Chinese invasion of Viet Nam. Chinese ar-

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**Media glorifies NYC gun-toting subway bigot**

—Editorial, p. 6

# Anti-abortion terror campaign escalates

—p. 3

# Workers confront sheriff in Clairton, Pa., siege

By Shelley Ettinger

DECEMBER 31—"When the law goes against the working class of people, then the working class of people go against the law."

With baseball bat in hand, Ron Weisen, president of United Steel Workers Local 1397 and a leading steelworker militant, told it to Allegheny County Sheriff Eugene Coon last week. The sheriff had come to order Weisen and the others out of Trinity Lutheran Church in Clairton, Pa. But the people occupying the church—members of the church council, the congregation's governing body, along with supporters

from the Network to Save the Mon Valley—did not budge.

### Struggle at church

The little neighborhood church has become a national symbol of the struggle of working people against the banks and corporations that use and discard them. In Monongahela Valley near Pittsburgh, whole communities are ravaged by layoffs, steel mills are shut down, and families struggle to survive.

In these hard times, a struggle has emerged against U.S. Steel, the Mellon Bank and other corporations. One aspect of the struggle is the Denomina-

tional Ministry Strategy (DMS), with church members and ministers using pulpits to decry the immorality of the ruling class.

Trinity Lutheran's minister, Douglas Roth, did that, and he's been in jail for it for fifty days now. The entire apparatus of the police and court system is in motion against the church members who refuse to relinquish control of their church. A court order backing Lutheran Bishop May's move to take over the church is in effect.

According to a DMS supporter contacted by Workers World, Sheriff Coon has announced that he intends to forcibly remove everyone from the church on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

### Who's behind the attacks

DMS leader Charles Honeywell explained the resistance to the court's order to relinquish the church. "We will not have corporations in America with their judges taking over our property," he said.

It is the corporations, in fact, that are behind the attack on the Trinity Lutheran congregation. Workers World has learned that the Mellon Bank itself is providing attorneys for Bishop May in his legal moves to take over the church. The bishop is clearly tied in with corporate leaders, according to DMS activists, and the banks and corporations are glad to let him do the dirty work in their anti-union campaign.

"They're out to eliminate the unions altogether," one activist told Workers

World. "But they can't, and we have a right to be in our own church."

Under cover of the church struggle's publicity, the Dravo Corporation recently closed its plant. Local 61, IUMSWA, has been on strike against Dravo for over two years. Darrell Becker, president of Local 61, is a member of Trinity Lutheran's congregation, and is among those defending it against the church-state-corporate takeover.

A DMS supporter told Workers World of bomb and murder threats from corporation goons. She predicted a physical struggle if the sheriff tries to evict them this week.

Meanwhile, she said, Bishop May is quietly going after the other churches where DMS is active. At least three more ministers have been threatened with removal or jail if they refuse to cease espousing workers' rights.

### Ruling class piety, working class struggle

At the Shadyside Presbyterian Church, where the presidents of U.S. Steel, Mellon Bank, and Dravo Corp. are members, none have been seen in recent weeks. Sunday picketing and leafletting by DMS may have something to do with their sudden loss of faith.

But at Trinity Lutheran, militant trade unionists and supporters appear to have plenty of faith in their rights and their struggle. "No one said it was going to be easy," one told Workers World, "but we're not about to give up now."



Area steelworkers, baseball bats in hand, defend Clairton's Lutheran Church from the sheriff and the church hierarchy.

## On The Picketline

**Koch vs. NYC.** First he broke off contract talks with the Municipal Labor Coalition, declaring that mediation has failed and the two sides have reached an impasse. Then New York City Mayor Ed Koch took a racist swipe at not only the 220,000 municipal workers, but the Black community and the whole of the poor and working people of New York: Koch said he would refuse any agreement that establishes Martin Luther King Day as a city holiday. Koch said his position was based on the cost to the city of another day off for employees, but Black leaders and unionists characterized Koch as "hellbent on pandering" to racism and as reaching for every means to stall contract talks. City workers have been without contracts since July, facing a Koch strategy of stonewalling in negotiations with an eye toward submitting the issues to binding arbitration, with the city's takeback demands on the table. The city workers' unions are planning a demonstration in January to oppose Koch and demand a decent contract with no givebacks.

• • •

**Columbia workers struggle.** Clerical and technical workers at Columbia Univer-

sity are preparing to follow the lead of their sisters and brothers at Yale. UAW District 65 announced that it will call a strike in mid-January if no progress toward a contract settlement is made. The office workers at Columbia have been struggling for a contract for almost two years, since they voted for union representation in May of 1983. The university refused to recognize the union then and has continued to refuse ever since. Little wonder—Columbia vice president Robert Early pointed out that the union "would disrupt a very unique relationship among people" at the school, and he was right. District 65 has served notice that it intends to bargain for higher wages and better benefits, and that, as at Yale, it will demand redress for the lower pay of women workers doing work comparable to that done by higher-paid men. Of course, Early overstated things a bit. The pay inequities and unacceptable working conditions at Columbia are not exactly unique. In fact, the same situation has prompted recent organizing successes among clerical workers in the Iowa and California state university systems, the Yale strike, and organizing drives at Harvard and other schools.

—Shelley Ettinger

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### workers world

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WE ARE proud to announce that with your support, Workers World is upgrading its computerized typesetting department. The requirements of the changeover in equipment and procedures has made it necessary to print

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## Join us in the struggle

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

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# Anti-abortion terror campaign escalates

With New Year's bombing of Washington, D.C., clinic

By Sharon Shelton

**JANUARY 2**—The terror campaign being waged against women's abortion right is escalating.

In the early morning hours of New Year's Day, just a few weeks after the Reagan administration brazenly gave the green light to anti-abortion terrorists, a bomb ripped through a women's clinic in a heavily populated Black neighborhood in the southeast section of Washington, D.C.

The bomb, which had been placed on a windowsill, caused heavy damage to the Hillcrest Women's Surgi-Center. The blast was so powerful that it shattered more than 230 windows in two nearby apartment buildings. Shards of glass shot through dozens of apartments, but fortunately no one was hurt.

Residents expressed alarm and outrage over the act, angrily pointing out that there is a bus stop immediately in front of the clinic and that someone easily could have been killed.

Washington's mayor, Marion Barry, visited the site and branded the bombing an act of terrorism comparable to

the "Nazis in Germany and the Ku Klux Klan."

**Reagan backs anti-abortion bombers**

President Reagan, of course, did not bother to visit the site, nor did he utter a word of condemnation of the bombers. It is his administration, in fact, which encouraged and abetted the ultra right with the announcement in late November that abortion bombers "aren't terrorists," and that investigating the record 27 blasts and arsons against abortion clinics in 1984 is a "low priority."

And just to make sure that this bigoted message hasn't gotten lost, an FBI spokesman told the New York Times (Jan. 2), right after the New Year's explosion, "Our policy remains the same."

