



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

Jamaican rebellion aimed at Reagan stooge

Protest against price hikes symptom of rising poverty

By Andy Stapp

JANUARY 16—A massive rebellion of tens of thousands of Jamaicans yesterday forced the closure of nearly every government building, school, and business in the country, prevented the opening session of Parliament, shut down the Kingston airport and blocked all major roads with flaming barricades.

Army and police units traded gunfire with the crowds as the huge confrontation rapidly spread all across the island, from Kingston where the offices of the pro-imperialist Prime Minister were attacked, to May Pen, Ocho Rios, Negril and Montego Bay.

Early reports on the casualties indicated scores of injuries, with gunshot fatalities on both sides.

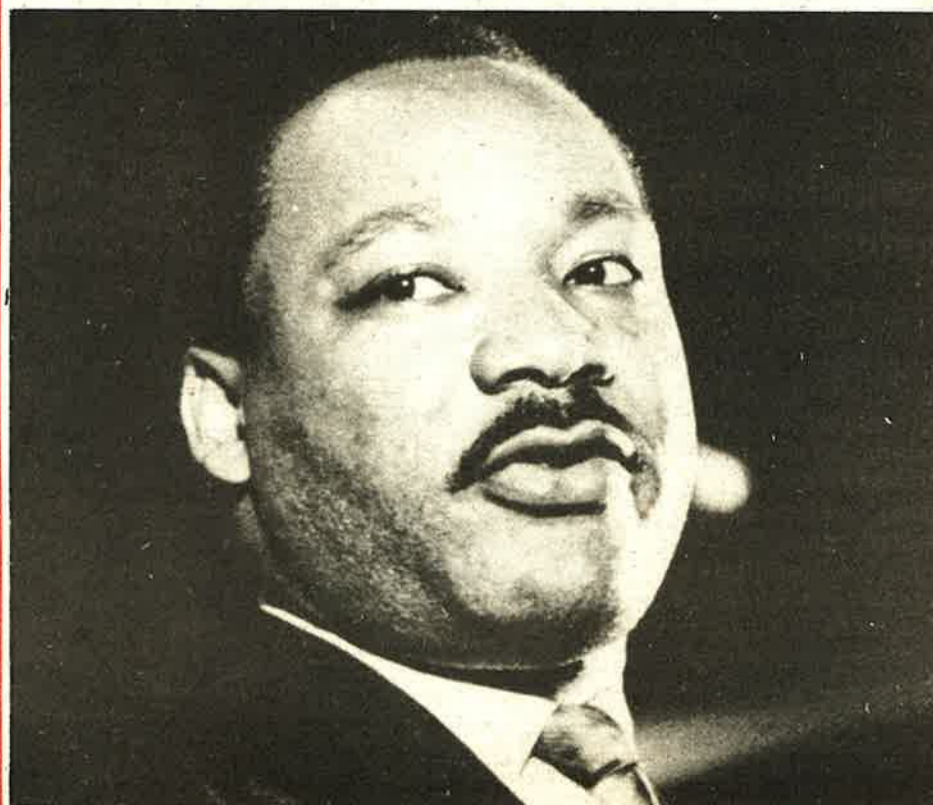
The immediate cause of the

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Part of sleeping area for homeless men in New York City. Over 20,000 people sought a place to stay in shelters last week—the largest numbers since the Great Depression. See page 3.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



JANUARY 15—Today is the anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the past 17 years since he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., King more than any other single person has come to symbolize the struggle for equality for Black people in the United States. He played a leading role as organizer and spokesperson for the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. King's most famous speech, broadcast to tens of millions, was at the giant August 1963 march in Washington, D.C., a mass action which foreshadowed a great and militant movement for equality that challenged every aspect of racist rule in the U.S.

While it is all too obvious how many obstacles still lie on the road to equality, it was a triumph

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'Cut the military budget, not our wages'

D.C. inaugural protest targets Reagan program

By Bruce Bradshaw
WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 15— "We've got over 1,000 large posters up around the city. Ten American Federation of Government Employee unions have endorsed the counter-inaugural and made their own poster saying 'Cut the military budget, not our wages!'"
Sue Bailey, a Washington, D.C. organizer for the demonstration against the regal ceremonies Reagan has ordered for himself, was upbeat as she

spoke to Workers World newspaper. As she told of the buses and vans of people planning to come from as far away as Chicago, Minnesota, Detroit, Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y., Bailey was constantly interrupted by someone who wanted a quick word with her about an upcoming organizers' meeting, by people asking about leaflet distributions at local campuses and metros, and by other calls.
Yes, she said, there has been a lot of

media interest, with CBS News, the Washington Post, the Associated Press, the United Press International, the Philadelphia Inquirer, RKO radio and others calling in to get stories. With only a few days left, the counter-inaugural has established itself as the major event for the anti-Reagan movement in D.C.
Although Washington is now the epicenter of the activity gearing up for Jan. 21, over the past weekend successful meetings attended by over 100 people each were held in New York and Jersey City. Eight radio and TV stations covered a press conference called by activists in Detroit planning to be in Washington on Monday.

of homeless are shivering in the cold than at any time since the depths of the Great Depression, has fired up a lot of anger.
The progressive movement will be tapping into this sentiment on Jan. 21, when they reinaugurate their own struggle against Reaganism, by protesting this "Let them eat cake" jamboree of rich reactionaries.

Public outrage forces hearing on San Francisco police brutality

By Jane Cutter
SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 10—Public outrage at mass arrests and police violence against recent progressive demonstrations forced the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to hold a public hearing on "Police Misconduct" today.
Over 100 anti-war and anti-racist activists attended the Public Protection Committee hearing. Almost everyone in attendance had either been brutalized or arrested while demonstrating in 1984.
Captain George Einil of the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) made an attempt to "put the problem in perspective" with outright lies. He was greeted by angry jeers.
John Crew of the American Civil Liberties Union testified that over 1,000 demonstrators were arrested by the SFPD last year. Patricia Warner of the National Lawyers Guild summarized the repressive police actions at major protests including those held

during the Democratic National Convention on July 12 against right-wing bigot Jerry Falwell and marches against Henry Kissinger and Caspar Weinberger.
Other witnesses recounted specific acts of brutality, including sexual harassment. People had been run over by motorcycles and trampled by horses.
Today's hearing was arrogantly adjourned by Supervisor Richard Hongisto, an ex-cop. People responded by surging toward the podium shouting.
Supervisors on the committee intend to introduce a resolution setting "guidelines" for police behavior at demonstrations. This is unlikely, however, to curb the cops who are notorious not only for abusing demonstrators but for racist brutality in the oppressed communities, and strike-breaking.
The people's right to be in the streets will be decided not by supervisors in their chambers, but by the people themselves.

Contacted at the New York office of the All-Peoples Congress, the group which originally initiated the counter-inaugural, Naomi Cohen mentioned recent contact with people planning to participate from West Virginia, Philadelphia, Lancaster, Pa., and Blacksburg, Va.
In Rhode Island a vigorous campaign has been waged to build for the D.C. demonstration. This has attracted the attention of local news media, particularly TV and radio. A cable television station has decided that the event is important enough to send a crew down to Washington to film the protest for its "Urban Magazine" program.
In addition to the Washington demonstration itself, local counter-inaugural events will be held in Dallas, San Francisco, Atlanta and Hartford on the same day.
The spectacle of the reinvestiture ceremony sparkling with the most lavish imperial trappings for the multi-millionaire President, when more millions

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Business Week has proclaimed "Capitalism in China," but Sam Marcy takes a closer look at this question to find that although the economic reforms of the Deng grouping are pushing China rapidly in the direction of capitalism, Business Week's celebrations are totally premature. (Page 9.)

ANC ANNIVERSARY
This month marks the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the African National Congress, the organization that is leading the fight to free the people of South Africa from the racist oppression of apartheid. (Page 5.)

DEFEND ABORTION CLINICS
The series of attacks on abortion clinics by reactionary "right-to-life" terrorists have led women activists to take action to defend the clinics and women's right to abortion. (Page 12.)

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SOCIAL SECURITY
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PERSHING 2 EXPLOSION
The explosion of a U.S. Pershing 2 missile in West Germany reraises the tremendous danger of the Pentagon's deployment of its nuclear arsenal. (Page 6.)

HOMELESS
Harsh cold weather drove over 20,000 homeless men, women and children to come in off the streets and seek warmth in New York City shelters. (Page 3.)

NIMITZ TO NICARAGUA
The U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz is steaming toward Nicaragua to resume the Pentagon's menacing of that country. (Page 7.)



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Thousands line up for 170 jobs. "It used to be that a job was standard in America," said Shinnell Harrison, 34. "Well, it's a dream now." Harrison was one of 5,000 people lined up in Chicago on Jan. 7 for applications to take tests for 170 job openings at the Post Office, dreaming of a modest but life-sustaining job that less than 4% of them will get. The tests were last given in 1979. The highly-touted Reagan "recovery" has still left many millions standing out in the cold.



People before profits!

NYC homeless reach Depression-era levels

By Sharon Shelton

NEW YORK, Jan. 14—There was no recovery in sight this week at city shelters here where a record number of homeless people crowded to escape temperatures in the teens.

Over 20,000 men, women and children on Jan. 9 sought a place in New York's public and private shelters—the largest numbers since the Great Depression. Every bed was filled, and some people were turned away.

"The numbers are incredible," commented Jack Deacy of the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA), which operates the city's 19 public shelters. (New York Times, Jan. 10)

Noting that city shelters are strained to their limit, Deacy pointed out that on Jan. 9 a record 7,085 men and women and about 3,285 families accounting for an additional 11,800 people had jammed into armories, welfare hotels and other public facilities for the homeless. This compares with an average of 6,093 individuals and 2,400 families housed by the city last January.

Those packed into the shelters, which many shun because they are filthy, rat-infested and not accessible to the disabled, were just the tip of the iceberg. Outside on the city streets, an estimated 40,000 others (and this is a conservative estimate) slept in cardboard boxes, over grates, in bus and train terminals and in the vestibules of unlocked buildings as they always do.

Gentrification, joblessness behind crisis

Homelessness has become an epidemic in this city where unemployment levels, especially among Black and other oppressed youths, remain high and where gentrification is driving poor people out of affordable housing at record rates.

Not coincidentally, city shelters are full of those hardest hit by the joblessness crisis. Two thirds of those packed into the city-run Men's Shelter on East 3 St., for example, are Black, 10% are Latin and the rest are white. Although the majority are elderly, as unemployment rises, the average age keeps getting younger and younger.

Gentrification, the process whereby

whole neighborhoods of poor and working people are driven from rent-controlled apartments so that an area can be "upgraded" to include luxury condos, coops and boutiques, has played a major role in sending tens of thousands onto the streets without a roof over their heads.

Because of gentrification, between 1975 and 1981 31,000 units of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels alone were shut down, leaving their tenants—welfare recipients, pensioners and minimum wage workers—with no place to go.

This cruel process was helped along by the politicians in the city government, who awarded their landlord cronies generous J-51 tax abatement subsidies for "rehabilitating" SROs into highly profitable coops and condos. The J-51 program offers landlords total exemption from increased property values for up to 12 years; displaced tenants are left by the city bosses to fend for themselves.

