



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

Reagan policies create hunger in the farm belt

Harvard study says: 'We have a huge crisis'

By Joyce Chediak

JANUARY 15—The United States produces more food than any other country in the world. Food is the number one export. Yet, there is a hunger epidemic in the agricultural heartland itself, according to a study just released by Harvard University.

That people are going without meals just a stone's throw from fields producing bumper crops of grains, vegetables, fruits and other produce is a searing indictment of the Reagan administration and its five years of anti-poor policies.

The study identifies 150 rural or farming "hunger counties" where 20% of the population is poor. These areas of hunger are concentrated in the food producing states: 29 in Texas, 28 in South Dakota, 17 in Missouri, 11 in North Dakota and 10 in Nebraska. Other states in the farm belt which now have significant numbers of hungry people are Iowa, Illinois, Arkansas, Minnesota, Idaho and Montana.

While it is generally known that the Reagan administration's racist cutback and takeaway policies have devastated the workers in the cities, the extent of the damage inflicted by the Reaganites on rural workers and family farmers is just being revealed. According to the Harvard Study there are 4 million more hungry people today than in 1980. While in the 1970s this kind of hunger was found in the South and the Southwest, now it is spreading throughout the farm belt.

"We have a huge crisis," said J. Larry Brown, chairman of the Physicians Task Force on Hunger in America, whose report was released by Harvard. Brown also cites "the failure of the food stamp program to reach those who need it." In the counties studied only 33% of those eligible were receiving food stamps.

Texas center of hunger

That Texas, the heart of the Sun Belt, leads the country in "hunger counties," many of them the homes of Chicano and Mexican people, makes a shambles of Reagan's rosy promises that the new industries generated in the Southwestern states would bring prosperity to all. In truth, Black, Latin, Asian, Native

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Martin Luther King and the lessons of the Memphis strike

WORKERS WORLD EDITORIAL

JANUARY 15 marks the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There is much to be learned from the struggles waged by this great civil rights leader. However, the strike of Black sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn., which King aided in 1968, underscores a special kind of unity needed in the fight for equality and justice today.

It began in March, 1968, as a strike against racism and for the equal rights of Black workers. It became a struggle for the basic democratic rights of union recognition, wage increases and a grievance procedure. Then it broadened still further to incorporate the demands of the community itself: More jobs and higher wages for the Black community, enforcement of building codes and an end to police brutality.

After a month of picketing by the workers

and attacks by the police, King decided to back the strike and called for a march in solidarity with the strikers. Over 20,000 workers, community people and students turned out in support, shocking the Memphis city government and the Democratic administration of President Lyndon Johnson alike. This was an outpouring of the frustrations felt by the Black community over poverty, unemployment and underemployment, low wages, poor housing and other outrageous forms of racism.

A few months earlier King had announced a Poor People's March on Washington to protest racist assaults under the Johnson administration. This march and rally was tentatively set for mid June.

At the time of the sanitation strike some said that hundreds of thousands would pour into

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Reaganites step up war against abortion rights

Pro-choice protest Jan. 22 marks 13 years of Supreme Court decision

By Sharon Shelton
JANUARY 14—With the approach of the thirteenth anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, the Reagan administration is stepping up its reactionary anti-woman efforts to undermine that law, which was the fruit of decades of mass struggle.
Though almost 90% of the people of this country support legal abortions in most cases, the White House has arrogantly filed an amicus brief supporting two state anti-abortion laws before the Supreme Court and calling for the reversal of Roe v. Wade.
The laws, which were pushed through the legislatures by right-wing anti-abortion groups, are the Penn-

sylvania Abortion Control Act and the Illinois Abortion Law. They severely limit women's abortion rights and inhibit abortions.
The Pennsylvania law requires doctors, in cases where the fetus is considered viable, to choose abortion techniques on the basis of what's most likely to result in a live birth. This increases the risk of medical complications for women an estimated 1,500%.
The Illinois law makes it a felony for doctors not to provide the same fetal care during an abortion as is required for infants during childbirth. The statute, in fact, defines a fetus as a human from the moment of conception and instructs doctors to inform pa-

tients that the IUD and birth control drugs which might take effect after conception are considered a type of abortion!
It should surprise no one that the bigots in the Reagan administration are supporting these two laws which sound as though they were written by abortion clinic bombers themselves.
The President himself has made no secret of his reactionary opposition to women's reproductive rights. He has invited anti-choice rightists to the White House, sent messages of support to anti-abortion mobilizations and egged on the terror campaign which has resulted in more than 60 clinics bombed or burned down over the past two years.

Reagan and the reactionary bankers and businessmen behind him want to deny women any control over their reproductive rights. They want to force women workers, who have been waging militant struggles over truly revolutionary issues such as comparable worth, back into the isolation of the home.
Additionally, the U.S. ruling class wants to use the issues of abortion and the family to try to get support for their whole reactionary, racist, sexist, anti-gay, pro-military program. They want to use these issues to whip up the ultra-right against the progressive struggle of women and men.