Reagan himself made a point of meeting with opponents of abortion last January, including the notorious Joseph Scheidler, director of Chicago's "Pro-life Action League," who is currently writing a book entitled, "99 Ways to Close the Abortion Clinics."

The New Year's blast was the seventh bombing or attempted bombing of an abortion facility in the Washington area since last February. Targets have included the Prince Georges Reproductive Health Center in College Park, Md., (Feb. 28), the National Abortion Federation's D.C. headquarters (July 7), the Planned Parenthood office in Rockville, Md., (Nov. 19), the Metropolitan Medical and Women's Clinic in Wheaton, Md. (Nov. 19), and the Metropolitan Family Life Planning Clinic (Dec. 24).

Other bombings and arsons have taken place in Florida, Texas and California, Washington State, Oregon, Georgia, Delaware and Virginia.

**Harassment of patients, workers**

Not only are clinics being bombed at a staggering rate, but women seeking

abortion as well as workers at the clinic have been subjected to intense harassment. Patients have been accosted outside health facilities by "sidewalk counselors" who display pictures of dead fetuses, and lie that having an abortion can cause sterility, future infant mortality and even stuttering. Staff members of clinics have had their tires slashed and their homes vandalized, and have been threatened with death.

The so-called right to lifers and the Reaganites and big-business reactionaries behind them aren't at all concerned about the rights of living children. The same ultra rightists who oppose abortion rights also oppose daycare, free school lunches, busing and welfare, in addition to opposing gay rights and affirmative action.

All women must have the right to choose for themselves whether or not they want to have children. Implicit in this is the right to bring up children with enough food to eat, with adequate clothing, shelter, daycare, with medical benefits and without the worry of not being able to afford the necessities of life.

Many women, especially the poorest and most oppressed, have been forced to have abortions out of economic necessity; others have been victimized by forced sterilization programs which amount to genocide.

Having failed to convince the masses of American people that hard-won abortion rights should be ended, the ultra right has resorted to a terror campaign to try to make abortions impossible to obtain.

## Mass. community fights to halt nerve gas production

By Phebe Eckfeldt

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Dec. 31**—The people of this city of 90,000 across the river from Boston are battling the Pentagon in what could be a life-or-death situation.

Arthur D. Little (ADL), a large chemical firm with operations in 14 countries, has been testing nerve gas and mustard gas, highly toxic chemical warfare agents, in Cambridge for over a year now for the U.S. Department of Defense. The Cambridge City Council and community have rallied together to stop this lethal testing.

Community outrage was immediate in October of 1983 when it became known that ADL was testing the gases in a \$1 million high security laboratory. A series of public hearings were held and the city of Cambridge appointed a scientific advisory committee to look into ADL's activities. Members of this committee set up the North Cambridge Toxic Alert, made up of a group of angry residents who lived near the plant.

Ensnung public pressure, including a number of demonstrations, resulted in the city's health commissioner ordering the company to stop testing, storage, transportation and disposal of toxic material. ADL took the city to court, and the judge issued a temporary restraining order banning the city from enforcing its stop-work order.

ADL arrogantly claimed that the city's ban violated the "supremacy clause" in the U.S. Constitution. The

supremacy clause is used by companies to get around local law when they are doing work that is supposedly "in the national interest."

**Judge denies supremacy clause**

But on Dec. 14, a superior court judge ruled that the supremacy law was not violated. He pointed out that Department of Defense contracts under which ADL is working state that ADL "shall conform to all federal, state and local laws and ordinances which apply to operations with toxic materials at the location of its facility." ADL continues to do its testing, but the community and city plan further court action and a public meeting in February.

Ed Cyr, a founder of North Cambridge Toxic Alert, told this reporter that, "The quantities of super-toxic chemicals used by ADL could be up to 100,000 times the quantities allowed in university labs. This is enough to kill 300,000 people." Many seniors in the community are upset because they remember the horrifying effects of mustard gas from World War I, Cyr added.

Adding fuel to the broad opposition to ADL is the knowledge that it has operations in the racist apartheid state of South Africa. In fact, the senior vice president of Arthur D. Little oversees the implementation of the Sullivan Principles in the U.S. The Sullivan Principles, which supposedly counter apartheid, in reality are used by companies who invest in apartheid in order to deflect criticism and head off divestment legislation.

## Cleveland group protests South African fascism

Special to Workers World

**CLEVELAND, Dec. 15**—The wave of protests against apartheid reached Cleveland this week with two demonstrations in front of the South African consulate. Today, over 100 people, led by the All-Peoples Congress and the People's Anti-War Mobilization, picketed to "Say no to Apartheid!" They carried signs against U.S. big business exploitation of Black African workers, and showed support for the freedom struggle led by the African National Congress.

A broader South African Coalition is in the making, concentrating on a campaign against the local consulate, and for divestiture. Meanwhile, APC and PAM announced an important community rally set for Thursday, Jan.

17, to commemorate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to show solidarity with the freedom struggle in South Africa, featuring a guest speaker from the African National Congress. For more information, contact APC/PAM at (216)861-6154.

A book written after the 1976 uprising in which people from South Africa and Namibia talk about their lives, struggles and dreams of freedom for the oppressed in their homelands.



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## ANC commemoration in Brooklyn

**THE 73rd anniversary** of the founding of the African National Congress will be commemorated at a meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 8, at New York Technical College in Brooklyn, N.Y. Victor Gbeho, the chairman of the Special Committee on Apartheid at the UN, is slated as the main speaker on the South African freedom struggle. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the Klitgord Auditorium at 300 Jay Street. For further information call the ANC at (212) 490-3487.



WW PHOTO

## Citibank hit on apartheid

By B. Piette

**BUFFALO, Dec. 22**—Freezing rain and bitter winds could not stop determined protesters from picketing against U.S. companies investing in South Africa outside the local offices of Citibank. Today's demonstration targeted Citibank as one of many U.S. banks and firms that profit off of the racism of the murderous apartheid regime. Linking their protest with the growing international movement in solidarity with South Africa's Black liberation struggle, organizers from the All-Peoples Congress called for regular continued demonstrations against all of the area businesses that invest in South Africa and announced plans for a local divestiture campaign to pressure the Buffalo City Council to withdraw city funds from any of these firms that continue to do business in South Africa. Vera Spruill, an APC organizer, noted that many of the plants that closed here, leaving thousands unemployed in the Buffalo area, have reinvested in South Africa where sub-minimum wages and laws prohibiting unionizing for that nation's majority Black population are maintained by government policy.

# Mass protests grow in south Korea

## Pentagon, Wall Street concerned over weakened puppet

By Bill Doares

JANUARY 2—The U.S.-backed military dictatorship in south Korea is being shaken by a wave of militant strikes and protests by workers and students. These events have been, virtually ignored in the U.S. big-business media. It is unlikely, however, that they are being ignored in Wall Street boardrooms or in the war room of the Pentagon.