Bulldozers demolish SROs

Typical of the extent of landlord greed in this city is an incident which coincided with this latest cold snap. On Jan. 7, bulldozers demolished two SROs, only hours before the City Council was slated to consider a proposed moratorium on the conversion or demolition of such hotels.

The SROs, along with two other buildings, were torn down without permits under cover of darkness on heavily traveled West 44 St. in midtown Manhattan. Spectators reported that suddenly brick boulders were flying everywhere, endangering passersby as well as diners in a popular Chinese restaurant nearby.

Although such a demolition was patently illegal, apparently the buildings' owner knew that the \$5,000 fine is small potatoes compared to the enormous profits to be reaped from building luxury housing on the site. The buildings are owned by Margo Properties, a company controlled by Sol Goldman, one of the largest real estate operators in the metropolitan area with holdings of nearly 500 properties.

Recovery for the rich

It is a sad commentary indeed on contemporary capitalism that for al-

Reagan scheme means Social Security cuts

By Elizabeth Ross

JANUARY 14—"Never say never," said Ronald Reagan last year when he was campaigning the second time for President. Then, a few days later he said, "But one thing I will say 'never' about is any reduction in Social Security."

That was only a few months ago, but he already said last week that he would consider a "freeze" in Social Security if Congress gave him a mandate for it. (At the same time stressing his old refusal to cut military spending.)

A one-year freeze in Social Security would be a cut. It would cost the elderly \$6 billion. We have already lost millions every time the new cost-of-living increase comes around because it is based on the inflation rate of a few months earlier, not on the inflation rate at the moment of the increase. And, of course, the six-month gap last year, when the cost-of-living raise was postponed from July 1 to Jan. 1, must have pushed us \$3 billion behind.

It's not much fun to get old, but to be old and poor is to live in misery. In 1983 the lowest monthly allotment for the elderly and disabled was \$166.40, or less than \$40 a week! Hardly a princely sum, even when it's supple-

mented with food stamps, which are not given away free.

According to Albert Shanker, writing in the Sunday New York Times of Jan. 13, 15% of Social Security recipients live below the poverty line. That's about 5.4 million people! How many more millions live just above it?

Our brothers and sisters in the 1930s fought hard to get us Social Security as well as unemployment insurance and welfare. These benefits weren't handed down to us by benevolent politicians, but were won in bitter struggles.

The majority of Republican Senators seem to be for the freeze, but so are some Democrats. Rep. Leon E. Panetta (D-Calif.) said, "to talk about a freeze in Social Security by itself is a mistake." But he thought it would be all right if it was linked to a freeze in other benefit programs as well as a freeze in military spending and tax increases.

When Ronald Reagan used that word "never" in connection with tampering with Social Security, that got him millions of votes from the elderly. How will they feel about him now when he's waffling on the subject? But then, he won't be running for President again in 1988.

most two million people nationwide, this system cannot even provide a roof over their heads. When Ronald Reagan boasts of "recovery," he's referring to the ill-gotten gains of the Donald Trumps, the Richard Helmsleys and all the other parasitic real estate tycoons and big businessmen who are raking in off the misery of the people. Certainly Reagan's rosy speeches mean little to those who are battling to stay alive on the streets of the big cities

across the U.S. and about whom the President hasn't a word to say.

The big business ruling class and its politicians have no solutions to the plagues of poverty and unemployment, which are built into the capitalist system. Increasingly, working and poor people are being driven to provide their own recovery—a recovery of all the wealth they themselves produce and which can be used to eradicate hunger and homelessness once and for all.



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Housing for the poor. More than 200 people marched from Journal Square to City Hall in Jersey City, N.J., on Monday, Jan. 14. The march was called by the Ministerial Alliance, a coalition of Black churches. The theme of the march and rally was "Low-income housing for the poor."

The All-Peoples Congress (APC) was invited to speak based on their record of struggle in this community. The APC took Jersey City to court last year to demand affirmative action in low-income housing. Monica Moorehead, representing the APC, pointed out that Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann's only wish was to drive out the poor from Jersey City in order to make room for big business. "His policy of vacancy decontrol is designed to destroy rent control city-wide," declared Moorehead.

The mayor's representative, Rev. Austin Harold, was heckled by the crowd and was not allowed to speak.



Saturn project: Star wars against auto workers

By Jerry Goldberg

DETROIT, Jan. 13—This week, amid tremendous hoopla and nationwide media attention, General Motors unveiled the Saturn project, a \$5 billion investment plan for small car production within the U.S. This project is to serve as the model for high tech, super-automated car production through which GM plans on reducing its current U.S. workforce of 506,000 by one-half to one-third in the next 15 years.

In 1983-1984 the Big 3 auto companies—GM, Ford, and Chrysler—all made record profits. Last year alone their profits exceeded \$10 billion. These record earnings came despite the fact that sales in 1984 were two million units below the 1979 level. The profits were the direct result of the billions in wage cuts and contract concessions which the companies extracted from the auto workers. They also came through the permanent elimination of 200,000 jobs in the last five years, over 100,000 at GM alone.

It is through the increased exploitation of the workers that the auto companies have succeeded in building up a tremendous investment fund of \$80 billion and more. That fund is to be utilized to reindustrialize and revolutionize auto production.

How will this be accomplished? Will it be like the period of the early 1900s when the assembly line was first introduced?

At that time there were over 25 U.S. auto companies and capitalist competition was the rule. As a result, the introduction of mass production reduced the price of a car from \$950 to \$290 and made the automobile accessible to a whole new market. Thus, the introduction of labor saving devices actually led to an increase in employment.

But today under monopoly capitalism with only three major auto companies in the U.S. and four or five others worldwide, the process works differently. For example, despite tremendous cost savings over the last couple of years, car prices have continued to rise. The result is record profits with less sales and 200,000 workers permanently laid off. The Big Three

want to continue to follow this pattern as they shift from big to small car production. Because the rate of profit is less on small cars, they will only proceed based on drastically cutting the labor cost through massive automation and even further wage cuts. That is what Saturn is all about.

New company will mean new contract

Saturn is to be treated as an entirely new company from the point of view of labor negotiations with the UAW. It will have its own contract. That means a new wage scale. Union gains in work rules and classifications will be out the door. Saturn will institute a new hiring process as well.

GM is yet to announce where it will build the new car, which will bring a total employment of about 20,000 jobs. So now we have the spectacle of gov-

ernors competing at GM's doorstep to see which state can give the most tax breaks to this poor suffering corporation.

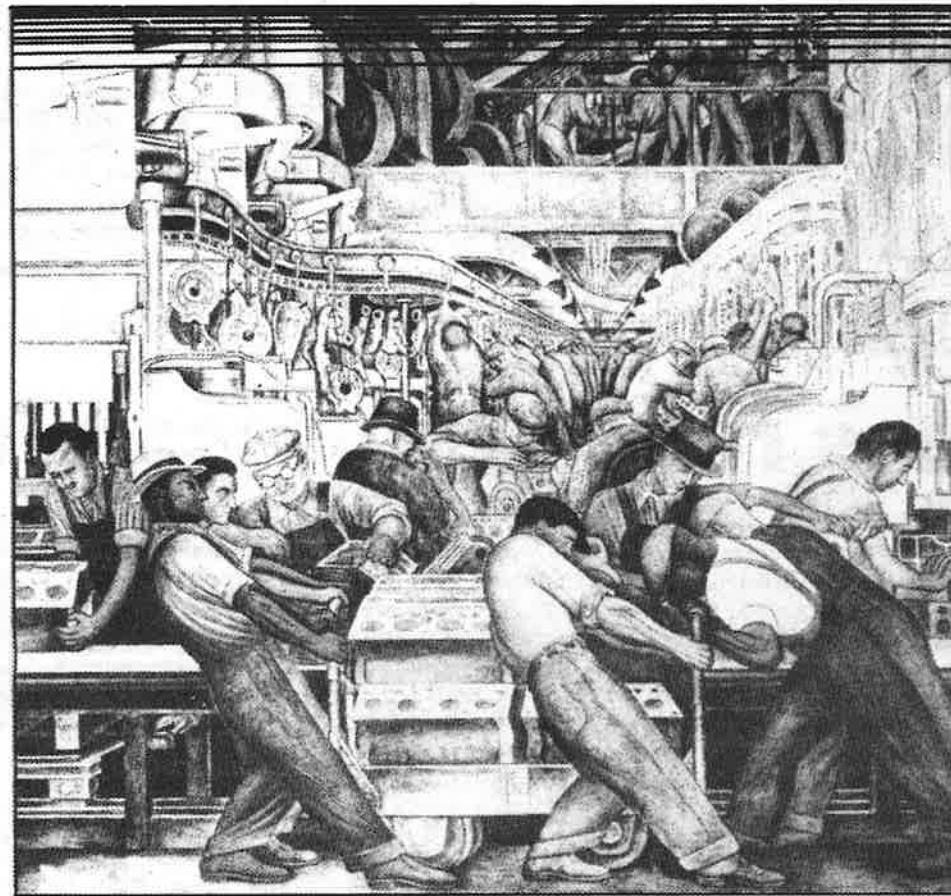
What does the United Auto Workers (UAW) have to say? The UAW leadership not only hails the Saturn project but actively worked with the company since 1983 to develop it. Their attitude basically is "What alternative is there? Otherwise, GM will move the jobs overseas."

What the UAW leadership fails to state is the obvious. Since the entire GM investment fund came directly off the backs of the workers, employed and unemployed, as well as from tax breaks from the community as a whole, shouldn't the workers and the community be the ones to decide how that investment fund is utilized? The UAW

constitution itself provides that the workers are to share in the benefits of technology. (See accompanying box.) Clearly in helping to develop a plan which will eliminate one half of their own members, the UAW leadership is violating its own guidelines.

Moreover, the way to stop runaway shops overseas is not by lowering wages here at home. Where will that process end? It's time for the UAW to play an active role in solidarizing with the liberation struggles against U.S. backed slave-labor dictatorships worldwide.

The Saturn project poses a critical challenge to the UAW and the entire working class movement. The auto companies set the entire concession bandwagon into motion. Now they want to set the pattern for further massive layoffs and union busting. It's time to launch a real struggle uniting the workers and unemployed to meet this tremendous attack.



Mural by Diego Rivera.

From the UAW Constitution

Following are excerpts from the preamble to the UAW constitution:

"Management invests thousands of dollars in the business. The worker's investment in the business is his sinew, his blood and his life. The organized worker seeks a place at the conference table together with the management, when decisions are made which affect the amount of food he, his wife and family shall consume; the extent of education his children may have; the kind and amount of clothing they may wear; and their very existence. He asks that hours of labor be progressively reduced in proportion as modern machinery increases his productivity. He asks that the savings due to the inauguration of machinery and changes in technical methods shall be equitably divided between management and the worker."

On The Picketline

Yale talks. With a Jan. 19 deadline for a renewal of the strike by clerical, technical, and maintenance workers coming up, Yale University appears to have entered into serious bargaining with the clericals' union for the first time. Negotiators for Yale and Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 34, the Federation of University Employees, met on Jan. 8 for the first time since the nine-week strike was suspended in early December. Since Jan. 8, regular bargaining sessions have taken place.