Women protest
Yet, women have not sat by idly while the Reaganites and the right have schemed to turn back the clock of history. Jan. 22 will witness a rally in New York City called by the New York Pro-Choice Coalition under the slogan, "There is no liberty without freedom of choice." Jan. 22, which is the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, was chosen as the date of the protest to establish it as a day to commemorate women's rights.
And the National Organization for Women (NOW) is calling for national demonstrations in Washington and Los Angeles on March 9 to focus on reproductive rights.
These protests and others like them are crucial if women are to protect past gains and to deepen and broaden women's rights, to fully extend them to the poorest and most oppressed

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Solidarity with AIDS patients defies media-spread confusion

By Diane Feinberg
JANUARY 13—Despite the sensationalism and downright misinformation about AIDS in the news-for-profit media, support and solidarity for people with AIDS doesn't seem to make it into headlines. Yet look at these examples of caring and compassion toward people with AIDS by loved ones and by strangers alike.
Prisoners at Rahway State Penitentiary in New Jersey donated \$1,095.70 for 26 children at the Children's AIDS Ward at United Hospitals Medical Center of Newark. Dutch, a prisoner organizer, said at a Dec. 16 press conference, "When we called up and I found out they didn't have a TV or radio or nothing, that's sickening." Dutch spent his entire savings to buy the children a television.
Although many inmates are isolated and could not be reached, a prison-wide appeal was responded to by several hundred prisoners who donated some or all of their minimum daily work wage of \$1.30, reported the New York Native, Jan. 13-16.
Kenneth Meek's family has been a source of strength and love after he and his lover Jack came out of the closet and told Kenneth's family he has AIDS. Kenneth's mother, a retired

bookkeeper, and his father, a retired Teamster long-haul truck driver, not only support their son, they have adopted Jack as their son.
Said Kenneth, "I never used to hug my dad and I can now. When he hugs, it's work on my part to avoid being crushed. With my mother, too, it's not just a kiss on the cheek, it's a big hug."
Kenneth's mother explained, "Maybe there are some [people] who will wish they didn't know us, but they certainly haven't shown it. The girls in the club, they're very supportive. We've spoken to our minister, who is very supportive."
'Gifts for our guys'
Flyers and posters began being distributed in New York City before the holidays calling for "gifts for our guys." People were asked to donate a gift worth no more than \$15 to be anonymously distributed to people with AIDS—no credit, no tax deduction.
Reports a letter to the New York Native (Jan. 6-12), "Soon, New Yorkers who cared expressed their best holiday wishes with overwhelming results. Shirts and sweaters worth far more than \$15 avalanched in. Walkman cassette players and phone company gift certificates were abundant. Res-

taurants and hair stylists donated free dinners and haircuts."
Others donated cash or help in wrapping and delivering. One volunteer laden with gifts had trouble getting a cab to stop. When a cab driver found out what the bundles were for he donated his tip!
Friends of Mark
Thirteen-year-old Mark, a youth with hemophilia, has AIDS. In an article entitled "They haven't beaten AIDS in Swansea, but they've stymied fear," reprinted in the AIDS Action Committee newsletter, reporter Mark Patinkin notes that the boy's family has not received an unkind phone call or letter.
"How about friends keeping their distance," the reporter asked. Again, no. Every night for weeks neighbors have brought over meals—anything to make life easier, the family related.
A new group has been formed in Swansea called Friends of Mark. They are planning a dance and raffle to raise money. It is organized by Susan Travers, a woman who has never met Mark and his family. So why start this group, she was asked.
"I have kids of my own," she answered.

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In This Issue. . .

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While the courts in Philadelphia are trying one of the victims of the police bomb attack on MOVE, anti-racist activists are preparing to turn the situation around on Feb. 15. (Pages 6-7.)

ISRAEL AND APARTHEID
The parent firm is in the U.S., the weapons are made in Israel and the people die in South Africa. It's all part of a huge laundering operation in a sinister arms bazaar. (Page 4.)

SOUTH AFRICA
"We are now calling for a rapid escalation of our military offensive," ANC President Oliver Tambo declared on the anniversary of the founding of the liberation organization. Meanwhile, youth are deserting the apartheid army for exile or to join the struggle. (Page 9.)

EXECUTION
Is it legal to execute someone who was a minor at the time of their arrest? The state of South Carolina, which just sent James Roach to the electric chair, says "yes." (Page 11.)



7,000 Haitians march in Brooklyn against Duvalier. (Page 5.)
WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

BUS STRIKE
Boston schoolbus drivers have kept their strike strong despite the combined pressure of companies, school board and courts that have imposed fines and limited pickets. (Page 12.)

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The "tide of outrage" against Libya in the U.S. is an artificial media-generated hysteria, hiding from the public the worldwide support for this small nation. (Page 3.)

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Pentagon edges toward strike at Libya

U.S. media whips up anti-Arab climate

By Robert Dobrow

JANUARY 14—In defiance of world public opinion, particularly throughout the Arab world, the Reagan administration is escalating its attacks against Libya and nearing the threshold of outright military intervention.

This week, the USS Saratoga was ordered from the Persian Gulf to join the USS Coral Sea stationed in the Mediterranean off the Libyan coast. Together these two aircraft carrier battle groups are made up of 28 war ships, bringing the total number of U.S. war vessels in the Mediterranean to the highest point it's been for many months.

Earlier, the Reagan administration followed up its economic sanctions against Tripoli, halting virtually all trade between the two countries, with a freeze on hundreds of millions of dollars in Libyan assets in the U.S. This was denounced by the government of Libya as a form of "economic warfare."

The freeze of Libyan assets may also be part of a Pentagon strategy to provoke some "incident" to justify U.S. intervention. The Libyan government would certainly be within its rights were it to respond to Reagan's seizure of their assets by freezing U.S. assets in Libya. But in the current crisis the U.S. military is chomping at the bit for an excuse to intervene.

The latest issue of Newsweek magazine (Jan. 20), flushed with chauvinism and bitter hatred toward Libya, lets the cat out of the bag: "The most likely outcome, White House officials admit, is that Qaddafi will be goaded into yet another assault on Americans—and that will give the administration exactly the opportunity it needs to stage a military attack. In fact, some officials are so keen for a fight that they openly worry that Qaddafi might thwart them by temporarily lying low. Reagan strategists believe they must strike within the next six to nine months or else miss the tide of outrage against Libya's support of terrorism."