There are more than 40,000 U.S. troops stationed in south Korea along with two tactical air wings and over 1,000 nuclear weapons. This is the largest U.S. military presence on the Asian mainland. The entire 800,000-member south Korean army is directly under U.S. command.

South Korea is also a gold mine for U.S. corporations, which have billions invested there. In addition, the south Korean regime is more than \$43 billion in debt to U.S. and Japanese banks. It pays \$7 billion a year in interest alone.

The capitalist media likes to call south Korea the "economic miracle of Asia." But this "miracle" is founded on misery and super-exploitation.

According to the Nov. 5 issue of the Asian Wall Street Journal, published in Hong Kong, "... many workers live close to subsistence. The country's lowest-paid workers commonly share one-room apartments with two, three or more people. In a house near an industrial area there are 18 such apartments. The residents share an out-house near the gate."

A recent labor ministry report revealed that 59% of south Korean workers earn less than \$124 a month and that "many large enterprises pay less than \$61 a month." (Peoples Korea, published by Koreans living in Japan, Dec. 5.)

### Taxi-drivers strike

On Nov. 30, a 36-year-old taxi driver named Pak Jong Man burned himself alive outside the Mingyong Traffic Company in Seoul after he and other workers were fired for union activity. On Dec. 7 students at universities throughout the city held demonstrations in support of the taxi drivers. They were attacked by police and fought back with bricks and molotov cocktails.

Two weeks earlier, on Nov. 14, a pitched battle erupted in Seoul's garment center as police attacked workers and students commemorating the martyrdom of Chon Tae Il, a garment worker who burned himself to death in 1970

to protest the banning of the Chongye Chun clothing workers union. Chongye Chun resumed its organizing efforts this April in defiance of a government ban on industrial unions.

Street battles with police have become an almost daily event in south Korean cities as students defy the police and take to the street to demand an end to the military dictatorship, the U.S. military occupation, and the ban on communications with socialist north Korea.

Last Oct. 4, some 6,400 riot police occupied the campus of Seoul National University to stop a boycott of midterm exams. Hundreds of students were beaten and arrested. On Nov. 5, students from 42 schools met at Yonsei University to form a Student Alliance Against Dictatorship. On Nov. 14, 264 students were arrested after occupying the headquarters of Chon Do Hwan's "Democratic Justice Party." A week later, thousands of students marched back and virtually destroyed the building.

### Worker-student solidarity

The growing ties between students and workers particularly menace the regime. S.J. Rundt and Associates, a Hong Kong-based economic research center, recently warned investors in a risk report on south Korea: "There have been more frequent and more noisy student demonstrations since April... the danger to stability is if students begin to reflect more accurately the complaints of a broad cross-section of the public. In particular the combination of workers and students is a potentially dangerous one."

The regime is also fearful of students learning more about life in the northern half of their country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), where socialism provides the people with full employment, economic security, and a steadily rising standard of living.

On Oct. 31, a south Korean newspaper reported the arrest of Han Duk Hui, a 28-year-old economics student, for singing the "Song of General Kim Il Sung" to fellow students. The song, illegal in south Korea, tells of the guerrilla struggle against the Japanese occupation of Korea, led by Kim Il Sung, founder and president of the DPRK.

The last few months have witnessed a number of serious provocations by U.S. military forces against the DPRK. On Nov. 29, three unarmed north Ko-



Students in Seoul, south Korea, battled riot police to demand revision of the military regime's anti-worker labor laws.

rean border guards were gunned down by U.S. snipers as they tried to prevent a foreign tourist from wandering across the military demarcation line. (See Workers World, Dec. 9)

In December, U.S. SR-71 spy planes twice violated DPRK airspace. And on Dec. 5, a U.S. naval task force including the aircraft carrier Midway put into the south Korean port of Pusan after naval maneuvers of an unprecedented size off the coasts of the DPRK

and the Soviet Union.

This massive U.S. military presence poses the constant danger of a new war on the Korean peninsula. It is also the main obstacle faced by the south Korean people in their desire to overthrow the Chon Do Hwan dictatorship and achieve the peaceful reunification of their country.

(The author of this article is co-chairperson of the U.S. Out of Korea Committee.)

## —Medicare cuts

Continued from page 8

increasingly difficult to obtain. This group is already affected by many of the other budget cuts in federal housing, senior citizen programs and the more stringent rules for disability payments.

As reported in the Dec. 28 New York Times, a spokesperson from the Federation of American Hospitals warned that "severe reductions in payments may result in the unavailability of services or rationing of care to the elderly."

The aim of the administration, according to the Times article, is to "trim 3 billion from the \$68 billion program."

### Seniors' spokespeople protest

Cyril F. Rickfield, executive director of the American Association of Retired Persons, warned that "all Americans, old and young, will see their medical

bills rise" if Reagan's proposed changes go through.

John J. Coury, Jr., chairman of the American Medical Association's board of trustees, said that the "administration was demonstrating a complete disregard for the elderly."

These cuts and increases in payments will also affect the teaching hospitals. Currently a hospital gets a higher rate of reimbursement if it has a large number of trainees, interns and residents. The proposal could cut as much as 50% of the payments to the hospitals—which would mean fewer teaching hospitals, fewer doctors, a reduction in medical care for everyone, and a rise in medical care costs.

Under the Reagan proposals, the poor, the elderly, the disabled are being forced to bear the brunt of rising costs and reduced services in medical care.

## LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

**URUGUAY.** A committee of mothers and relatives of political prisoners held in "La Libertad," a military jail outside Montevideo, the nation's capital, have denounced the mistreatment of prisoners and demanded an unrestricted and immediate amnesty for all political prisoners. There are 450 individuals held in military jails throughout the country, among them Raul Sendic, the leader of the National Liberation Movement known as the Tupamaros. Many of these prisoners have been held in total isolation for the last 10 years.

President-elect Julio Sanguinetti has expressed willingness to release the prisoners as part of his "program of national reconciliation."

**PUERTO RICO.** The tragedy of Bhopal, India, hangs like a Damocles sword over Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. There Neftali Garcia, an environmen-

tal chemist, protested that at least 1,000 town residents and dozens of industrial workers are still recovering from the effects of mysterious and unidentified gas leaks which have occurred in recent weeks.

In early December, El Diario/La Prensa, a New York Spanish daily, carried news of gas intoxication suffered by between 50 and 100 workers since August. These incidents, unreported in the English media, have occurred at the Angus Manufacturing Corp. and CEA Electronics, both plants located in the industrial area around Mayaguez.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.** With media fanfare and much publicity, U.S. Ambassador Robert Anderson gave representatives of the Dominican government a \$50 million donation. According to Ambassador Anderson, the money, ostensibly given to aid the coun-

try's balance of payments, came as a result of the Dominican President's hat-in-hand visit to Washington last April.