According to a Local 34 spokesperson, Yale has finally made significant movement, with improved offers on dental and pension plans. Sessions on job security and on the key issue for Local 34—wages and pay equity for Third World and women workers—are scheduled for the week before Jan. 19. On the 19th, the contract of Local 35, representing Yale's maintenance workers, expires; Local 35 is also holding bargaining sessions with the university. The Yale workers of both Locals 34 and 35 are mobilizing to walk out if the two contracts are not settled, despite the bargaining developments.

As one Local 34 member told *Workers World*, "We'll walk out again if we

have to. Yale knows it, and that's the only reason they're talking to us at all."

• • •
IBM organizing. Workers at IBM, a longtime non-union bastion, are organizing. Last year, IBM workers from five countries met in Tokyo to discuss unionization. Now, at IBM's Endicott, N.Y., plant, they've formed IBM Workers United, calling for a union as the only way for workers to have "a voice of their own." The workers point to the lack of any real grievance procedure, mandatory overtime, and total management control over working conditions as reasons to organize. The move to unionize is meeting growing enthusiasm at IBM—except from management, which is reportedly harassing the activists and trying to block the drive.

• • •
VDT safety campaign. Service Employees International Union (SEIU) District 925, the national office workers' union, has announced a national campaign for health and safety protections for Video Display Terminal (VDT) operators. According to the

AFL-CIO News, the campaign will first concentrate on 18 states, including California, Massachusetts, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Washington, demanding legislation, safety guidelines, and right-to-know laws about VDT hazards.

According to District 925 President Karen Nussbaum, "About 10 million office workers, mostly women, now use VDTs on the job, and by the end of the decade, the number could rise to 40 million." Nussbaum said that District 925 receives thousands of calls from VDT operators reporting health and safety problems, and that the issue of VDT safety is paramount to office worker unions.

• • •
No right to know. A federal judge in New Jersey ruled on Jan. 3 that workers have no right to know what potentially lethal hazardous chemicals they are exposed to on the job. The state's right-to-know law had only been in effect since last August, after unions and community groups demanded some accountability for the chemical concerns that are poisoning New Jersey. The law would have required labeling of all toxic substances

available to workers, factory neighborhood residents, etc. With the law struck down, there remains no safeguard against the chemical companies' safety-blind profit drive. Union leaders responded to the court decision with a call to continue the struggle to place workers' lives first.

• • •
Feds want temps. Ostensibly as part of Reagan's cost-cutting, the federal government has announced it will implement a policy of hiring temporary workers to fill job openings. But workers in shops across the country can recognize the familiar ruse as an anti-union tool whereby the boss circumvents contract requirements for permanent employees' pay and benefits and creates a non-union workforce. Sure enough, a confidential Office of Personnel Management memo noted that temporary employees "have significantly fewer rights and benefits," are subject to instant firing, and so on. American Federation of Government Employees President Kenneth Blaylock denounced the move, charging Reagan with trying to run the government like MacDonald's.

—Shelley Ettinger

ANC: leading the liberation struggle in So. Africa

73rd anniversary of founding of African National Congress

By Carmen Roundtree

THIS January marks the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the African National Congress (ANC). The ANC was founded on Jan. 8, 1912 at a conference assembled at Bloemfontein, South Africa. Present at this conference were workers and peasants, professionals and intellectuals, tribesmen and chiefs, from all parts of South Africa. Only two years earlier the country was constituted into a union by the colonizers, consolidating white settler domination over the African masses. The assembly conferred, and at the end of their deliberations the ANC emerged.

Since its formation the ANC has been at the vanguard of countless struggles. Thousands upon thousands have made great sacrifices, including their lives, for the cause of liberation.

South Africa was conquered by force and today is ruled by force. Be it the threat of force, or the actual employment of force, it is ever present in South African society.

European settlement in South Africa dates back to the year 1652, and because of the intrusive, predatory and aggressive policies of the white European settlers, disputes ensued, which soon led to war.

In the Cape Western Plateau, an area inhabited by the Xhosa-speaking section of African people, at least nine wars of resistance occurred in a span of almost 100 years against white encroachment.

First it was the Boers. Later the combined forces of the Boers and the British were checked in their attempted advances. However, superior arms helped them to push the indigenous people of South Africa slowly back beyond the Great Fish River. The settlers occupied parts of their ancestral land. Yet the people of South Africa were never defeated by the Boers.

In order for the Boers to continue their march into the interior of South Africa, they had to change their course and march northward, as they were forced to by the massive resistance of the South African people. Wherever they went they were met with fierce opposition. They were fought and defeated in Natal, Bosutoland (now Lesotho) and in the eastern Transvaal, they were reduced to roving bands.

Had it not been for the arrival of British forces, the Boers would have eventually been defeated in their quest to occupy, dominate and enslave South Africa and its people. When the Boers first arrived in the Cape, every inch of the country was occupied. It was never a "no-man's" land.

Britain's total conquest of South Africa at the beginning of the 20th century marked a qualitative and quantitative change in the struggle against colonialization and immensely strengthened the oppressors. The British with their overwhelming superiority in arms and numbers of well-trained soldiers, were able, after bitter battles, eventually to subdue military opposition, and to colonize and exploit the country and people of South Africa.

Bambata Rebellion

In the defeat of the Bambata Rebellion in 1906, which was an uprising against the imposition of a hut and dog tax, and against the furnishing of information for the census, over 4,000 people were ruthlessly murdered at the hands of the British. Bambata himself was decapitated in the typically inhuman fashion of the colonial oppressors.

This rebellion brought to a close the first 250-year phase of resistance by the South African people.

The formation of the ANC six years later had a direct connection with the

Bambata Rebellion. Defeated militarily, totally disarmed and robbed of their land, denied any say in the government of their country, the people of South Africa had to find new ways of continuing their struggle against the white settlers.

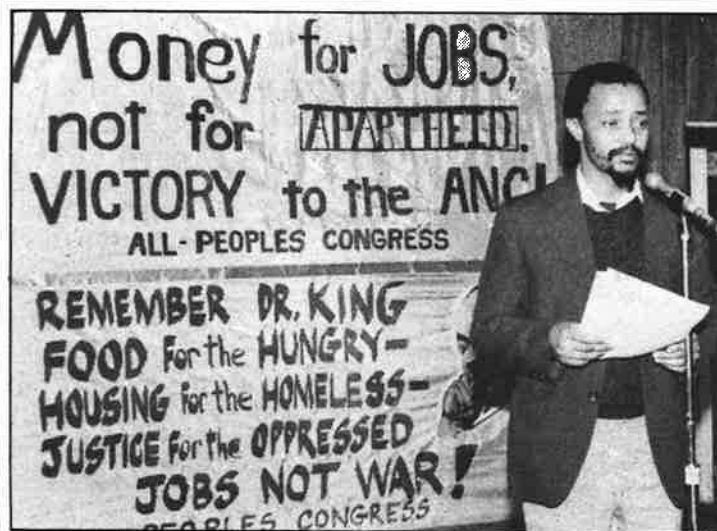
They held mass meetings and demonstrations, held strikes and passively

resisted. Testimonies and petitions to King Edward VII from many of the African organizations that came into being from the years 1905-1908, showed the magnitude of opposition and the sharp antagonisms to any continuation of a political system of white minority rule.

They saw the need for unity in the

face of a common enemy. This was forcibly brought home when the government, under General Louis Botha, pushed forward to consolidate white hegemony within the system established by the South African Act of Union, which was passed by the British parliament in 1909, and ratified by the

Continued on page 10

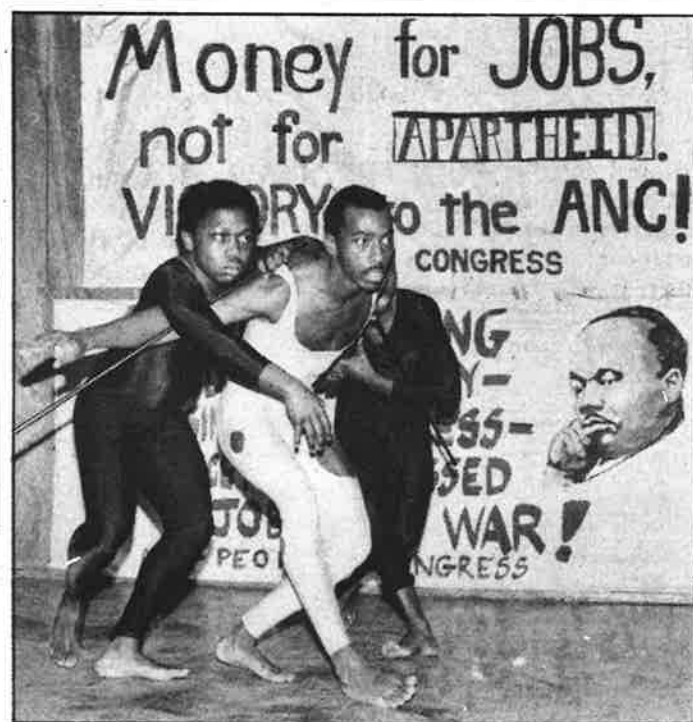


'End apartheid, honor Dr. King.' More than 100 people attended a fundraiser at the Trinity Lutheran church in Jersey City, N.J., last Saturday, Jan. 12. The evening was dedicated to solidarity with the people of South Africa and in tribute to Dr. King's birthday.

Joann Lewis, an APC community activist, chaired the event. Victor Mashabela, an African National Congress representative, was a guest speaker. Mashabela gave a brief history of the struggle of the Black African masses against apartheid and called for progressive forces to end all forms of collaboration between the U.S. and South Africa. The All-Peoples Singers, Spirit of Life Ensemble, the Hudson Repertory Theater and London Calling, a Reggae band all gave wonderful performances.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards subsidizing transportation costs to Washington, D.C., for the Jan. 21 demonstration against President Reagan's inauguration.

—Neville Edwards



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

U.S.-Israel mastermind hijack of Ethiopian Jews

By Monica Moorehead

JANUARY 15—There is much validity to the statement, everything is not what it appears to be. Take the "airlift" of Ethiopian Jews that has generated increasing interest.

Although the "airlift" of thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel has been reported to be temporarily halted, the reverberations from the operation are still being felt all over the world. A statement made by the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry condemned the "conspiracy between the Sudanese government and foreign powers in the illegal trafficking of Ethiopians from Sudanese territory to Israel and other countries." The statement went on to say that the Sudanese government was in collusion with others in the operation because it received financial inducements.

Over the past two months, some 7,000 Ethiopian Jews, also known as "Falashas," were transported to the Zionist state via Sudan in 35 flights on the TransEuropean airline. It was revealed in the New York Post yesterday that the U.S. was directly involved in helping to transport several hundred Ethiopian Jews for "humanitarian" reasons, according to Joseph Sisco, former U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs.

The Israeli officials leaked the story to the New York Times and news of the "airlift" appeared in the Dec. 11 edition. Since that time, condemnation of the kidnapping continues to be echoed around the globe. The League of Arab Nations has condemned Israel for its role in the airlift.

Falling out between U.S. and Israel?

Senior White House and State Department officials have now "accused" their garrison state in the Middle East of "endangering the rescue operation

by the 'premature' lifting of censorship of the issue," according to the Jerusalem Post. The U.S. claimed that the lifting of the military censorship was decided upon by the Israelis without the consent and coordination of the U.S.