Media-generated hysteria

The "tide of outrage," of course, is an artificial, media-generated hysteria. All the taps of extreme racism and war jingoism have been turned open wide.

The Newsweek article quoted above is a typical example. Qaddafi is called "peculiar," "quixotic," "eccentric," "crazy," "dangerous," "half-baked," "mentally unbalanced," "hot-tempered," "unpredictable," "moody," "a zealot," "a madman," "a troublemaker," "an egotist," "a crybaby," "flaky" (six times), "barbaric" (four times), and likened to Adolph Hitler. All in the space of ten paragraphs.

"Liberal" congressmen, like Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), have openly called for Qaddafi's assassination. Political commentators have urged the administration to scrap international law and "settle accounts" with the Libyan leader. Military tactics against Libya—what targets to bomb, how many troops to deploy, probable casualties, etc.—are debated in the press as casually as who will win the Super Bowl.

It's not surprising that in this climate, racist attacks against Arab Americans are on the increase. "You can feel it. The hatred is rising," said Osama Siblani, publisher of the Arabic weekly Sada Alwatan in Dearborn, Mich., a city with an Arab community of 20,000.

"Ronald Reagan, who embodies the let's-go-get-'em attitude, is essentially giving people permission to come after us," says Cheryl Farris of the Los Angeles chapter of the American-Arab

Anti-Discrimination Committee. Last October during the Achille Lauro incident, the ADC's California office was firebombed, killing the group's West Coast director, Alex Odeh. Other attacks against the ADC have occurred in Boston and Washington, D.C.

Worldwide support for Libya

The realities of U.S. military aggression in the Middle East are a far cry from the Rambo mythology prevalent in Washington these days. U.S. threats are already galvanizing the Arab world, and outright invasion would provoke a storm of anti-imperialist protest.

Most of the imperialist allies of the U.S. in Western Europe and Japan are much more sensitive to this fact and have so far chosen to bow out from supporting Reagan's sanctions. The Islamic Conference Organization, which represents over 40 nations, including pro-U.S. puppet regimes like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, **unanimously** declared itself in solidarity with Libya in the face of "foreign aggression."

While the U.S. media has manufac-

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Taking down the U.S. flag on Libyan soil. Washington will never forgive Qaddafi for closing Wheelus Air Force Base, the Pentagon's center for aggression in northern Africa.

U.S. arms maker jolts British cabinet

By Andy Stapp

JANUARY 10—The sudden resignation today of Michael Heseltine, Britain's Secretary of State for Defense, provides an unusual glimpse into the undercover war carried out by the U.S. military industrial complex against its own NATO allies. It is an event with broad political implications in the struggle between United States and European imperialism for hegemony.

It is also a warning to working people everywhere that the armament manufacturers in this country will balk at nothing in their quest for profits, even if it means creating a major cabinet crisis for the government of their most loyal partner.

Heseltine's departure, the first time in this century that a British minister has stormed out of a cabinet session and resigned, was triggered by a savage fight between two multinational consortiums, one U.S. and the other

European, over which should take over Britain's only helicopter company, Westland.

Westland is failing and near bankruptcy from the world overproduction of helicopters, and like a shark who sees a sick fish, the giant American firm, United Technologies (UT), has moved in for the kill. UT, which racked up \$16 billion in sales world-wide last year, brought in the Italian firm of Fiat on its side, but essentially its proposal amounts to a total U.S. takeover and monopoly over British helicopter production.

Fearing that this would further British dependence on the United States aircraft corporations, the leviathans, which sit at the very heart of the military-industrial complex in this country, Defense Minister Heseltine rushed to support a joint British, West German, Italian and French counter-takeover, brokered by the Lloyds bank.

Along with West German Defense Minister Manfred Woerner, Heseltine called a meeting of the national armaments directors of Britain, West Germany, France and Italy to stop Westland from falling into United Technologies' hands.

Subsidiary position

"The European helicopter industry could find itself a subsidiary of the United States and one company," warned Raymond Lygo, the chief executive of British Aerospace. Sir Raymond and his friends all remember how in 1975 U.S. General Dynamics beat out the French capitalists on the sale of billions of dollars worth of fighter aircraft to Belgium, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands. And they are all worried about who will get the gravy on future contracts for the Star Wars project if the European

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Star Wars research goes underground

By Bill Del Vecchio

JANUARY 13—Faced with unprecedented opposition from the very campus scientists it is counting on, the Pentagon has stooped to tricking university researchers into participating in its Strategic Defense Initiative, better known as "Star Wars."

More than 2000 campus-based researchers, the majority of them physicists, have signed a pledge to refuse to accept any Star Wars funded work. These scientists see Reagan's SDI as a dangerous program that would greatly increase the chance of a nuclear war. These researchers, many of whom depend on Pentagon-funded research for their livelihood, further objected to Star Wars as being technologically unfeasible and drawing moneys away from all other scientific programs.

In order to get around this opposition, the Pentagon's Strategic Defense Initiative Organization has quietly taken over already existing research contracts without informing the researchers or the colleges where the work is being done.

At Princeton, where 75% of the members of the Physics Department signed the pledge, a proposal made to the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research for high-level computer research was given \$280,000 from the Star Wars office without the grant applicants' or university's knowledge. The only way the school could have known where the money was coming from was by recognizing the contract number on the contract as one used by SDI.

At Boston College a three-year study of the earth's upper atmosphere had its last year funded by SDI without anyone informing the researchers or college. Administrators at the college said they were surprised to read in the Chronicle of Higher Education that they had accepted \$27,000 from Star Wars.

At the California Institute of Technology, where 60% of the physics faculty have signed the pledge, administrators are still trying to explain where the \$300,000 SDI said it gave the school actually went.