Outside of producing headlines, the much publicized U.S. donation has done little to help the deepening economic crisis in which the country is currently submerged. Just last week Dominican dailies carried headlines announcing widespread shortages of sugar, rice and cooking oil.

**ARGENTINA.** According to a Dec. 21 AP dispatch from Argentina 40.5% of the nation's children are suffering from malnutrition. The figures, based on a study released by UNICEF provide a grim picture of what is termed "growing impoverishment" of the Argentinian people. The study goes on to point out that in a country that is one of the largest world producers and exporters of grains, meats and milk, hun-

ger is widespread, especially in the country's interior.

**CHILE.** Since the imposition by the Pinochet regime of a state of siege in early November, more than 15,000 people have been arrested. The Chilean Human Rights Commission, whose regional leaders in Iquique and Arica have been sent into internal exile, denounced this widespread human rights violations, demanding in its letter addressed to the Minister of the Interior the "end of the state of siege."

Meanwhile, Father Denis O'Mare, a North American Catholic priest, was expelled by the regime after five days detention for protesting against the torture of political prisoners. Upon his arrival at Miami Airport Father O'Mare was received by a jeering picket line organized by the right-wing Miami's Hispanic community.

—Estela Vilchez

# Reagan media blitz hides truth about Afghanistan

By Deirdre Griswold

JANUARY 2—It's said that a famous demagogue once wrote in the margin of a speech he was to deliver: "Argument weak—shout like hell."

Today liars don't have to shout. They can get the media to so bombard the public with their propaganda that any opposing viewpoint is nearly smothered.

In recent weeks a U.S. media blitz has been aimed at Afghanistan. The revolutionary government there and its ally, the Soviet Union, are accused daily of mayhem, rape and pitiless extermination of the Afghan people. So coordinated are the big business media in pushing this story that few in this country dare to question its truth.

But the media of U.S. imperialism are "shouting like hell" because their argument is totally false. The truth is that the Afghan Revolution is growing stronger, the forces of counter-revolution are weak, corrupt and divided, and the Reagan administration faces the disintegration of its covert war there unless it pours more hundreds of billions of dollars into the effort.

But even that's a problem.

Frank talk about the greed of the Afghan contras (the so-called "freedom fighters") seldom makes it into prime time news. To get that story you have to read the Wall Street Journal, which leaks some of the facts since the rich need to know how things are really going for them. On Dec. 27 this financiers' paper devoted a long article to how leaders of the CIA-directed "rebels" are getting rich quick by selling the weapons supplied them by the U.S.

## CIA comfortable with corrupt car dealer

It tells of groups like the National Islamic Front for the Liberation of Afghanistan, led by Pir Syed Ahmad al-Gailani, which "is considered by Pakistani intelligence to be one of the most corrupt rebel groups." Gailani, says the Journal, used to be a Peugeot car dealer in Kabul and is considered a political "moderate", that is, someone CIA agents feel comfortable with. He speaks their language, evidently—the language of money. But, alas for them, Gailani seems to have learned Western ways only too well.

"The Western-educated class is more corrupt because many of them think what they are doing is in vain so they might as well earn some money to secure their futures," says one of the Journal's sources. The reporter adds that many of the "rebel" leaders have "plush exile homes in the U.S. or Britain."

Since 1979, the U.S. government has allocated \$625 million for "covert" military aid to the Afghan contras. One right-wing U.S. lobbying group called the Federation for American Afghan Action (FAAA) estimates that as much as 70% of this is diverted into personal "aid" by the contra leaders and by Pakistani officials, who act as a conduit for the money.

The FAAA make this charge not because they're against corruption, but undoubtedly because they think the Pentagon and CIA should bypass the Afghan reactionaries and intervene openly. However, other evidence confirms that this sale of U.S. arms on the black market is widespread.

This is a familiar scene. While these counter-revolutionary riffraff are presented here as great "patriots" who want to rescue their land from "foreign intervention," they are in reality the scum of Afghan society who sell themselves to the highest bidder. Least of all do they care about the people of Afghanistan—that is, the millions of peasants and workers who are break-



PHOTO: NOVOSTI

Mass demonstration of 100,000 in Kabul in 1982 backs National Conference of the Democratic Peoples Party of Afghanistan.

ing the hateful bounds of feudal oppression and building a new society.

## Afghanistan makes progress

With the help of the socialist countries, Afghanistan is gradually transforming itself from one of the poorest, most backward countries in the world. Even while fighting a war against the U.S.-sponsored brigands, the people are making solid progress.

Here's some news from Afghanistan you won't see in the corporate media:

- Eleven million peasants have been liberated from having to make payments on interest, loans and mortgages to feudal lords.
  - Some 680,000 hectares of land have been distributed free to 308,000 peasant families.
  - One and a half million people have graduated from literacy courses.
  - Workers' wages have doubled since the revolution.
  - 200,000 workers are now in trade unions.
  - More than 2.5 million head of livestock have been immunized.
  - Peasants and agricultural cooperatives doubled their grain sales to the government last year.
  - The number of mechanized agricultural stations has tripled.
- All this is despite costly losses from the war, which has destroyed 1,840 schools, 130 hospitals and clinics, 800 trucks and many economic projects.
- Nearly all development aid to Afghanistan comes from the socialist countries. Much of it is entirely free. All of it will help the Afghans become more self-reliant. Some developments in recent months:
- Seeds from the Soviet Union—5,000 tons of improved wheat, 1,000 tons of cotton seeds, and 30 tons of sugar beet seeds, which will greatly improve the yield of these crops.
  - A pharmaceutical plant provided by Bulgaria to produce medicines from indigenous herbs and roots.
  - Technical assistance from Bulgaria to restore a war-damaged brick-making kiln in Bagrami district.
  - Help from Vietnam to upgrade Afghanistan's civil aviation, which is

very important in a country with few roads and no railroads.

- 50,000 tons of sugar free from the USSR.
- A poultry-breeding station from Bulgaria.
- An agro-chemistry lab from the USSR.

Some 150,000 Kabul residents on Dec. 22 pitched in for a day of voluntary work cleaning schools, hospitals and mosques and repairing roads in preparation for the 20th anniversary of the founding of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan on Jan. 1

(see editorial on page 8). Western journalists love to sneer at this kind of socialist cooperation and imply that each volunteer had a gun at his or her back.

But any thoughtful person should be able to see that the Afghan Revolution, while struggling against formidable adversaries, has genuinely unleashed the energies of the oppressed masses who now have a stake in the future of their country. Which is why the hundreds of billions Washington spends on counter-revolution will surely be in vain.

## Irish freedom fighters' trials end in Belfast

By Ken Oxtoby

DECEMBER 31—In recent weeks, there have been two major trials of Irish freedom fighters in Belfast Crown Court that show the illegal character of the continued British occupation of the north of Ireland.