One reason cited by the U.S. for this sabotage were the social as well as financial problems in "absorbing" the Ethiopian Jews. The estimated cost of this absorption during the next two years is about \$300 million. Some of this will be funded by Jewish organizations and most will be taken out of the \$4.5 billion the Israelis have requested in U.S. military and economic aid this year.

The "airlift" comes at a time when approximately 8 million Ethiopians are facing death from a devastating famine aggravated by several years of drought. It has been estimated that an average of 40,000 Ethiopians are dying each month. Other countries victimized by the famine include Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), Kenya, Chad, Sudan, Zaire, Mozambique and the richest country on the continent, South Africa.

The racist apartheid regime, once the largest exporter of food in Africa, was forced to import \$3 million of foodstuff last year. Close to 3 million Black youth under the age of 15 suffer from malnutrition when there is no drought and an estimated 50,000 children die of illnesses related to or made worse by diet deficiencies under apartheid.

On the surface, it might appear that Israel had done a good deed by saving the Ethiopians from the famine. But the U.S. and other Western imperialist countries have always been aware of the drought and famine that have plagued most of Africa for decades. Food has always been used as a wea-

pon by the U.S. which controls half of the world's production of food. The U.S. uses its food weapon against the developing Black countries which have broken the chains of centuries-old racist colonialism and, more recently, imperialism, like Angola, Mozambique and Ethiopia.

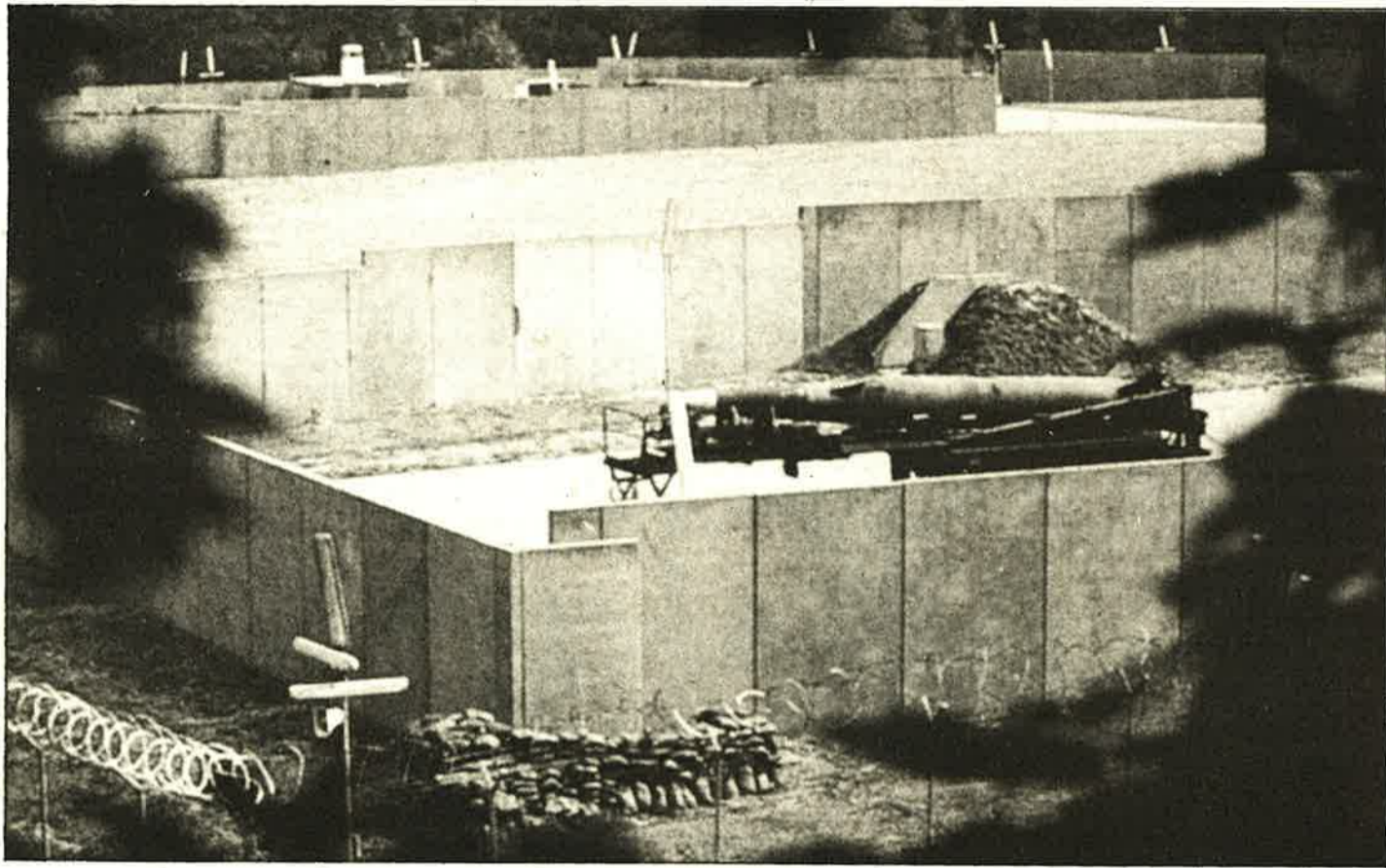
Before the 1974 revolution in Ethiopia, neither the U.S. nor Israel expressed interest in the plight of the Ethiopian Jews much less the more than 35 million Ethiopian peasants severely oppressed by the feudal monarchy of Haile Selassie. It was not until the revolutionary, anti-imperialist government of Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam took power, that Western imperialism began to cry crocodile tears over the "conditions" the Ethiopian Jews faced.

Between 1948, when Israel was established, and 1973, the year Ethiopia broke relations with Israel, only 300 Ethiopian Jews were allowed to migrate to Israel as a result of the racist policies of the Zionist state against Black, Arab and other oppressed peoples. A three-year study was done in the early 1970s by the Zionist state to "determine" if the heritage of the Black Ethiopian Jews was truly Jewish. It wasn't until 1975, that Israel recognized the "right" of the Ethiopian Jews to become Israelis under the Law of Return.

The U.S. refuses to establish diplomatic relations with the Mengistu government.

The U.S. hopes that by continuing to play its hypocritical role of humanitarian and savior of the starving Ethiopian people, their real imperialist aims will be disguised. Those aims are to bring the Ethiopian government to its knees and to make Ethiopia a U.S. colony to be exploited by big business, the banks and the Pentagon.

Missile explosion reignites West German resistance



Explosion of rocket fuel of a Pershing 2 first-strike missile has reawakened anger in Western Europe over this U.S. nuclear weapon.

By Andy Stapp

JAN. 12—Last Friday's explosion of a Pershing 2 missile near the West German town of Heilbronn, followed by contradictory and confusing statements issued by the U.S. Army commanders in the area, has re-ignited the smoldering anger and resentment harbored by the majority of German civilians over the deployment of these first-strike weapons.

Thilo Weichert, a prominent deputy in the Baden-Wurttemberg legislature in the region of the near-disaster, immediately decried the Pershing 2 as a threat imperiling millions, stating, "They must be sent back by return post."

The city of Heilbronn has a population of 112,000, all of whom would have been instantly killed had an actual warhead gone off.

The incident occurred when the Pershing's rocket fuel ignited, burning to death two U.S. Army sergeants and a private who were unloading the device at Camp Redleg. The fire burned so rapidly that it also destroyed everything in the immediate vicinity, including one of the flatbed trucks which would serve as the missile's launching pad in wartime.

Nine other GIs were injured.

Before it had really ascertained the basic facts or even determined the actual number killed and wounded, the U.S. Army rushed out a statement through General Raymond E. Haddock, asserting that "There was no danger to the civilian German population." The White House also put out a statement saying that President Reagan "is aware" of what had happened, and that a full U.S. investigation was underway. It is unclear if the West German government will be permitted to carry out its own investigation, since, as an occupied nation, its sovereignty is limited.

Despite overwhelming public opinion in opposition to the placing of Pershings on German soil, missiles that could hit Soviet targets in less than ten minutes, the Reagan administration has forced the Bonn regime to accede to the Pentagon's wishes on this matter. So far, 36 Pershing 2 missiles have been deployed at Matlangen, 9 at Neu-Ulm and 9 at Heilbronn. These are all in addition to the thousands of other nuclear devices which the U.S. has placed in the Oregon-sized country, including "special atomic demolition munitions," dubbed "knapsack nuclear weapons" by the alarmed civilians.

The Pershing 2 carries a warhead of up to 20 kilotons, the equivalent of 20,000 ton of TNT. Its primary designer, Arthur Rudolph, was deported from the U.S. last October after being exposed as a Nazi war criminal. During World War II, Rudolph ran the slave labor V-2 rocket factory at Dora concentration camp where 30,000 workers perished.

helped shape the curriculum, just the mention of King's name evokes the tones of his sonorous voice condemning racism and calling out for justice. The shivers that run up and down their spines come not only from the eloquence of the words, but from the memories of the millions who braved police clubs and dogs, jail and beatings, who risked their lives in the struggle for rights and equality.

Court convicts draft registration resister

By Chris Becker

SYRACUSE, N.Y. Jan. 11—Andy Mager, 23, of Syracuse was found guilty of violating the Military Selective Service Act by not registering for the draft. Mager will be sentenced Feb. 4, facing up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Mager has courageously and publicly defied the pro-war, draft registration law and acted as his own attorney to bring out the issues of war preparation and draft registration. Support for Mager has been strong in the Syracuse area, as well as throughout New York State.

After jury selection on Jan. 8, 80 to 100 people, organized by upstate Resistance, braved single-digit temperatures and gusting winds to

march in a candlelight vigil from the federal building to the Viet Nam war memorial where a short rally was held.

That evening, at a local church, over 250 people attended a statewide solidarity rally for Mager, and to show resistance to war. The morning of Jan. 9, another support vigil of 150 people gathered in front of the courthouse. This vigil continued on Thursday, Jan. 10 when the guilty verdict was read, which brought spontaneous anti-war songs and shouts from the courtroom.

The Carter administration initiated draft registration, and began a military buildup that has accelerated under Reagan. There has never been draft registration or a draft in this

country without a war in the offing. The U.S. is driven toward war, not only to secure the profits of the multinational corporations, but to divert the attention of poor and working people from the problems of unemployment, cutbacks in social programs, and the general assault on living standards in the U.S. Opposition to the draft also raises the issue of the "economic draft," where jobless youth are forced into the military to survive.

The way to defeat this drive for war is to stand up and fight back as Andy Mager has done. It is this type of resistance and the growing organized fightback of the anti-war movement which will stop the Pentagon's drive toward war.

"Puerto Rican model," that is as a neo-colony of the U.S. A delighted Reagan immediately invited him to Washington as the first foreign head of state to meet the new U.S. President. That's when they were saying, "Come back to Jamaica!"

What a come down for Reagan now, that one of his favorite stooges suddenly finds himself under siege!

The immediate fate of this regime is unclear. It has always relied on violence to achieve its ends, both as a reactionary opposition party carrying out an assassination campaign that took the lives of hundreds of progressives and nationalists, and today as the ruling group.