Because one researcher from Caltech was involved, the Pentagon last May announced that the prestigious school was participating in a consortium to develop a super-computer to guide the Star Wars weapons contracts. The announcement infuriated the faculty and annoyed the administration, who claimed they hadn't even been informed.

At one school after another, the Pentagon has turned to blatant deceit to get its Star Wars program off the ground and give the impression that the entire university community is eagerly assisting the effort.

But the ability of the Pentagon to draw scientists into a program that they vocally object to shows how extensive the military's influence over university research has become. In order for the struggle against Star Wars to be successful, it must address the broader question of the Pentagon's role on campus and in all of U.S. society. Science should be improving people's lives, instead of improving nuclear weapons.

Another form of apartheid, part 5

The U.S.-Israel-South Africa triangle: a giant laundering operation

By Joyce Chediak

JANUARY 14—Since Israel is a surrogate of the U.S., Tel Aviv serves as a conduit for U.S. arms and related technology to the South African regime. At the same time, South African goods flow into the world market, especially into the U.S., via Israeli labels.

Hefty support is provided to South African apartheid by this arrangement. In 1983 alone via the U.S.-Israel-South Africa triangle Israel exported \$419 million to South Africa, mostly in weapons, and South Africa got onto the international market through Israel \$892 million in goods, mostly in uncut diamonds.

These figures are conservative and don't include the fruits of Israeli-South African joint ventures, money sent home by Israelis who are military, technical, security and intelligence advisors in South Africa, or revenues from licensing agreements.

How is all this done? James Bell, co-chairperson of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, who recently participated in a fact-finding trip to the Middle East, says, "Israel basically launders U.S. aid money to South Africa by helping the military-industrial complex in Israel, by funding them, and then by turning around and arming South Africa."

U.S. set up Israeli arms industry

Israel has a huge arms industry for a tiny country and actually exports more than \$1 billion in weapons every year. In 1982, according to Israeli civil rights activist and concentration

camp survivor Israel Shahak, South Africa was Israel's single largest weapons customer. In fact, one-third of Israeli weapons exports, or about \$350 million annually, go to South Africa.

What is the U.S. role in this? American companies provided the financial assistance and the licensing for the development of the Israeli arms industry in the first place. For example, Elron, a computer industry group, was founded with money from Rockefeller Brothers and Associates in 1962.

Among the U.S. companies with licensing agreements with Israel are General Dynamics, General Electric, Pratt and Whitney, Grumman, Litton Industries and Garret Air Research. McDonnell Douglas and Boeing alone have sub-contracting agreements valued at \$60 million. In addition, more than half of foreign subsidiaries involved in weapons production in Israel are U.S. companies.

Through this apparatus Israel has exported remodeled tanks, fighter planes, air-to-air rockets, anti-tank missiles, gunboats, assault rifles, radar bases and surveillance equipment to South Africa, according to Steve Goldfield, author of "The Garrison State." Israel has equipped South African helicopters with night visibility equipment and in 1979 built an electrified fence on the border between Angola and Namibia.

Many of these weapons were supplied by Israeli subsidiaries of U.S. companies such as General Telephone and Electric, Motorola and Control Data. Israeli and South African sub-

sidaries of Motorola operate several joint ventures, says Goldfield.

In this way Washington gets around the United Nations resolution of 1977 calling for a worldwide embargo of arms to South Africa.

'Your proxy'

While the U.S. government prefers to keep its role in this relationship under wraps, especially with a mass uprising not only rocking South Africa to its core, but generating worldwide support, the mouthpieces for Tel Aviv are not so quiet.

Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi, member of the editorial board of the magazine "New Outlook" and professor at the University of Haifa, said this in June, 1983:

"In South Africa, for example, Israel is actively involved in defending what Washington sees as a 'strategic outpost'—with the complicity and encouragement of the United States. In this case, Israel's help is particularly important because, although the U.S. is committed to the survival of the South African regime, Washington feels that the overt support it can give to South Africa is severely limited by world public opinion

"When Israeli military advisers train Angolan UNITA forces in Namibia there are no angry congressional reactions and no oversight committees."

There are others who are equally frank. Ya'acov Meridor, former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's assistant for economic coordination, said in August 1981, "We're going to ask you, the U.S. government. . . don't compete with us in South Africa . . . Let us do it. I even use the expression 'You sell the ammunition by proxy, your proxy.'"

Nuclear collaboration

Israel has served as a U.S. proxy in the development of nuclear weapons as well.

It is generally known that both Tel Aviv and Pretoria have secretly developed nuclear weapons. What is not so well known is that Washington is the link that made this possible.

Mfanafuthi Makatini, head of the International Affairs Department of the African National Congress (ANC) and of its mission to the United Nations, explains, "We have seen nuclear collaboration between the U.S. and South Africa, between the U.S. and Israel as far back as the sixties."

A.J.A. Roux, former president of the South African Atomic Energy Board, said in October 1976, "We can ascribe our degree of advancement today in large measure to the training and assistance so willingly provided by the United States of America." By 1977, at least 155 South African scientists had

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Low immigration sign of bankruptcy of Israeli state

By Michael Bar-Am

JANUARY 13—The Israeli Minister of Immigrant Absorption announced last week that immigration to Israel had fallen to its lowest point since 1948, the first year that such statistics were kept. In 1985, only 11,298 settlers arrived in Israel. This is a 41% drop from 1984.

Minister of Immigrant Absorption Yaacov Tsur termed the drop in immigration "very worrisome." In reality, it is much more than that. The drop in immigration is a symptom of the impossibility of establishing a secure settler state allied with imperialism in the midst of the oppressed people in the Middle East.