On Dec. 18, 35 freedom fighters, 34 men and one woman, were acquitted of over 180 charges, including murder, attempted murder, possession of arms, and of belonging to the Irish Republican Army (IRA), and the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA).

What made their acquittal so unusual was that they were being tried under the so-called 'Diplock' court system, so named for Lord Diplock. Under this system, trials are held before Crown judges without juries and without the usual rules of corroborative evidence in effect.

Most cases brought before these courts rely almost exclusively on the testimony of paid informers and police agents as the sole witness against the person accused. The single witness for the Crown in this case, Raymond Gilmour, was such a paid police agent.

In an unlikely move for a Crown judge, though, Lord Judge Lowry acquitted all the defendants. He also described Gilmour's testimony as being "entirely unworthy of belief." What he left out, of course, was that many Irish

people, struggling to unite their country, are convicted in these Courts every day on equally flimsy evidence.

## McGlinchey sentenced to life

Such is the case of Dominic McGlinchey, chief of staff of the INLA, who was sentenced to life in prison before Lord Justice Hutten. What makes McGlinchey's case so significant is that he is the first freedom fighter to be captured in the Republic of Ireland, which is recognized as a separate country, and extradited to British-occupied Ulster.

After his capture on March 17 last year, McGlinchey claimed before an Irish court that he was a member of a political organization fighting a political struggle against a foreign power. For the first time, the Dublin court ignored this declaration and almost immediately sent him to the British.

Even United States courts have consistently refused to extradite Irish freedom fighters, although the Reagan administration would like to change its treaties with Britain and other countries to be able to send back whichever political prisoners it likes.

While McGlinchey's sentencing is a setback in the battle for Irish freedom, the acquittal of the 35 is a victory, and the struggle of the Irish people for their liberation and unification will continue to grow until they have won.

# EDITORIAL

## Media glorifies gun-toting bigot

THE NEWS MEDIA is calling him "a hardworking and successful businessman" who "cares about the problems of the world almost too much." The TV and national press continues to blare away that "The Death Wish shooter" is "not a criminal type," and could, in fact, be viewed as "a hero."

Why are the big-business media organs lionizing Bernhard Goetz, who's shooting spree cut down four Black youths on a New York Subway last week, leaving one paralyzed from the waist down? Especially when the Jan. 1 New York Daily News admitted that "He had been removed from his building's tenants' committee for making 'bigoted' and 'racist' remarks," according to neighbors? Why is the mayor of the country's largest city always bit on "law-and-order," suddenly so sympathetic to a would-be mass killer?

The question really answers itself, but nonetheless just reverse the situation and imagine what the press, the police and the politicians would say if a Black man had shot four white youths for "bothering him." Would we then hear the newspapers and TV talk about how a "hero" stood up and walked tall as an example to other citizens? Has any Black or Latin or other oppressed person ever been glorified by the ruling powers for fighting back? Are workers ever lionized in the big-business media for fighting scabs and cops to save their jobs? The Goetz case reveals a lot more than the bloodlust of one individual bigot.

It also speaks volumes about the bone-deep racism of the capitalist media and bias against all workers and oppressed people.

## Moving forward in Afghanistan

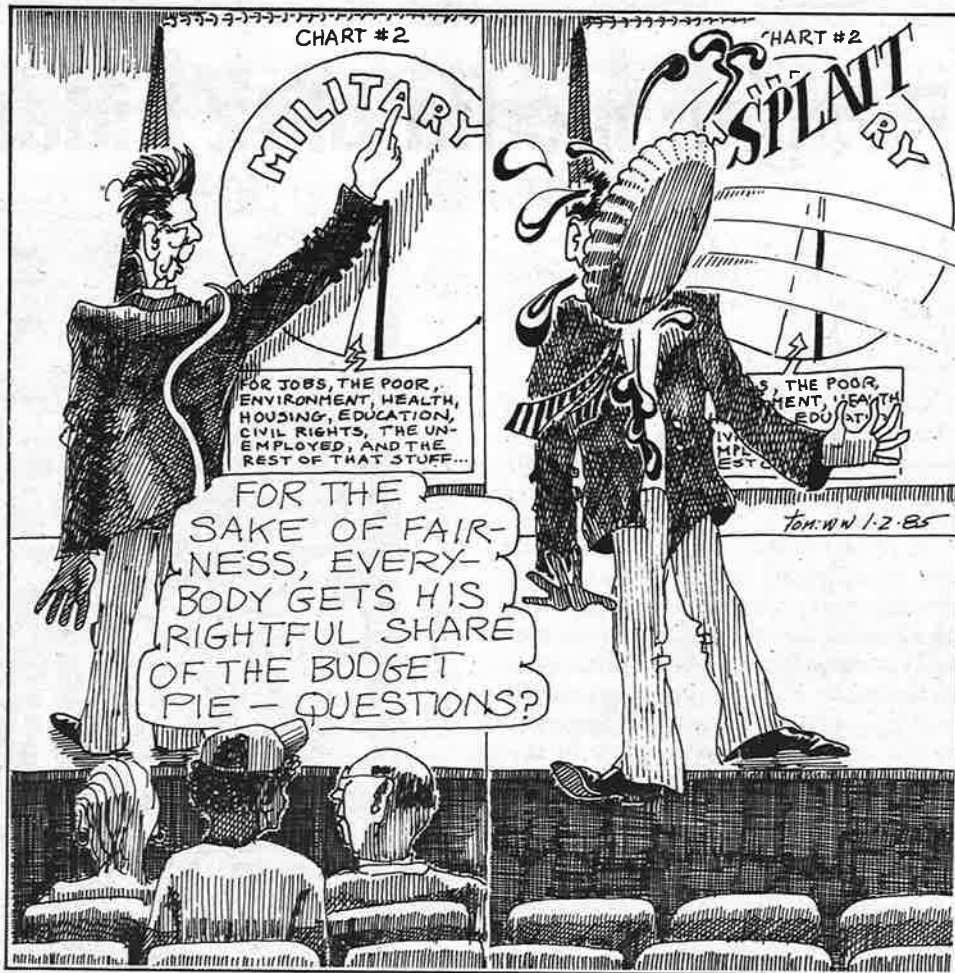
THE AFGHAN PEOPLE celebrated the twentieth anniversary of their party—the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan—this Jan. 1. Congratulations are certainly in order, for they have shown once again that even the poorest and most oppressed countries can break out of the clutches of world imperialism when they are organized and dare to seize the time.

Like every genuine revolution of this century, the struggle of the Afghan people to overturn the old class relationships has brought down the wrath of finance capital. The U.S. and West Germany, in particular, have funded a counter-revolutionary war that could have proven too powerful had it not been for Soviet assistance to the revolu-

tion. While openly admitting their own role in the CIA-financed and directed operation against Afghanistan, the U.S. government nevertheless has used the Soviet presence there as an excuse for the Pentagon's nuclear expansion around the world and its Star Wars plans for a whole new generation of doomsday weapons.