A recent report by the Council of Hemispheric Affairs documents how during 1984 human rights in Jamaica had become a mockery due to "brutality and arbitrary arrests by police."

According to the fantasy world of Reagan and Seaga, fear of the police will still any protest from the masses of the people, no matter how great their hardship and agony.

The Jamaican uprising has rudely unraveled this myth.

—King

Continued from page 1

of that mass movement to remove "Jim Crow" segregation laws from the books of the vast sections of the U.S. where they had been enforced. Before those struggles and victories, Black people were forbidden even to eat at lunch counters with whites, were forced to ride in the back of the bus, were relegated to "colored" water fountains and toilets, were segregated by law in schools and housing and denied the right to vote.

That racism is now given a boost from board rooms to the White House shows not that the civil rights movement made no gains. It shows instead that the institutions of capitalist society are dependent on racist ideology, on sowing divisions between Black and white for the benefit of only a very few rich white people.

To those who grew up hearing King's speeches or learning them in the schools where Black communities

—Jamaica revolt

Continued from page 1

uprising against the rightist regime of Edward Seaga was his announcement of a new round of price increases coming at a time when both inflation and unemployment are officially running at 30%, many industries have gone bankrupt and the condition of the majority has become desperate.

Yesterday's revolt, which comes as very unwelcome news to the Reagan administration, was ironically provoked by the imperialists themselves. In raising prices, Seaga was only following the dictates of the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund, a strong-arm squad for the large Western banks anxious to squeeze the last drop from the debtor nations. Now these greedy kings of high finance have unwittingly destabilized a regime headed by one of their own puppets, just as they deliberately undermined that of his predecessor, which was leftist.

When Seaga entered office in 1980, he pledged to put the country on a

Pentagon resumes invasion rehearsals on Nicaragua border

By Bill Del Vecchio

JANUARY 14—The Pentagon's rehearsals for a land and sea invasion of Nicaragua, which were briefly suspended during Reagan's re-election campaign, are going back into full swing.

According to the Jan. 10 Washington Post, the U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz left Norfolk on Tuesday bound for the Nicaraguan coast loaded with 90 warplanes. The Nimitz will be followed in a few weeks by the battleship Iowa and its battle group.

Large scale land exercises involving U.S. forces are also about to resume in Honduras on the Nicaraguan border, according to both U.S. and Honduran officials.

For a full two years the Pentagon has been preparing for open military intervention in Nicaragua after it became apparent that CIA-directed and funded counter-revolutionaries were incapable of toppling the revolutionary Sandinista government.

Reagan and the Pentagon had hoped that constant military pressure from the U.S., terrorist acts by the CIA bands, and economic sabotage would turn the Nicaraguan people against the Sandinistas. But Reagan's unofficial war has only made the Nicaraguan people rally once again behind the Sandinistas, who led them in a mass revolution in 1979 that overthrew the hated dictator and U.S. flunky, Anastasio Somoza.

Ortega inaugurated

This popular support was clearly apparent last Thursday when the masses of Managua, the capital, and representatives of 40 nations, came out

for the inauguration of Daniel Ortega as President. Ortega, a hero of the Sandinista revolution who suffered long imprisonment and torture under Somoza, won the presidency in open elections held on Nov. 4.

While the people were celebrating Ortega's inauguration, the CIA contra bands were busy terrorizing the rural population of northern Nicaragua. On Tuesday the contras seized an American nun during roadside ambushes.

Sister Nancy Donovan of the Maryknoll order was accompanying a group of refugees who were displaced during a contra attack last week when she was captured by the contras. Because she was an American, she was released, but 14 Nicaraguan construc-

tion workers traveling on that same road were not as lucky. Their bodies were found and brought to the town of Esteli the next day by government troops.

The contras consider all government supporters to be military targets, and since the majority of the people have shown that they support the Sandinistas, the contras' targets include peasants working in their fields, teachers, nurses, students helping in the coffee harvest, workers, and church people who help any of these groups. In short, the contras are waging a campaign of indiscriminate terror.

Congress with much fanfare cut off funds to the contras last year, but yesterday's New York Times reports that

the CIA-directed contras have easily side-stepped this by getting weapons from U.S.-armed Honduras, El Salvador and Israel, and from U.S. rightist organizations. The Reagan administration is already campaigning for Congress to resume the aid, and in the meantime has obviously found a way to funnel weapons, arms and money to their mercenary bands in Honduras.

But the greatest danger to the Nicaraguan people comes directly from the Pentagon. The threat of invasion, after a brief pause for the U.S. elections, is now being renewed. All opponents of war in the U.S. must renew their vigilance and loudly voice their opposition to the Pentagon's plans to invade Nicaragua.



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Recent demonstration targets Pentagon-CIA's illegal war against Nicaragua.

Celebrate Ortega inauguration

THIS COMING Saturday, Jan. 26, in New York City there will be a celebration of the democratically elected people's government of Nicaragua and its president, Daniel Ortega.

The celebration, sponsored by Casa Nicaragua, will begin at 12 noon at Taller Latinoamericano, 19 W. 21 Street, 2nd floor, and will include Nicaraguan food, videos, crafts, "music from the Americas," as well as a dance beginning at 9 p.m. to the music of "El Chinito."

For further information, call (212) 696-4792.

CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN BRIEFS

PERU. The visit of the UN Human Rights Commission, scheduled for later this month, has been unexpectedly postponed until April. The UN Commission's visit, charged with investigating the disappearance of 236 people, had created much expectation, since 1,500 individuals were reported as missing last year according to various human rights organizations.

Although no official explanation for the postponement has been provided it is speculated that the cancellation may be linked to Pope John Paul II's upcoming 5-day visit to the country, apparently as a preventive measure to avoid embarrassing headlines linking the government of President Belaunde Terry to the growing repression.

• • •

CHILE. Despite the repression imposed by the two-month-old state of siege, the Chilean people continue to seize any opportunity to demonstrate against the Pinochet regime. Earlier this month more than 3,000 mourners at the funeral of Matilde Urrutia, widow of Nobel prize winner Pablo Neruda, turned the sad event into an act of defiance against the regime.

• • •

ECUADOR. A 48-hour general strike called by the Frente Unitario de Trabajadores (Workers United Front) to protest against gasoline and public transportation price increases paralyzed Quito, the capital, and other cities. The strike, which began Wednesday, Jan. 9, and continued through Thursday, was marked by violent confrontations between the strikers and their supporters and the police-army



Workers in Quito, Ecuador, battle police during general strike.

forces. Hundreds were arrested and according to press dispatches at least five people were killed.

The FUT, after publicly denouncing the government's brutal repression of the strike, announced that it will continue to fight the price hikes and to demand higher wages for the workers.

• • •

BRAZIL. Brazilian General Walter Pires said in a recent TV interview in Brasilia, the nation's capital, that he along with his fellow officers were the ones responsible for the country's return to "democracy." The general, who went on to state that Brazil "never stopped being a democracy," conveniently forgot to mention the massive

demonstrations and the unmanageable economic crisis as the elements which weighed heavily on the general's decision to step aside.

It's doubtful that the upcoming civilian president, not elected by the people but rather hand-picked by the Electoral College, will be more successful than General Figueredo, the outgoing president, in managing the economic crisis for the IMF and the U.S. banks. Brazil's \$98 billion foreign debt, the largest in Latin America, requires yearly interest payments of \$12 billion.

BOLIVIA. The Jan. 11 announcement of general elections, scheduled to take place June 16, has done little to

dispel the tension and economic chaos that currently engulfs this Andean nation. Inflationary rates of 3,000%, industrial semi-paralysis and skyrocketing food prices coupled with widespread discontent and opposition to the IMF austerity measures have turned the government of Hernan Siles Zuazo into permanent managers of an unending crisis.

Zuazo's tenure has been marked, since October 1982, by upheaval ranging from an 18-day general strike last November, the 13th general strike during 1984, to mini-rebellions among leading army generals who tried unsuccessfully to resist last December's changes in command levels.

—Estela Vilchez

EDITORIAL

The crime of silence

THE REAGAN administration hates to spread bad news. This is especially the case when the news might hurt the interests of big business backers. Recently this passion to speak no evil manifested itself in the UN, where 147 voted for and only the U.S. representative voted against publishing a list of toxic materials which many countries had banned. The Reaganites didn't want to hurt the chances of Dow, Monsanto and Union Carbide to sell their poison goods abroad.

Now news has leaked out of how the administration keeps mum at home. The federal government is refusing to notify workers who have been exposed on the job to dangerous substances like asbestos and polyvinyl chloride. They refuse even though the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is keeping records of 250,000 workers for 66 mortality studies and other medical research.

More important, they refuse to notify the workers even though it

could make a difference between treating the illness on time or being too late. For the workers involved, it is a question of life and death.

But for the Reaganites, there are higher questions than the life and death of workers. For example, there is the bottom line that measures profits. And for the companies that produced or used toxic substances, publicity about the dangers could hurt profits, or even open them up for negligence suits.

Dr. Anthony Robbins, who directed NIOSH from 1978 to 1981, believes the Reagan administration opposed notifying workers because it would have increased pressure for more occupational health research and focused on work-related dangers. "I think that is exactly what a pro-business administration did not want," said Robbins.

In many situations silence is a virtue. The Reaganites have found a way to turn it into a major crime against working people, as they help their corporate friends turn a profit.

CIA's vast aid to Afghan 'contras'

THE CIA'S "dirty war" against Afghanistan has now become the largest "covert" operation run by the agency since the conclusion of the Viet Nam war.

An extensive front-page article appearing in the Jan. 13 Washington Post reports that the \$250 million being sent in weapons, ammunition and other aid for the counter-revolutionaries, represents 80% of the CIA's yearly spending for all the covert wars it is sponsoring, including the incessant armed attacks on Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Viet Nam, Kampuchea, and Angola.

Among the arms being shipped into Afghanistan are new rapid-fire cannons which will cost about \$1 million each. This is no small war the CIA wages against the leftist government in Kabul. It is a major undertaking, and the unleashing of right-wing emigre bands against a legitimate government fully justifies the request of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for Soviet assistance under the provision of the treaty signed by the two in 1978.

For almost two years following the revolution in Afghanistan against the old feudal regime, there were no Soviet troops in that country, and they were only introduced in response to the carnage being wrought by the CIA "contras." Both the USSR and the government of Afghanistan have repeatedly stated that this assistance will no longer be required when imperialism stops the armed subversion. It is clear now that the Reaganites have no more intention of halting this flagrant aggression against a small country in Asia than they do against the Sandinistas.

So for the foreseeable future what the Reagan administration and Congress refer to as "the good war" will continue, at whatever the cost in human life. And so long as it lasts, progressive people everywhere who know full well that the CIA has never supported a genuine national liberation movement but only the forces of reaction, should speak out ever more clearly on the side of the new Afghanistan and against those who criminally attack it.



LETTERS

Crowns for WWs

ENCLOSED is my new subscription for eight weeks of Workers World. I can only offer Kroner ("crowns") as payment, as the dollar is not used here. One dollar presently equals approximately 8.8 crowns, but because of the mailing costs that will entail, I'm sending you 20 kroner instead.

Thanks for the great and enlightening reading material. If I can offer any assistance on coverage of topics (particularly gay and lesbian) feel free to request.