The failure of Israel to attract large numbers of settlers from Jewish communities throughout the world has to be viewed together with the tens of thousands of Israelis—especially the young people of military age—who have left Israel to build a new life elsewhere. While emigration figures are not yet available for 1985, 17,882 left that country in 1984 as opposed to 2,500 in 1983 and 8,100 in 1982.

Israeli officials blame the economy for this situation. Despite almost \$30 billion in U.S. aid since 1983, the foreign debt of this country of less than 4 million people is a staggering \$23 billion. Unemployment is officially at 8% and is much higher in many areas. Real wages have been cut more than 25% in the last few months.

Another reason is the tremendous tension that exists in a state that is in a state of constant warfare with the people that surround it. Not many Jewish people want to be storm troopers in Lebanon or Palestine. Fewer still want to spend their evening hours in damp and dingy bomb shelters.

This is why there are very few settlers emigrating to Israel from North America and Western Europe. Most leave after a few years when the reality of the crumbling economy and the constant war footing sinks in.

The only recent large influx of immigrants were 10,000 settlers who arrived from Ethiopia, brought to Israel through a conspiracy of the U.S. CIA and the Israeli government aimed at discrediting revolutionary Ethiopia and providing a new source of much-needed cannon fodder for the Israeli military. Once arrived in Israel, the Ethiopian Jews have been subject to racist discrimination.

No one else is coming.

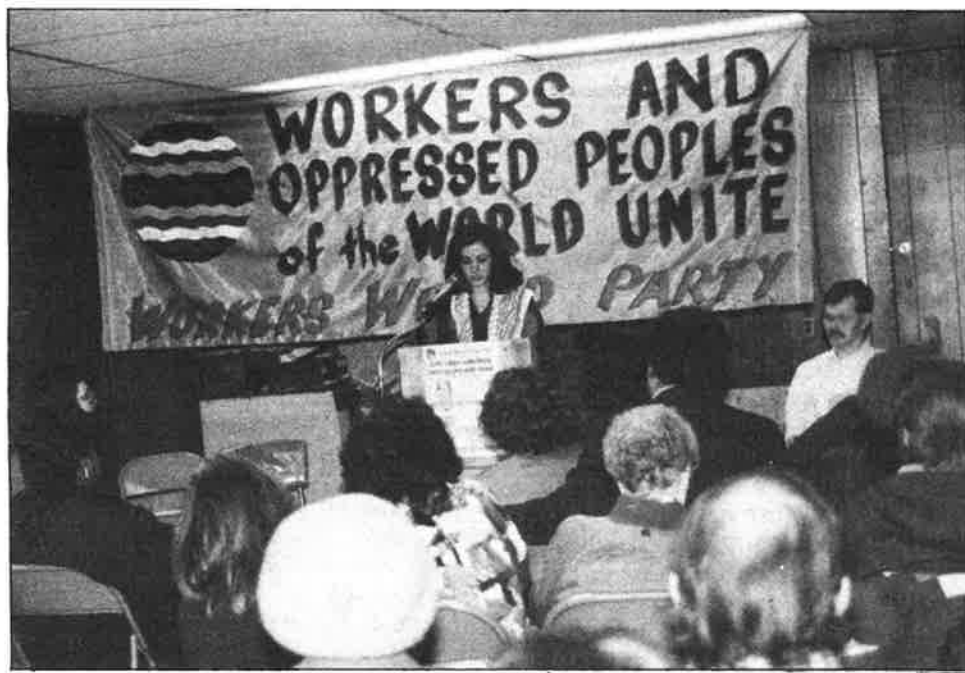
An oppressor state

Thirty-eight years after its formation, Israel has not been able to become viable as a state and is certainly no refuge for the world's victims of anti-Semitism. Israel is a garrison state and the main outpost of the Pentagon in the Middle East.

As an oppressor and an agent of U.S. imperialism, Israel has been since its inception in a constant state of warfare with the oppressed Arab people that surround it. It is this very fact which makes the Israeli state unworkable. Waging of war against Palestinians who will not give up brings nothing of value back into the economy and weakens it from within.

Yet the Israeli government continues the attacks. For example, the Israeli army daily violates the territorial integrity of Lebanon, killing and arresting its citizens. Recently hundreds of Israeli and puppet Lebanese soldiers surrounded a village in southern Lebanon and ordered every single person—young and old—to gather in the village square. Thirty-two young men were arrested and the entire population of 2,000 was forced to flee under threat of death.

This is why in the following days, Israelis in the Galilee came under rocket attacks. Each act of Israeli aggression only serves to rekindle the flame of heroic resistance of the Palestinian and Lebanese people and their millions of supporters in the Arab world.



WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

Janan, from the November 29 Committee for Palestine, describes conditions for Palestinians under Israeli rule.

Detroit forum on Libya, Palestine

By Katherine Wells

DETROIT, Jan. 11—Tonight, a well-attended Workers World Forum was held to protest the war hysteria against Libya currently promoted by the Reagan administration. A special guest of the meeting was a Palestinian-American woman, Janan of the November 29th Committee, who spoke about conditions for Palestinians in the West Bank territories and the Gaza Strip, occupied by the Zionist state of Israel. Janan said that what she witnessed "are just examples of everyday conditions for Palestinians living under the Zionist state."

Janan described the bulldozing of several stone houses and the eviction of the families living there, the demolition of seven entire villages, with only one day's notice. Israeli authorities explain such atrocities, which occur frequently, as necessary for "military purposes."

Janan told how Israeli soldiers, carrying submachine guns, patrol the streets of Arab cities and villages constantly, holding searches anywhere and at any time. One entire village was put under dusk-to-dawn curfew because a youth had thrown a stone at an Israeli soldier.

Schools and universities for Palestinian students are frequently closed down by the Israeli military authorities in order to prevent anti-Israeli, pro-Palestinian demonstrations.