In like fashion it supports South Africa's war against Angola, blaming it all on "Cuban troops."

But the progress of the Afghan Revolution shows what the "Red Threat" to capitalism is really all about: it's about the people rising up and ending the brutal economic system that for the sake of profits has brought so much misery to the human race.



## —Viet Nam ambassador explains

Continued from page 1

tillery has bombarded six border provinces of Viet Nam and have infiltrated our country with scouts and espionage agents based in Thailand to carry out armed rebellions in southern Viet Nam."

As a result, Viet Nam recently brought to trial 119 espionage agents who were equipped by China. Hoang also spoke on earlier developments when Thai troops occupied three villages in Laos and the Chinese increased their forces along the Laotian border. The Thai forces have directly intervened in the PRK with the artillery of their navy and air force.

Ambassador Hoang emphasized that the SRV, the PRK and Laos have been confronted with many devastating natural catastrophes as well, like storms and floods, that have retarded their local industrial production output during 1984. For example, in the SRV alone, one million tons of food was lost.

Despite this setback, the output in the agricultural production of rice increased 300,000 tons. In fact the SRV has become so self-sufficient in the production of food that they do not have to import any food stuff. Hoang stated proudly that all three countries have made excellent gains in their economic development and security despite these natural disasters and the military conflict.

### Military forces withdrawn

The revolutionary forces have made such military advances that the Vietnamese have withdrawn a portion of their troops for a third successive occasion, and now the Kampuchean forces are on the first line of fighting during both the dry and rainy seasons. The ambassador feels that if this favorable situation continues it will be possible for Viet Nam to continue to gradually withdraw its troops in greater numbers, and within a period of four to five years almost all Vietnamese troops could be withdrawn.

When asked by bourgeois reporters about the so-called violation of human

rights of Kampuchean refugees by the PRK and the SRV, the ambassador eloquently turned the situation around. He stated that during the Pol Pot regime, 300,000 Kampuchean refugees fled to Viet Nam. After the fall of Pol Pot, the majority of the refugees returned home and approximately 30,000 remain inside of Viet Nam. He added that along the Thai border the reactionary forces have established concentration camps for the flow of refugees that also serve as military bases for the counter-revolutionaries.

Hoang commented on the diplomatic relations between his country and the U.S. "It is safe to say that the current status between the U.S. and Viet Nam is not worse that it was a year earlier but it certainly has not gotten better. We have had numerous contacts and meetings with the U.S. government on the MIA's, the release of inmates in the reeducation centers, etc., but bilateral ties have not yet been discussed."

On the other hand, the ambassador made clear the international proletarian solidarity between his country and the Soviet Union. "Viet Nam and the Soviet Union are brotherly socialist countries. The Soviet Union has helped Viet Nam on various economic projects and therefore the number of Soviet technicians have increased. Our economic development has grown thanks to this cooperation."

He also pointed out that they have received technological aid from a number of Western countries, especially Sweden.

Mr. Hoang concluded the press conference by recognizing the upcoming tenth anniversary of the liberation of the SRV against U.S. imperialism: "During the past ten years, we have not always enjoyed peace but I do believe that the current situation will lay the basis for a peaceful solution in Kampuchea. In a nutshell, the three countries in Indochina have overcome difficult situations in a vigorous and determined fashion more so than in recent years, and we look forward to 1985 with great optimism."

## —Arms manufacturers greedy

Continued from page 1

dreds of billions of dollars have been spent, the "High Frontiers" combat systems will turn out to be both worthless and dangerous.

### Military contractors gain

What the scientists rarely say is that the cosmic weapons are not "worthless" at all from the point of view of the prime military contractors, those electronic, computer and aerospace firms that already see \$25 billion coming down the pipeline with a lot more to follow.

The health of these companies is based on war and preparation for war, on building B-1 bombers, Trident II submarines, MX and cruise missiles. Behind the munitions makers and sitting on their very boards are the big bankers, the money moguls who loan the U.S. government the funds to buy the weapons which in turn fatten the bank profits for the next round of loan, spend and profit.

That's the engine driving the arms

machine, and that is why Carter's old national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski could confidently predict today, "It is best to be blunt about it: the forthcoming Shultz-Gromyko talks will not be a return to detente." Brzezinski can say this without much fear of being proved wrong, because as a member of the defense establishment's inner sanctum, he knows that the talks have been reduced by Washington to a mere exchange of words before the respective negotiators even meet.



## Generals Over The White House

Analyzes the role of the military-industrial complex in the U.S. Why has the military grown ever larger during each administration from Roosevelt to Reagan? Why are social services being axed to feed the Pentagon?

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# Mistrial in case of rape victim who fought back

By Kris Hamel

DETROIT, Dec. 29—A mistrial was declared yesterday in the case of Karen Norman, a 20-year-old Wayne State University student accused of first degree murder for stabbing and killing the man who brutally raped her on May 6, 1984. The jury, ten women and four men, was unable to reach a verdict after six days of intense and forced deliberations.

Despite the racist and sexist nature of the courts and the media bias which portrayed Karen Norman, who is Black and the mother of two children, as a ruthless murderer, the jury was unable to find her guilty. Norman's lawyer, renowned woman's rights attorney Marjorie Cohen, stated, "The jury's deadlock in no way indicates she's guilty. In fact, it shows she's innocent. All it indicates is that this was not a fair trial."

Judge Beverley Jasper had made "many serious legal errors" during the trial, said Cohen. She would not allow testimony by Althea Grant, Director of the Detroit Rape Counseling Center, which Cohen called "crucial" to understanding a rape victim's behavior during and after an attack.

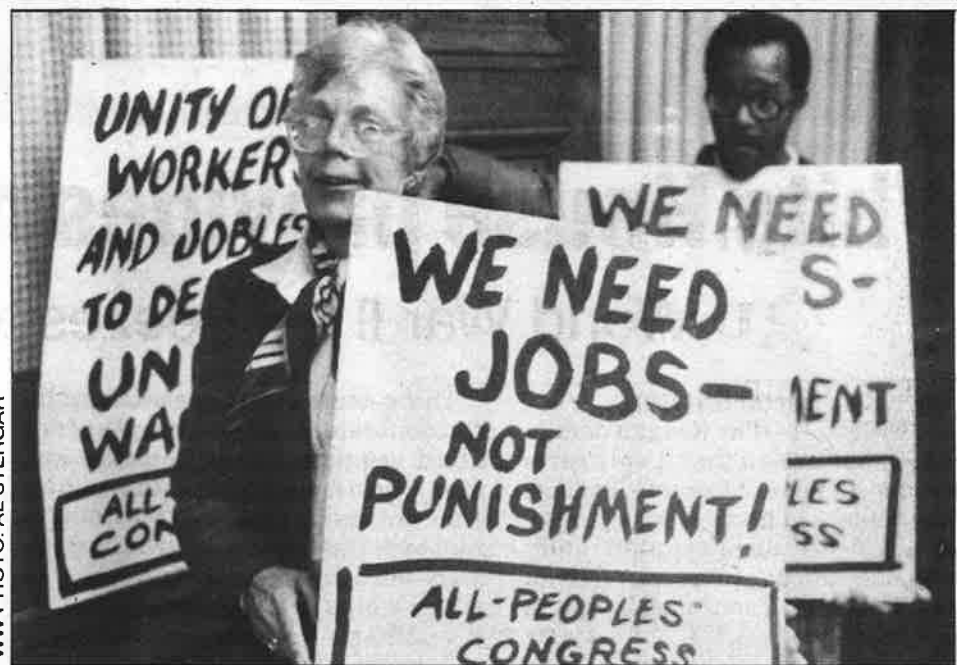
According to Cohen, Judge Jasper also tried to coerce the jury into a guilty verdict by having them deliberate in a deadlock for six days, in-