Kristin Zoernig
Oslo, Norway

Wave of the future

EVERY issue convinces me more and more that Workers World (both the newspaper and the party) is the wave of the future for working-class people in the U.S. . . . It takes an organization like WWP to absorb and analyze the collective experience of the multi-racial working class of the U.S., and then take that analysis and give it life in militant action.

I'd like to be a regular contributor to the Workers World Supporter Program. You can count on me for \$10 a month.

Peter Goselin
Mansfield, Conn.

News of contra attack

I JUST heard a commentary on WLRN (Public Radio Miami) about the contras attacking the coffee harvest [in Nicaragua]. The "La Espresa" coffee co-op (used to be a feudal plantation) was attacked by about 150 contras. They killed six, including two women and one man.

The reporter was on the scene when the people were first finding out about their dead. Those that died were either the men of the "local militia" (any man who carried a rifle to work because he knew the contras were out there) or innocent bystanders, therefore women and children.

The people interviewed spoke of the contras' lack of courage, that they were "poorly motivated" and "don't stand their ground" and when caught they "told everything, something a Sandinista would never do."

The contras still do much damage and induce fear in the countryside. At the La Espresa coffee co-op they destroyed all the coffee processing equipment. They also burned the dwellings and belongings and killed. One woman spoke of losing her husband and her house when the contras attacked; she fled with her six children. She lost everything.

The contras must "hit and split" because they do not have one village that they control. They must retreat to Honduras to "recuperate." They have no popular support. They are paid mercenaries, and we all know who pays them.

When interviewed, the leader of the main contra group would not admit that they were hitting economic targets. This was while the women were crying at the La Espresa coffee co-op. During that week, five more coffee co-ops were hit and four public officials died—"following word for word" from the captured CIA manual.

Oliver Brooks, M.D.
Pahokee, Fla.

Workers World welcomes letters from its readers. Send all correspondence to: Workers World, P.O. Box 948, GPO, New York, N.Y. 10116.

—China

Continued from page 9

greatest social revolution in Asia, defeating Chiang Kai-shek's imperialist-supported army, breaking the remnants of the Japanese puppet army in China and then taking on the U.S. in Korea—all without the aid of General Vessey, Defense Secretary Weinberger and Ronald Reagan.

This is not to say that the military, like

industry and agriculture in China, are not in need of the four modernizations which have long been proclaimed to be Deng's program. But these were really planned earlier, during the revolutionary period in China, and made considerable headway notwithstanding sabotage and destruction by the current ruling group.

Despite the headlong retreat by the Deng governing group, the vital forces of the Chinese Revolution remain alive and strong. The Chinese Revolution has gone through many phases. It has known

a considerable number of retreats, most of them of a forced character.

The inherent vitality and potential of the Chinese working class and the socialist consciousness of the advanced elements of the population generally have not been lost, nor can these class forces be passive in the contemporary configuration of Chinese society. On the contrary, the whole superstructure of the People's Republic of China still rests upon them. Sooner or later this will assert itself in a new, revolutionary upsurge.



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Perspectives on China

By Sam Marcy

JANUARY 14—One can only hope—as every progressive worker, communist and socialist should—that the gloating in the bourgeois press about the “restoration of capitalism in China” will prove to be a delusion on the part of the imperialist bourgeoisie.

After all, the liberal bourgeoisie in particular in the 1930s and 1940s had an erroneous estimate of the driving forces of the Chinese Revolution. In effect, they painted China's Communists as mere agrarian reformers who had the limited objective of getting rid of the hated Chiang Kai-shek regime, obtaining some kind of bourgeois democracy and maintaining a modicum of national independence.

It proved to be wishful thinking and a fallacious thesis on the part of bourgeois liberal academia. The extreme rightwing later ruthlessly assailed them for it, literally driving them underground and creating a reign of terror under the aegis of McCarthyism. “They lost China for us,” screamed the extreme rightists at the highpoint of McCarthyism. Virtually the entire bourgeoisie joined in chorus in this canard.

Rarely were the dynamic forces, the working class and the peasantry led by the Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army (PLA), given credit for the great revolutionary transformation of China, which no amount of distortion and lies can erase.

Bourgeois deliria over economic reform

Today the capitalist press is churning out a deluge of glowing reports on the tremendous opportunities which China's new economic reform offers the imperialists.

On the cover of *Business Week* (Jan. 14) is the heading “Capitalism in China.” It carries eight full pages of material singing paeans of praise for the “new, flexible, innovative and imaginative” approach to China's economy. Under Deng Xiaoping, exclaims *Business Week* in a leading headline, “It's okay to get rich.”

None of the material reported on and not even the whole economic reform in its totality spells out a full-scale return to a bourgeois system of capitalist ownership and control of the economy. The means of production are still in the hands of the state and, although the communes have been dismantled, the farmers have to operate within the framework of state control over the basic raw materials and equipment needed for agricultural production. The class consciousness of the workers and of the mass of the advanced elements of China continues to be, if not the dominant factor, nevertheless an enormous brake on the regressive policies of the Deng regime.

Capitalist tendencies not triumphant

Of the utmost importance, however, is that the basic thrust of the new economic reform is objectively oriented in the direction of strengthening the capitalist tendencies in China today. This is so regardless of all Deng's assurances to the contrary.

How far it will go is another question. No one can foretell at this time how deeply the constellation of internal class forces will be affected by international developments. Nor is it possible to estimate the extent of genuine socialist opposition to the vast economic changes envisioned by the decision of the Central Committee on Oct. 25, 1984, which unveiled the new economic reform.

It also remains to be seen whether it is possible for the Deng grouping to pull back in the face of impending disastrous consequences.

Of course, there is plenty in the Central Committee decision on the economic reform that points toward an awareness of

Why is the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John W. Vessey, in China? The appearance of the U.S. big brass in China ironically comes almost exactly on the 60th anniversary of the bombardment of China's coastal cities, the landing of U.S. Marines and the unloosing of a reign of terror against the Chinese people by the U.S., French, British and Japanese imperialists in the 1920s. Surely there are many in the Chinese leadership who can only wonder at the irony of it all.

genuine socialist fears among the party militants and the working class of the grave risks undertaken in this new adventure.

“The individual economy now found in China”—it should read private economy—“differs from the individual economy linked with capitalist private ownership,” says the text of the October decision.

“China's individual economy plays an irreplaceable role in expanding production, meeting the people's daily needs and providing employment . . . it is necessary and a valuable adjunct to the socialist economy and is subordinate to it.”

But that is precisely what's in question. If it were only a mere adjunct to the socialist economy! If one could only leave it at that—then it would be completely understandable.

One must, however, see it in the perspective of the historical period since the Deng grouping took over. It has been one long, steady swing to the right in all fields—in social, political and economic matters, international relations, and the arts and sciences. There have been occasional interruptions and retreats, but the basic rightward thrust, far from being reversed, has taken on new momentum.

Dismantling of the communes changed mode of agricultural production

The dismantling of the communes—which involved a change in the mode of production from that of collective agriculture to that of a market economy, or bourgeois agriculture—is the most significant retreat by the Deng regime.

It is not just that the Deng regime has introduced individual material incentives and bonuses, which incidentally have long been prevalent in the USSR. It is that they are raised to a principle of the new bourgeois economics.

Perhaps the new economic reform could be justified as a temporary transitional period. But the whole spirit of the thing, the deliberate attempt to make assurances to the neo-bourgeois elements, who are profiting highly by it, and to elements of the intelligentsia—all this becomes a long-term perspective in which the vision of a socialist future becomes dimmer with each new step taken by the ruling group.

Also involved in the whole sweep of Deng Xiaoping's program is a multiplicity of grave international questions which compound serious domestic problems. Take, for instance, the opening up of 14 port cities in China to imperialist investments.

Deng Xiaoping has asserted that the new open door policy to the West is the only way to overcome the legacy of “poverty, backwardness and ignorance. . . . No country can now develop by closing its doors.”

“Isolation landed China in poverty. We suffered from this and our forefathers

suffered from this.” (New York Times, Jan. 2.)

It is, of course, true that no country can close its doors to the world and make progress on its own for any length of time. But who is arguing against opening up channels of communications, trade, commerce or economic intercourse generally?

No one has argued for an isolationist policy as such. The issue is not isolationism; it is the direction of foreign policy, especially the continuing and expanding collaboration with U.S. imperialism.

China broke out of imperialist-imposed isolation a decade ago

When the UN finally voted overwhelmingly in 1974 (before the Nixon visit!) to restore China to its rightful place and oust the Chiang clique, the PRC had already won diplomatic recognition from most of the countries in the UN at the time. Not only did it have diplomatic relations with Britain, France, and other European capitalist countries, but they had established trade and commercial relations.

The UN vote which, we repeat, came before the Nixon visit, had shown that the U.S. was unable to isolate China.

What is at issue is not China's expanding commercial and trade relations with the rest of the world but the political and diplomatic dependence upon imperialism, U.S. imperialism in particular. It is this aspect of the new ruling group's foreign policy relations which has enormous domestic consequences as it moves China into the web of imperialist relationships.

Why did Deng invite Vessey?

If this were not so, why then, one asks, is the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Pentagon, General John W. Vessey, in China together with a high-ranking U.S. military delegation?

The appearance of the U.S. big brass in China ironically comes almost exactly on the 60th anniversary of the bombardment of China's coastal cities, the landing of U.S. Marines and the unloosing of a reign of terror against the Chinese people by the U.S., French, British and Japanese imperialists in the 1920s. Surely there are many in the Chinese leadership who can only wonder at the irony of it all.

Why did the Deng grouping invite the U.S. military chief to China? Presumably to help the People's Liberation Army (PLA) modernize the Chinese military establishment.

The visit of the Pentagon militarists, however, comes on the heels of an announcement by the Chinese government of a significant shakeup in the PLA's General Staff and the retirement of about 40 officers of corps level and above (which is tantamount to something like three-star generals in the U.S.).

The retirements could be of a routine character and aimed at upgrading the younger officers in the PLA. There would be merit to this, of course, because younger people are more susceptible to quickly learning the new and more sophisticated elements of military technology.

Deng, however, while he has long been cultivating the so-called younger elements in the military, has certainly not done it because of the age factor alone. What's involved, and this is hardly a secret, is Deng's effort to get rid of the more revolutionary elements in the army.

People's Army a model for revolutionary countries

It should be borne in mind that the People's Liberation Army was the prototype used in almost all Third World revolutions which have effectuated an overturn of imperialist rule. It has been the very model of a genuinely popular, democratic people's army. Its heroic feats go back decades and its attachment to the people is legendary. It has been the very bone and marrow of the peasants and workers.

It has been so closely knit with the people because much of its work has been helping the peasants with the crops, building homes, hospitals, teaching in the schools, and helping with sanitation and other matters. The People's Army has over the years exerted tremendous revolutionary energy, dedication and, of course, self-sacrifice.

Deng's special animosity toward the army, of course, grows out of its participation in the Cultural Revolution whose arch-enemy he was from the very beginning.

It is a falsehood to say that the struggle within the party has been over the allocation of military needs as against civilian production. That's a ploy to cover up the real issue, which is the struggle against the revolutionary elements in the party. There is no disputing, of course, the need to modernize the army and improve its efficiency in the age of atomic weapons. No one is really contesting that.