"Israel has stolen our land, but it's more than that," Janan explained. "The Israelis try to steal our people's roots, our past, our culture." Nevertheless, the struggle continues. The Israeli prisons are full of Palestinian liberation fighters. For the Palestinian people living under the U.S.-sponsored Israeli dictatorship, Janan declared, "the choice is between living on your knees, or dying on your feet."

Haiti rebellion challenges U.S. puppet's rule

By G. Dunkel

JANUARY 13—The people of Haiti are demanding liberty and radical changes as well as enough food to eat. Demonstrations, protests and actual rebellions in the past week have occurred throughout the country—in Gonaives, Jeremie, Petit-Goave and Cayes, as well as Port-au-Prince, the capital.

The widespread, tenacious and political character of this outburst, which began the last week of November, makes it clear that the Haitian people want to get rid of "President-for-Life" Jean-Claude Duvalier and the system which produced and has protected him and his father for nearly 30 years. United States imperialism, which dominates the Duvalier regime, is worried that its puppet's rule is in danger. One U.S. official in Haiti admitted "the pressure is intensifying . . . the problem is serious." (New York Times, Jan. 9)

Poorest country in Western Hemisphere

The Canadian Broadcasting Company, on Sunday, Jan. 12, ran some interviews with workers in Gonaives, the poorest city in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and a center of protest against Duvalier.

One worker, who was better off than most since he had a steady job breaking rocks into gravel with a sledgehammer from sun up to sun down, explained that he made between 40 and 60 cents a day. This allowed him to rent a bit of sidewalk for his family, so they wouldn't have to sleep in the dust. Of course, workers who make baseballs for Rawlings or Wilson, U.S.-owned companies, can make a "lot" more—as much as \$3.60 a day.

The Duvalier government also supplies a lot of labor for U.S.-owned sugar plantations in the Dominican Republic, which makes up the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola; Haiti occupies the western third. Security forces press-gang Haitian sugar cane cutters, and force them to work—they may be shot if they refuse—under conditions of temporary slavery.

Despite all the repression in Haiti, that worker's neighborhood in Gonaives was the scene of the most militant demonstrations in the country.

Irish struggle defies Hillsborough accord

By Ken Oxtoby

JANUARY 13—In the two months since the London-Dublin joint security accord was signed, little has changed in the daily lives of the people of the militarily occupied province of Ulster.

Contrary to the hopes of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald, the struggle to unite Ireland has not slackened, but has intensified. This is highlighted by a number of events that have occurred in the last month.

On Dec. 7, an Irish Republican Army (IRA) unit from its East Tyrone Brigade destroyed the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) barracks at Ballygawley. Two RUC members were killed in the action, bringing a total of 23 RUC members killed in 1985, the largest number since 1969. The RUC works closely with the British Army in suppressing the nationalist communities, and is the tool used by London in an attempted policy of Ulsterization.

The attack on the barracks was one of a continuing strategy to demoralize Crown forces. In addition, the IRA announced a decision to take action against building contractors that work



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

7,000 Haitians march in Brooklyn. Over 7,000 people, predominantly Haitian, marched down Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Jan. 11 demanding, "Down with Duvalier!" and "Hey, hey, hey USA, stop supporting Duvalier!" Hundreds stopped their cars or came out from their apartments to join the demonstration. The participants radiated a mood of confidence that the Duvalier regime was shaken by the recent nationwide rebellion in Haiti.

Speeches at the rally stressed the need for all patriotic Haitians to struggle against the Duvalier dictatorship and to support the struggle of people throughout the world for liberty.

Among the speakers at the rally at Clara Barton High School were Father Gerard Jean-Juste of the Haitian Refugee Center in Miami; a representative of the Committee Against Repression in Haiti, the rally's organizers; former Attorney General Ramsey Clark; and Neville Edwards, from the People's Anti-War Mobilization.

Workers joined students in demanding liberty as well as food. The workers and peasants of Haiti are making it clear that, before they can feed themselves and their families, they have to get rid of the brutal dictatorship that lets the local capitalists and their colonial bosses in the U.S. suck the last drops of profits out of this famine-struck country.

U.S. support for Duvalier

Without firm and unswerving U.S. support the Duvalier regime and the local ruling class in Haiti would have

crumbled years ago. The U.S. rulers obviously feel they need a firm, anti-communist bastion just across the Windward Channel from Cuba. Haiti also borders a country where the U.S. had to invade in 1965, the Dominican Republic. Any progressive change in Haiti would have tremendous repercussions all throughout the Caribbean, an area where poverty and U.S. domination are rampant.

The people of Haiti have a long and glorious history of struggle against oppression. They feel Duvalier's days are numbered. They will overcome.

Grenada police abuse rights

By Neville Edwards

JANUARY 12—More than two years after the brutal invasion of Grenada by the U.S. military, reports continue to show that human rights in that island nation are being violated by the U.S. puppet government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize.

Last week the Manchester Guardian reported that facts are circulating describing "prisoners being beaten, denied medical attention and confined for long periods without being able to see lawyers."

The Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), a human rights monitoring group based in Washington, D.C., stated that the U.S.-trained police force has gained a reputation for "brutality, arbitrary arrest and abuse of authority."

The fact that COHA, a liberal human rights group, went public with this finding is clear indication of the atrocities committed against the Grenadian people by the U.S.-backed government there. There are many accounts of the erosion of civil rights since the invasion.

For a while the U.S. forces set up concentration camps where Grenadian nationals were viciously interrogated. Nearly all Grenada's medical staff were thrown off the island. Now unemployment, which was disappearing under the revolutionary government, is up again.