cluding nights and weekend sessions, and then unconstitutionally ordered the jury not to talk about the case after the mistrial was declared.

The Norman trial gained local and national attention as a rallying point for the right of women to defend themselves against rape. At a December 5 support rally, organized by the Karen Norman Defense Committee, broad support was shown by such prominent individuals and organizations as Executive Director of the Detroit NAACP Winston Laing, Mosey Lee Stroble of YIC Mission, the National Organization of Women, senior activist Nellie Cuellar, and members of the Detroit City Council. Supporters packed the courtroom throughout the two week trial.

Karen Norman, already the victim of a heinous sexual crime and the system that says that women cannot fight back, will be put on trial again in February. She will again face the prospect of life imprisonment without parole. At a time when the rights and gains of women and oppressed people generally are under attack like never before, the case of Karen Norman will continue to be a focal point for women and all progressive people in the struggle for equality and basic rights.

WW PHOTO: AL STERGAR



It costs \$40,000 a year to punish. It would be far less to provide a decent job.

## Instead of training workers they build prisons

By Hachett

NEW YORK CITY, Jan. 2—Overall cost to imprison an individual in City jails has reached \$40,000, as disclosed in a recent study by the Correctional Association of New York. Since most inmates are incarcerated because of crimes of survival, an income of even a third this amount would eliminate the disparity—which forces hungry and impoverished people to commit so-called criminal acts to alleviate to some degree the pains of being poor.

Forty thousand dollars is a lot of money for the average poor and working person; it is three times the amount of income earned by the average worker. With such an income, one could pay the rent without threat of eviction, maintain utilities, keep the household in groceries, afford transportation cost and even consider some health care.

Yet it is also obvious that this amount of money per individual inmate does not go toward improving their plight, locked up, particularly in city jails where overcrowding is torment. Nothing is adequate for human survival or consumption; the food is terrible and the unsanitary conditions reinforce the misery that no human being should be forced to endure.

To try to justify this misery, Reagan has erroneously asserted that "deprivation and want don't necessarily increase crime." He blamed the incarcerated for bringing the punishment on themselves, saying

that, "Crime is the way they've chosen to live."

As if to make sure that more people choose the life of crime, the Reagan administration has gone to all extremes to close all other avenues for the poor. They've eliminated vital jobs programs like CETA, cut down on social services like state assistance, and discouraged even discussions of a serious jobs training program for youth.

And this policy continues even after a study by the Congressional Joint Economic Committee reported that each 1% rise in unemployment is accompanied by a 4.3% increase in such crimes as robbery, burglary, homicides and drug offenses.

The poverty level to feed a family of four is \$9,700—a mere pittance compared to the \$40,000 it takes to keep the unemployed wage earner for that family in prison if he or she decided that robbery is better than letting the children go hungry. Of course, the corruption inherent to the capitalist system undoubtedly adds up to a big chunk of the \$283 million in operating expenses for the city prison industry.

New York City is gearing up to add 4,000 people to the city's prisons over the next four years. In plain figures, this adds up to another \$16 million, a sum which should be used to employ three times the number of people they expect to put in jail.

In prison and out, the oppressed are victimized by this irrational system of exploitation and profiteering.

## Haitian refugees' hunger strike

DECEMBER 31—Since Dec. 20, more than 360 Haitian refugees who are incarcerated at the Krome Detention Center in Miami have been staging a hunger strike to protest the Reagan administration's refusal to grant them political asylum and its policy of detaining them unlawfully.

This policy of detaining the Haitian refugees, who are fleeing one of the most repressive dictatorships in the Caribbean, is not new to the Reagan administration. Three years ago, there were more than 9,000 Haitian refugees in detention camps throughout the United States. But, after public outcry, they were released temporarily. However, since late summer of 1984, the Reagan administration has reinstated the same old practice of holding them in the camps.

Despite the Reagan administra-

tion's illegal stationing of two patrol boats off Haiti's coastal waters to seal off the flow of refugees, Haitians are still fleeing the U.S.-supported Duvalier government. Therefore, the Reagan administration has adopted other tactics to suppress the Haitian refugees' cry for freedom against oppression: these include deporting them as soon as they are caught, creating prisons on international waters to prevent Haitians from reaching the U.S., and indefinite detention of those who have reached U.S. soil.

The Association of Haitian Workers (ATH) is calling on all progressive and freedom loving people to support the hunger strike of the Haitian refugees and to protest the Reagan administration's refusal to grant them political asylum.

For more information, call ATH at (718) 434-3940.

## NYC police beat Asian shopkeeper

DECEMBER 24—In a case which exemplifies police brutality and racism against the Korean community here, Mr. Cha Eui Tai, owner of a boutique in Jackson Heights, Queens, faces a trial in Queens County Criminal Court December 27 on charges of resisting arrest.

Rev. Yoo, chairperson of the defense committee that has been formed to support Cha, told Workers World that the incident began last Oct. 18 with an argument between Mr. Cha and a customer.

The customer called police who entered Cha's store and began to insist that he meet the customer's demand. Cha reportedly argued with police that they could not set store policy and asked for their badge numbers. Cha explained the police began to beat him in gang-like style and arrested him.

Rev. Yoo added that during the 24-hour period Cha was held by police, they beat him and hurled anti-Korean epithets at him. A doctor testified at Cha's first trial on Dec. 5 that Cha was beaten very badly.

Cha's defense lawyers learned that the cops involved had records of brutality, but the police department refused to release those records. The court has ordered files must be released to the defense.

Rev. Yoo concluded, "We have so many cases like this one throughout the Metropolitan area, and this police brutality not only to Korean ethnic group but many others." The defense committee wants to make this case known, he said, because "it is not only for the Koreans but all the ethnic and all working people."