What Deng is really concerned with is the cultivation of a bourgeois, elitist corps to separate the army from the people, to turn it into a prototype of a bourgeois professional army with its officer privileges, its arrogance and indifference if not hostility to the people.

Let us remember that the PLA, even to this day, has not yet embraced the bourgeois display of rank, which had been a salient feature of the Chiang Kai-shek army. This new people's democratic army barely one year after the revolution, after an exhausting 20-year-old civil war, hurled back the U.S. imperialist army in Korea, administering its first defeat in the modern era.

All this was done—carrying out the

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Wishful thinking.

French police assassinate Kanaka leader

Aim to keep colonial control of Pacific island

By John Catalinotto

JANUARY 14—The brutal assassination of two leaders of the newly formed provisional government of Kanaky by French colonial police and the dispatch of 1,000 more police and paratroopers to that small South Pacific island have exposed the Mitterrand government's basic priorities there: to maintain French military and economic control and to disarm the liberation movement.

This basic goal is unchanged by the so-called compromise plan raised by French special envoy Edward Pisani, who poses as a mediator among the population groups of different national backgrounds currently inhabiting the island.

The largest of these groups is the 65,000 Melanesian or Kanaka people who were the original inhabitants of what the French call New Caledonia. Through their overwhelming support for the Nov. 18 election boycott and backing for the uprising led by the Kanaka Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), they have shown their support for an independent Kanaky.

There are also some 35,000 long-time



Eloi Machoro

settlers of French origin and another 15,000 French officials and short-term residents on the island. As is common in colonial outposts, the settlers tend to support union with France and in fact to give disproportionate backing to rightist and ultra-right parties which are dedicated to maintaining racist colonial privileges over the indigenous population.

There are also some 30,000 Polynesians, Indonesians and Vietnamese whose recent immigration to New Caledonia was encouraged by the French authorities to dilute the Kanaka drive for independence.

The French government currently has 6,500 police and troops on the island to assure its control over what some French generals have termed "an anchored aircraft carrier in the Pacific" and what French and U.S. mining companies recognize as the third largest producer of nickel in the world, behind the Soviet Union and Canada.

Excuse for more force

The French government claims it needs a larger police and military presence "to keep peace" among the different national groupings. And in fact, the present curfew in the capital city, Noumea, was prompted by a riot of 1,000 settlers led by the neo-fascist National Front party, following the shooting death of a farmer of French origin.

Yet the killing of the Kanaka provisional government's minister of internal security, Eloi Machoro, and of one of his

top aides, was carried out by this same police presence. The authorities claim the two were killed by accident in a shootout by French sharpshooters who were given orders to "neutralize" them with shots in the shoulder. FLNKS says the two were assassinated while standing outside their headquarters trying to negotiate with the French police.

Besides the two leaders killed last Friday, another 10 FLNKS militants were massacred in December, that time by fascist thugs. Among those killed in the ambush were two brothers of the president of the provisional government of Kanaky, Jean-Marie Tjibaou. All but a handful of the 19 people killed in fighting since the November uprising have been Kanaka militants, who are for the most part armed only with clubs and axes.

Until the shooting of the two independence leaders Friday, FLNKS had agreed to Pisani's proposals. This plan, while keeping French military and foreign policy control of the island, allowed local sovereignty for the Kanaka in areas of the country outside Noumea. The right-wing settler parties rejected the plan.

Now, President and FLNKS leader Tjibaou has termed the shooting a "barbarous act" that "created a new situation in the struggle of the Kanaka people for its independence," and withdrew endorsement of the Pisani plan.

U.S. attacks Viet Nam through aid to Thai military

By Paddy Colligan

JANUARY 15—The U.S. government backed up its ongoing campaign to undermine the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam last week by offering to speed up military aid already in the pipeline for Thailand, a country ruled by a pro-West military dictatorship.

During the U.S. war against Viet Nam that ended 10 years ago, the Thai regime provided eight air bases to aid the U.S. in its genocidal air war against Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos. It also provided 12,000 Thai mercenaries to the U.S. CIA for so-called counter-insurgency actions.

This vote of confidence by Washington for the Thai generals increases pressure on Viet Nam and on neighboring Kampuchea. For over three weeks now, these two countries have

been carrying out a military offensive against armed Kampuchean reactionaries encamped along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

Beginning in late December 1984, joint Vietnamese and Kampuchean military units moved against remnants of the coalition made up mostly of rightwingers who ruled Kampuchea under U.S. tutelage and of the discredited Pol Pot forces.

The armed bands, who play in Indochina a role similar to the Nicaraguan "contras" in Central America, raid Kampuchea during the rainy months and then retreat into Thailand to evade pursuit by government troops. There are estimated to be about 45,000 armed troops making up three separate anti-government groups who have at times fought each other.

Since they have little support from inside Kampuchea, these groups depend on support from outside the country. Aid from the U.S. government is critical for these forces, and comes in the guise of "humanitarian relief" through aid given to the Thai military.

The Thai government provides logistical and reconnaissance backing and gives military backup when the counter-revolutionaries retreat into Thailand. A Thai plane was shot down during the recent fighting.

Washington gives solid diplomatic backing to the Thai generals and ensures that they continue to prop up the counter-revolutionary side in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It's through the ASEAN forum that Viet Nam has sought to work out a peaceful resolution of this conflict.

struck, in a bid to have their grievances heard. And in 1917 the Industrial Workers of Africa was founded in Johannesburg. This was the first African industrial trade union.

The struggle against pass laws has been an ongoing struggle in South Africa and continues today. These laws require Black South Africans to carry a pass book that gives detailed descriptions of the holder, and whether they are permitted to be in the area they are in. A Black South African can be stopped at any time and asked for their pass book, and jailed if they don't have it or a discrepancy is found.

In 1918, an anti-pass campaign led by the Bantu Women's League of South Africa, a branch of the ANC, ended in an heroic victory. In 1956 over 20,000 women marched on Pretoria, in a continuation of the militant struggle against the extension of pass laws to women.

In May 1918 over 150 striking sanitation workers were sentenced to two months hard labor for so-called breach of contract. The ANC launched a campaign for their release which then turned into a campaign for a general wage increase under the threat of a general strike. The strikers were released.

In 1919, 70,000 miners struck against their already bad and deteriorating working conditions. South African troops moved through the lines killing three and wounding over 40

strikers. Racist South African police along with armed white civilians attacked a meeting in solidarity with the striking miners, killing eight people and wounding over 80.

In 1943, the ANC Women's League was founded. In the same year the ANC Youth League was also formed. These two groups are special organizations within the ANC, to take up and organize issues that are of particular interest to women and youth. They are still active organizations within the ANC and are called the Women's Section and the Youth Section of the ANC.

On May 1, 1950, a general strike against all discriminatory laws and for full rights took place. South African police opened fire in the township of Alexandra as well as other areas on the Reef, killing at least 18 people and wounding over 30. On June 26 of that same year the ANC called its first national political strike in response to these brutal killings. That day is now known as South Africa Freedom Day.

The birth of the Federation of South African Women came April 17, 1954. This organization encompassed all of the women of South Africa who were struggling against the hated apartheid system. South African women have been an integral part in the struggle for self-determination and freedom from the colonial regime. The formation of the Federation was a step forward and marked a new awareness of

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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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—ANC

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South African white parliament on May 31, 1910.

This was the anniversary of the Treaty of Vereeniging signed in 1902 at the conclusion of the Anglo-Boer War, which incorporated as its central key position a color bar clause, that precluded all Black people from being eligible to become members of parliament.

This period also saw the emergence of young African intellectuals who came from mission schools which had been established throughout the country. These young people helped what later developed into the African press, with articles written in both English and in African languages.

The British government, of course, flagrantly ignored the grievances and expressed wishes of the Black South African masses.

Struggle against pass laws

The people of South Africa continued their struggle for freedom. Different acts of resistance were sought and found. In 1913, African women resisted the imposition of residential passes, forcing the government to rescind its measure. In 1915 over 2,800 miners

Georgia carries out racist execution

By Hachett

JANUARY 15—"It is evident now that liberty and justice for all is not a synonym for what's about to happen to me."

With his mother present, witnessing her son's execution, Roosevelt Green, a 28-year-old migrant worker, went on to declare in his statement prior to his death last week in Georgia's electric chair, that, "What you are about to witness is a grave injustice. I am about to die for a murder I did not commit."

Execution—capitalist punishment—long used to enforce the so-called jus-

tice of the propertied owners, is reaching unprecedented levels in the U.S. Black people are almost half the people now sitting on death row and there has been a speed up of the more than 1,400 people awaiting the death penalty.

As a result of this speed up, it is legally and statistically likely that one or more of those killed will be in fact innocent of the crime they were convicted of, or not mentally responsible. In the case of Roosevelt Green, the court was tied as to whether he should have been executed. The Supreme Court refused to intervene in the case as did the Georgia Board of

Pardons. Green was executed although there was abundant evidence as to his innocence.

Green's attorney, August Siemon, pointed out that a recent study shows that Black people who kill whites are 33 times more likely to receive the death penalty than whites who kill Blacks. In 1977, while Green was on trial, he was told by the deputy at the county jail where he was held that "two Black lives were not worth one white life."

Capital punishment exists in most of the U.S. states. Thirty-eight impose death by electric chair, four by hang-

ing, and four by firing squad. The Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976 with new laws. Statistics kept from 1930 to 1973 on the selective use of the death penalty expose the obvious racism in its use.

Almost two-thirds of death row inmates are in the South, particularly Georgia, Florida and Texas. Two of every five death row inmates are Black. While in the late 1970s, about one or two people a year were executed, last year, 21 people were legally killed by the state. So far this year, three have already been killed. If January's pace continues, there will be some 60 executions in 1985.

NYC 'thought-crime' defendants gain support

By Diane Feinberg

NEW YORK, Jan. 14—Vigils, meetings and demonstrations in support of eight New York City Black activists charged with "thought crimes" and those subpoenaed to grand juries to testify against them are continuing to grow.

The New York Eight are: Viola Plummer, Robert Taylor, Omowale Clay, Colette Pean, Yvette Kelley, Randolph Simms, Ruth Carter and Roger Warsham. The government concedes they committed no crimes but charges that they conspired to rob armored trucks and plan an escape from jail. The New York Eight Against Fascist Terrorism are the first to be held under the new Hobbs Act which gives the government liberty to imprison and deny bail to those who "constitute a threat to the community."

Although they had committed no crimes, the government staged a pre-dawn raid on Oct. 18 conducted by a force of 500 cops and FBI agents armed with automatic weapons in which the eight were arrested.

According to the Amsterdam News

(Dec. 22), "The agents lined up 20 cars outside a home at 80 Milwood St., Brooklyn, calling the two women residents who were alone with their four children to 'come out with their hands up.'"

Chilling pre-dawn raids

"At the same time, they broke into an apartment at 1700 Bedford Ave., arresting Yvette Kelley and Colette Pean, knocking a 15-year-old girl to the floor, handcuffing her and putting a gun to her head, saying they mistook her for 47-year-old Viola Plummer, a resident of Queens.