"U.S.-trained counterinsurgency forces are eroding the civil rights in Grenada," said the COHA report. In other words, Reagan and the Pentagon have set up a brutal police state in Grenada where unemployment and police brutality are the prime enemies of the Grenadian masses.

to repair RUC/army barracks damaged or destroyed by the IRA, which now number almost a dozen.

Hunger strikers protest frame-up

On Dec. 19, Robert Tohill, convicted of murder before a one-judge, jury-less court on the sole testimony of self-confessed murderer Harry Kirkpatrick, started on a hunger strike to protest his conviction and demand a review. In all, 27 were convicted on the sole testimony of Kirkpatrick, who even the judge described as "a man of bad character and low moral standards."

Kirkpatrick is currently serving five life terms for murder. His motives were described by Judge Carswell as "a series of lies and evasions." None of this stopped Carswell from going ahead and convicting the 27 anyway.

It was announced on Jan. 6 that Tohill and two others, who out of the 27 had also gone on hunger strike, were ending their action after being told by British authorities that an appeal had been granted. The British obviously did not want world attention again focused on its inhuman conditions in the prisons in occupied Ulster.

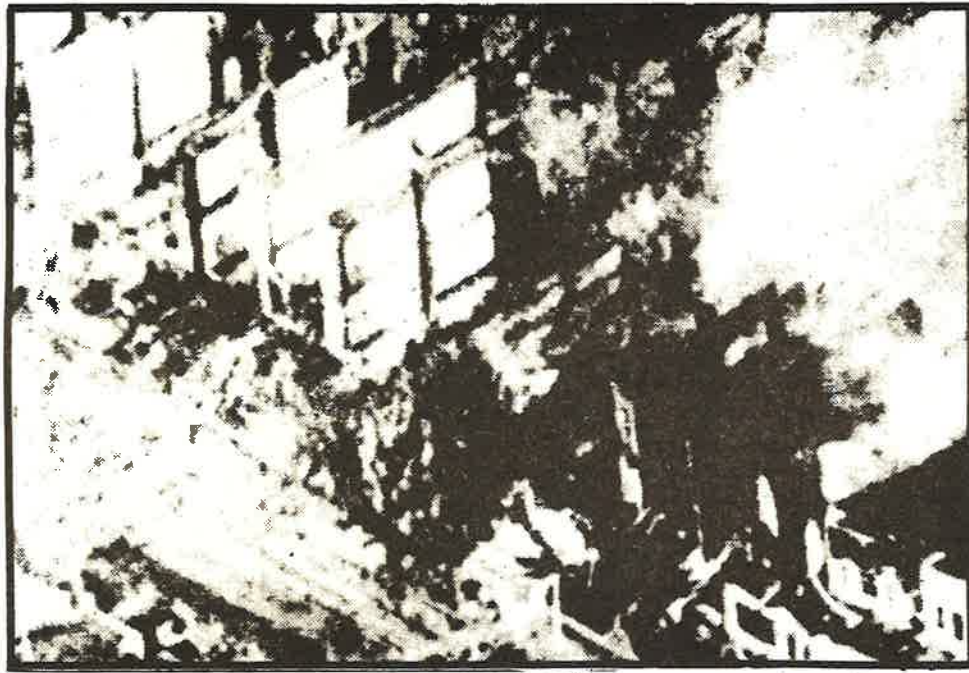
On Sat., Dec. 28, 18 organizers for

Sinn Fein, the legal, political wing of the Republican movement, were arrested throughout northern Ireland. This is seen by all elements in Ulster as a blatant attempt to disrupt Sinn Fein campaign workers in the upcoming Jan. 23 elections for 15 British parliament seats. The election was precipitated by the resignations of all 15 Unionist MPs. These right-wing, colonialist MPs oppose allowing Dublin to participate in northern Ireland in any way, even though Dublin's collaboration with the security forces marks a united effort of the British and Irish governments against the Republican movement.

The hope of Thatcher and Fitzgerald was that after the accord was signed in November that Sinn Fein and the IRA would fade away. On the contrary, the arrest of 18 key Sinn Fein organizers shows the strength and leadership that Sinn Fein is bringing to the struggle against London. Sinn Fein plans to go to the electorate in the six counties with the unequivocal message that Irish republicans will accept nothing short of complete freedom, the prerequisite of which is British withdrawal from Ireland.

MOVE member defends herself in court

Ramona Africa charges Philadelphia cops with assault, murder



Block where MOVE house was bombed by police.

By Joe Jacques Piette
PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 13—"All the charges also need to be lodged against the people who tried to kill me and my family. You know a bomb was dropped on me and my family. Police officers have acknowledged that they have fired 10,000 rounds of ammunition on me and my family. If that's not assault, if that's not recklessly endangering, if that's not in fact murder, I don't know what is."

Ramona Africa's statement, printed above, came on the first day of her trial here before Common Pleas Court Judge Michael Stiles. The only adult survivor of the May 13, 1985 police assault on MOVE, Africa now faces a hostile court system. The heavy charges against her stem solely from her presence in the MOVE house when the police made their murderous attack.

The cops responsible for the deaths of five children and six adults during that massive siege are all free and without charges against them.

If convicted of all charges, Africa could be incarcerated for a total of 57 years. She is acting as her own attorney, defending herself against three counts of aggravated assault, three counts of recklessly endangering another person, and one count each of resisting arrest, riot and conspiracy.

The original charges of conspiracy, riot, terroristic threats, and "improper influence in official and political matters," which were used as an excuse to attack the MOVE home, were dismissed in November 1985 by Judge Stiles for lack of evidence.

A police conspiracy

Africa plans to argue during the trial that the police siege was a conspiracy "to eliminate MOVE, whatever way they could. The force that police used did not relate to the charges that were outstanding. And the raid was planned long before the warrants were issued." In addition, MOVE members could have been arrested "in a non-confrontational way" on any one of their daily walks to the nearby Cobbs Creek Park, said Africa.