## U.S. justice: 10 years for a stolen shoe

A RECENT ITEM in the New York Daily News reported an incident which blatantly revealed the built in cruelty of present-day capitalism: a disabled man in Helena, Montana was sent to jail for ten years for taking a shoe from a store.

The pair of boots were valued at \$178. Under state law, the theft of items worth more than \$150 is a felony. Brian Barker, who only has one

leg, only took one boot from the store, but the state supreme court ruled anyway that it was a felony. Justice Frank Morrison Jr. is reported to have cruelly written for the majority, "Barker hasn't got a leg to stand on."

In the words of trade union leader Mother Jones, "I asked a man why he was in prison and he said he stole a pair of shoes. I told him if he stole a railroad he'd be a Senator."

— Diane Feinberg

# Jobs, not jails!

## White House provides no shelter for homeless

### World War II vet freezes to death across the street

By Sharon Shelton

DECEMBER 31—The Reagan administration has shown that it only cares about the homeless after they're dead.

This calloused attitude was graphically revealed by the elaborate military funeral accorded a homeless veteran who froze to death on the cold night of Dec. 5 in Washington, D.C.'s Lafayette Park, only yards from the White House.

While he was alive, the plight of Jesse Carpenter, 61, and others like him, was studiously ignored by the uncaring Reagan administration, which has taken funds from social services, including programs for the homeless, and handed them over to the deadly Pentagon war machine.

Once news got out, however, that Carpenter had died of hypothermia virtually on Reagan's doorstep the hypocrites in the White House and Pentagon quickly ordered a military burial at Arlington Cemetery with a 21-gun salute for the homeless veteran's role in World War II.

This gesture must have provided little comfort to the growing ranks of disabled veterans, the unemployed and even whole families across the country who are trying to survive without a roof over their heads and who desperately need food, shelter and jobs, not empty words or ceremonial burials by the military.

According to Carpenter's estranged wife, the homeless man had never been able to recover from the horror of the war and had lived on the streets for 22 years.

#### Shelters not accessible to disabled

John Lam, a wheelchair-bound companion of the dead man who was with him when he died, noted that Carpenter had refused to go to one of the few existing woefully inadequate shelters the night he perished, because they are not accessible to the disabled.

"He didn't want to leave me that night because he was afraid something was going to happen to me," Lam, who

is also a veteran, explained. "And I don't like the shelters because they don't have anything for wheelchairs. He was the one who shoved me around all over the place. He was my friend . . . to the end."

Carpenter's death was no isolated incident and would have passed unnoticed had it not been for the efforts of homeless activists in D.C. There are an estimated three million men, women and children forced to make the streets of the major cities of the U.S. their homes—and the number is growing.

In a country where the Pentagon spends \$7,000 for a coffee urn, not to mention the billions it squanders on weapons systems, it is criminal that millions of poor and working class people must live without shelter from the cold.

It is in fact a terrible irony of the capitalist system that while technological advances open the possibility for an end to the age-old struggle for food, shelter and clothing, capitalism's built-in drive for profits has left millions out in the cold.

## Momentum mounts for Jan. 21 counter-inaugural

By Lyn Neeley

NEW YORK CITY, Jan. 2—On Jan. 20, with one hand on his heart and the other hand on the bible, Reagan will take the oath "I Ronald Reagan solemnly swear to protect and defend the Constitution of the U.S. . . . that all men are created equal . . ."

And momentum is mounting for the Anti-Reagan Counter-Inaugural Demonstration planned by the All-Peoples Congress (APC) to meet the Inauguration parade in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 21. Letters and calls pouring in from groups and individuals across the country who suffer under Reagan's policies of inequality, economic oppression and racism, reflect the broad range of demands the demonstration is calling for.

"Fight Racism and Apartheid from Washington to South Africa" is a major demand of the Counter-Inaugural. A video tape called "South Africa: The Last Drop of Blood", made by the African National Congress, starkly documents the brutality of the apartheid regime and features interviews with Oliver Tambo, Winnie Mandela and other freedom fighters, will be shown at the Counter-Inaugural mobilizers' meeting taking place in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 15 at the Wilson Center.

#### Abortion clinic bombings protested

Recent bombings of abortion clinics in Florida on Christmas Day, and on New Year's Day in a heavily populated Black community in Washington, D.C., demonstrate the effects of four years of Reagan's support for the mobilization of ultra-right forces in this country.

Reagan indirectly stated that abortion was murder in his first presidential debate. Then in response to the increasing violence against women's clinics, he said that "American people are slow to wrath but when their wrath is once kindled it burns like a slow flame. I think the Senate should listen to their message." This adds up to support for the bombings.

Women in the U.S. have had to fight hard for equality on every front including the basic human right to choose

abortion. Mobilizers for the Counter-Inaugural are issuing a special press release denouncing the government-supported wave of bombings and attacks on abortion clinics.

The ultra-rightist Jerry Falwell has called for a National demonstration Jan. 22 in Washington, D.C. to make that "National Day of Mourning" for the fetuses aborted since the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. This right-wing challenge makes the participation of pro-choice forces in the Counter-Inaugural all the more important.

Since the endorsement by the District Capital Council representing all American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) locals in the Washington area, members of AFGE have printed and distributed their own leaflets. They have joined with other unions and members of the APC to call for a city-wide labor meeting to organize for the Counter-Inaugural.

#### West Coast action

San Francisco's simultaneous Counter-Inauguration Demonstration, "Say No to War, Racism, Homelessness and Hunger," also sponsored by the APC has gained new endorsers. These include the Bay Area Campaign Against Apartheid; Wilson Riles Jr., a member of Oakland City Council and active in the protests against South Africa; and Harvey Britt, the only openly gay man on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. A San Francisco mobilizers' meeting will take place on Thursday, Jan. 3.

Mail from 25 states, from as far away as Utah, Texas and Florida have requested more leaflets and told of plans of sending buses and car pools to the demonstration. Organizers include the Women's Committee on Central America from Durham N.C., a women's collective from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and Sisters Together to Oppose Racism, Militarism and Sexism. The last group wrote, "We plan as a group to be part of the Counter-Inaugural on the 21st."

For more information call the All-Peoples Congress in Washington, D.C. at (202) 332-5041.



## Reagan plans Medicare cuts for seniors, disabled

By Veronica Golos

DECEMBER 28—To the elderly and the disabled, two of the most vulnerable groups in society, President Ronald Reagan's New Year message is grim—a continued "freeze" in Medicare payments by the government, accompanied by an increase in premiums for recipients from 25% to 35% for a portion of the benefits.

And while expressing phoney con-

cern over rising medical costs, the administration proposes to increase costs for those least able to pay. The \$75 deduction the elderly now pay for doctor's care will rise "to keep pace with inflation," according to the Dec. 28 Washington Post.

For the 30 million aged and disabled Social Security beneficiaries, this will mean that medical care will become

Continued on page 4

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