"Meanwhile, in Queens, the agents broke into the home of Plummer, and found her 23-year-old daughter who had just returned home from work. They handcuffed her, threw her into a police wagon and told her she was under arrest, again mistaking her for Viola who was in bed.

"In the same house," the account concluded, "they put a shotgun to the head of an infant who was in his crib. Not far from the Plummers' home, they marched into her son Robert Taylor's apartment, arresting him at

gunpoint while holding guns at the backs of his two children."

The New York Eight were held on \$5 million bond, even after a magistrate ruled that the federal prosecutor failed to present any clear evidence that the accused represent a threat to the community. A spokesperson for the National Coalition of Black Lawyers compared this situation to "preventive" detention in racist South Africa.

"The real crime of these Black activists," explains a leaflet produced by the New York Eight Defense Committee, "has been their years of collective educating, organizing and agitation of Black people around issues like African liberation, community school control, police brutality, youth unemployment and community self-defense."

Grand juries used in witchhunt

"Because the Reagan government has no real crimes with which to charge these brothers and sisters, it is using Grand Jury subpoenas to attempt to force family members, friends and co-workers to testify

against them. In other words, a witch hunt!" the leaflet continued.

Milton Parrish, political activist and one of 33 people subpoenaed so far, charged that the U.S. prosecutor, Kenneth Roth, is on a witchhunt of the Black liberation movement.

The Amsterdam News reported that 17 associates of the New York Eight, including the wife of one defendant, the 15-year-old daughter of another, and a family babysitter, all said they will not cooperate with the grand jury, for which they can be jailed for the life of the investigation. Lionel Jean-Baptiste has already been jailed for his refusal to collaborate.

The defense committee leaflet concludes, "Black people would know that because we refuse to talk to the Grand Jury, the government will jail innocent people, destroying over 15 Black families. Over 25 children, ages four months to 15 years old, many of whom have already been terrorized by the midnight raids, will have to endure the hardship of seeing their parents go to jail, but standing up for Black Freedom."

—ANC

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the tremendous contributions in all aspects of the struggle against apartheid that women have made.

Birth of the Freedom Charter

In December 1953, at the annual conference of the ANC, a call was made for a congress of the people of South Africa. For many months they campaigned along with their allies and invited the people of South Africa to record their demands which would be incorporated in a document—the Freedom Charter. Millions of people participated in the campaign and sent in their demands.

On June 25-26, 1955, 3,000 delegates gathered at Kliptown, South Africa. They were workers and peasants, women, youth and students of all races and colors. They constituted the most representative gathering in the history of South Africa.

The campaign that was waged by the ANC, the South African Indian Congress, the Coloured Peoples Organization, SACTU, and the Congress of Democrats culminated in the writing of the Freedom Charter which subsequently was adopted by all of these organizations as their official program for the liberation of South Africa.

The opening statement of the Freedom Charter declares: "That South Africa belongs to all who live in it,

Black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people. . . ." Its ten-point program is the basis on which the people of South Africa can live together with full rights and equality.

Fifty years of peaceful demonstrations, marches and meetings for self-determination and an end to white minority rule were met with furious violence by the racist South African government. The colonization of South Africa in 1910 by imperialism placed one of the richest areas on the African continent in the hands of the white minority to the exclusion of the Black majority. The Sharpeville Massacre in 1961, where 69 people were brutally murdered and many more injured at the hands of that same white minority, was carried out with the full backing of both Britain and the U.S.

Hero's Day

The continued oppression of the Black South African masses by the Pretoria regime made it clear that force had to be met by force. This led to the formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the fighting arm of the ANC, on Dec. 16, 1961—Hero's Day. This was yet a new revolutionary stage in the struggle against colonization. On that day bombs shattered government installations; leaflets were distributed explaining the background of its formation.

In a speech made by Oliver Tambo,

speaking of Hero's Day, he stated, "The first salvos of our demand shook the enemy. On that day we spoke to the white oppressor in a new way; we blew up the hated symbols of oppression with our homemade bombs. In 1967 we made our voice quite clear in the battlefields of Zimbabwe. There the white oppressor learned the lesson which we must teach him again and again—that a bullet kills a white man too. And out of the barrels of guns and homemade bombs let us go on showing Vorster and his gestapo that we are determined to smash apartheid and liberate our country. We are many and the white oppressors are few. Our cause is just and white domination is condemned everywhere. The hour of freedom has come."

Nelson Mandela, who led the underground struggle of Umkhonto we Sizwe, was captured in 1963 by the South African government. The Rivonia trial resulted in Mandela along with several others being sentenced to life in prison.

Massive strikes and uprisings reoccurred, including the Soweto uprising in 1976, where the apartheid regime murdered at least 1,000 children in Soweto alone and hundreds in other parts of the country during months of nationwide resistance.

Even with the full support of the greatest imperialist power ever, with one of the most advanced military arsenals in the world, along with nuclear weaponry, the apartheid regime has

been unable to subdue the Black South African masses. Pretoria's latest attempt to legitimize apartheid by cramming their so-called new constitution (that gave limited representation to people of mixed race and those of Indian descent but offered no representation to the Black majority) down the throats of the South African people has resulted in one of the most massive and sustained uprisings since Soweto.

Under the leadership of the ANC, the United Democratic Front (a coalition of many organizations throughout South Africa that was formed to oppose the new constitution), and Black trade unions, there has been a general strike of over one million Black workers, continued school boycotts, open acts of sabotage, and countless demonstrations and rallies throughout South Africa which have rocked the very foundations of the apartheid system.

Not Washington, London, nor Pretoria with all their military might are capable of shoring up the crumbling apartheid system against the tide of resistance.

To quote from the manifesto of Umkhonto we Sizwe: "The time comes in the life of any nation when there remains only two choices: submit or fight. That time has now come for South Africa. We shall not submit and we have no choice but to hit back by all means within our power in defense of our people, our future, and our freedom."

NOW members plan vigil to defend abortion clinics



WW PHOTO: KRISTIN GUSTAFSON

'Women will not be terrorized.' In a militant response to the 27 right-wing terrorist bombings of abortion clinics of recent months, 30 women's rights, lesbian and gay, and anti-war activists in Boston held an emergency picketline on Jan. 10 to demand an end to these abortion clinic bombings and to defend the right of all women to choose.

The picketline in front of Boston's FBI headquarters, held despite sub-zero temperatures, was sponsored as part of a national effort by the All-Peoples Congress and the People's Anti-War Mobilization to demonstrate united opposition to the bombings and to Reagan's tacit and hypocritical blessing of them.

"Women will not be terrorized, Defend the right to choose!" chanted the demonstrators, sending a message to the Moral Majorityites and the anti-abortion terrorists that, since Reagan and the FBI won't stop the bombings, they will meet a united fightback of women and men to protect every woman's reproductive rights. In the words of one woman on the picketline, "We will not remain silent in the face of this violence. Falwell and his thugs must be denounced for the right-wing terrorists that they are."



PHOTO: FRAN LYNCH

Gays and lesbians hit apartheid. Chants of "Gay, straight, Black, white—all oppose apartheid," drew clenched fists and applause from passersby as 125 Black, Latin and white lesbians and gay men with their straight supporters marched through the Washington, D.C. streets on Sunday, Jan. 13. The action was called by Sapphire Sappho (a Black lesbian group), Black and White Men Together and the D.C. Coalition of Black Gay Men and Women. The demonstration, which marched on the South African Embassy, was meant to coincide with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

By Veronica Golos

JANUARY 13—Members of the National Organization for Women (NOW) plan a vigil and occupation of a number of abortion clinics around the country this coming weekend, from Friday, Jan. 18 through Tuesday, Jan. 22.

The vigils, planned to coincide with the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision making abortions legal, are necessitated by the continued bombings, arsons and fire-bombings of women's health clinics by right-wing "pro-life" activists around the country.

Judy Goldsmith, president of NOW, was quoted as saying, "At this point, people who believe something have to stand up against people who are nothing less than bullies, who are saying they are above the law, that they do not have to abide by the law of the land and that they will get their way."

Bombings of clinics have taken place all over the country. In the last year alone, they have occurred in Florida, Georgia, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Texas, California, Washington state, and the District of Columbia.

Federal government 'warns' of violence

The Federal government has issued a "warning" to operators of abortion clinics and medical offices concerning a potential for more violence during the weekend of President Reagan's inauguration. But it has done absolutely nothing to protect these clinics or provide necessary security.

In fact, the policies of the Reagan administration have given encouragement to the ultra-right "pro-life" bombers, as recently admitted by "Army of God" member Don Benny Anderson in an article in the Washington Post.

The "warning" by the Federal government through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), which is authorized to conduct investigations into the bombings, does not come from a sense of benevolence or defense of pro-choice advocates. On the contrary, it was issued after the announcement of the NOW occupations.

The ATF claims that it has "no inside information" concerning the possible inauguration weekend bombings. However, Bill Baird, whose clinic in Hempstead, Long Island, was fire-bombed six years ago while 50 people were in the building, doubts this. In an article in the New York Times (Jan. 14) Baird states that he sent the FBI an affidavit in 1980 reporting that at the "Right to Life" convention held that year, members were overheard conspiring to bomb clinics. The FBI refused to comment on Baird's claim.

Because of the attacks on abortion and women's health clinics, and the atmosphere of terror generated, many workers at the clinics have taken self-defense measures. Baird was quoted as stating, "We're in a state of siege, a state of war . . ." He noted that a Pro-Choice Defense League has been set up which "would seek to determine whether there was a common denominator to this terrorism." According to Baird, the League would also teach clinic operators how to defend themselves and their facilities.

Both Nanette Falkenberg, director of the National Abortion Rights Action League and the National Abortion Federation, which received the government's notice, have advised taking extra security measures, and admitted that many of the workers have been forced to arm themselves.

Church blocks clinic openings

In a related development, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Albany, New York, has obtained a temporary court order blocking efforts by two Planned Parenthood clinics to begin providing abortions.

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard, one of the church hierarchy, obtained the order on Friday, Jan. 11, only hours after the Planned Parenthood had obtained approval from the State Health Department to offer abortions in Albany.

The church hierarchy claimed that Planned Parenthood had failed to prove that there was a need for abortion services, and that there was no need in the region because the number of abortions had declined from 2,500 in 1982 to 1,900 in 1983.

Officials of Planned Parenthood point out that women are forced to travel to other counties because abortions in the area are available only in hospitals and doctors' offices.

The legal right to abortion, won through struggle, is currently under attack because abortion foes know they have a friend in the White House sanctioning their actions. Now, in this precedent-setting case, it is clear that they have a friend in the courts also.

It is precisely for this reason that the NOW occupation, the protest of Reagan's inauguration and the militant emergency picketlines and demonstrations across the country to condemn the clinic bombings are so timely.

Action planned to protest bombings

Special to Workers World
SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14—The local chapter of the All-Peoples Congress (APC) has called for a demonstration here against the right-wing bombings of abortion clinics, and in defense of women's right to choose.

The protest will take place Thursday, Feb. 7, at 5 p.m., starting at the Federal Building on 450 Golden Gate Ave., and will also target federal complicity in the bombings. A leaflet to announce both the Jan. 21 demonstration protesting Reagan's inaugural and the Feb. 7 march has been issued by the women's focus of the APC.

For more information, call the APC at (415)821-6545.

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