Meanwhile, Africa remains in the Women's Section of the House of Corrections, unable to post \$2.5 million bail.

"I don't think she's guilty." "I thought there was an injustice." "A guilty verdict could be used by the city as a justification for what happened." These were some of the statements made by prospective jurors during the jury selection process last week, jurors that were later disqualified.

These opinions revealed a layer of outrage in this city against such racist terror as the police assaults on MOVE. This outrage is also felt in the Puerto Rican community, which has been subject to illegal police sieges and roundups.

Cleveland Black families face racist violence

By Alan Roth

CLEVELAND, Jan. 3—Within the last six months, this city has been the scene of an upsurge of racist violence directed at Black people which has now begun to awaken organized resistance, uniting community and union groups. The violence began in June of 1985 with the firebombing that killed an elderly Black woman in her house. The most recent cases were two cross-burnings in December.

There has been a 100% increase in racist incidents over 1984, as well as a similar increase in the number of complaints of housing discrimination.

Last June, several white youth firebombed the house of Mabel Gant in the mostly white Slavic Village section of Cleveland, killing Ms. Gant. During the same month, a church was riddled with bullets in the Collinwood neighborhood, its Black minister forced to close up and leave.

Also in Collinwood, a divided neighborhood where one section is Black, the other white, Jerome and Myrna Tubbs, a Black family, moved into the mostly white street and were greeted with a swastika on their door, their mailbox blown up, a beer bottle thrown through their picture window, and a man screaming racist epithets from the street.

These and other incidents are usually reported to City Hall or the police, but little is done to stop these racists. "This will probably go on until somebody gets hurt—either us or them," explained Myrna Tubbs.

The most recent in this ugly line of racist violence was in mid-December when Frances and James Lampley woke up to find a burning cross in their front yard. Three teenagers were later arrested.

Collinwood ranks highest in Cleveland neighborhoods for racist incidents. Fifteen years ago, it reached a peak when the National Guard was called in to "keep the peace" at Collinwood High School. Discrimination in housing is notorious there.

Shortly after the cross-burning, City Councilman Michael Polensek called a town meeting. While he and other politicians made the required statements of condemnation, he also tried to minimize the extent of racism in his community, blaming a few kids and a tiny minority for the problems.

But Johnny Farmer, a cook at Freddy's Rib House, knew better. "They [the kids] learn that in their homes . . . I don't even go up there [south Collinwood] to the store, because they look at you like a Black dog . . . But, you know,

those people up there are poor just like us."

As if this incident wasn't enough, the morning before Christmas, another cross was burnt in front of the home of Wilma Bailey in a completely different, but mostly white neighborhood. Ms. Bailey had recently moved into a home, after living for many years in public housing.

This racist upsurge comes at a time when Cleveland, like many of the old industrial cities, is in the grips of an economic downturn. Unemployment remains high for all, but especially high for Black people. The schools are poorly funded. Hunger centers are overflowing.

To counter these racist attacks, a broad coalition is in formation, including the Senior Citizens Coalition, American Postal Workers Union, All-Peoples Congress, and neighborhood groups and community leaders. Tentative plans are for a city-wide rally in early February.

California funeral mourns homeless, urges action

ON DEC. 23, 1985, a memorial service was held for the 16 persons who have died by means other than violent on the streets of San Francisco in 1985. It has been confirmed that at least three of those died of hypothermia, which in plain language means they froze to death.

The service was attended by approximately 50 persons, including the homeless, providers of service to the homeless, community activists, and All-Peoples Congress. It was stressed that these persons should not only be remembered but that persons attending should commit themselves to struggle to make sure that all persons in San Francisco have food, clothing and

shelter. The service was held in a parking lot across the street from St. Anthony's Dining Room, which serves thousands of meals to the destitute.

The parking lot was the site of the death by hypothermia on Dec. 13 of Jack Edward Faulkner, this latest victim of corporate greed which continually enriches the few wealthy persons and corporations of the top of the heap, while creating an ever larger class of unemployed and homeless persons who are forced to sleep in dumpsters, sidewalks and alleys. The Shelter providers at the service reported that they are forced to turn away at least 90 persons per night due to inadequate space and funding.

—Ron Hollady

Oakland, Calif., teachers on strike

By Ron Hollady

OAKLAND, Calif., Jan. 12—Teachers here have walked the picket line for the last week, demanding that their wages be brought up to a livable level. Oakland's 3,500 teachers, among the lowest paid in the state, earn an average of \$10,000 per year less than some other districts.

The strike, which began Jan. 6, was enthusiastically endorsed by the members of the Oakland Education Association by an overwhelming 4-to-1 vote. The union, which has been without a contract since July 1, is asking for a 14% pay increase the first year; the district responded with an insulting offer of 2%.

After a week, it is clear that the overwhelming majority of the 51,000 students (and their parents) are supporting the strike by refusing to attend classes. Teachers who walked the picket lines were joined at many schools by supportive parents.

In response the school district has resorted to outrageous tactics to try to

break the strike. First it brought a suit against the teachers to try to force them to return to the classroom. Then it ran newspaper ads offering scabs double the usual rate to cross the picket line. But this tactic met with little success, even though Oakland suffers an extremely high unemployment rate.

As is the case so often these days, the city of Oakland says it is too poor to pay the teachers a living wage. But when it comes to the pet projects of the rich, the city always seems to be able to find astounding sums. It is preparing to offer \$15 million to the multi-millionaire heirs of the Levi-Strauss fortune to bribe them to keep the Oakland A's baseball team in the city. And in November, the city offered to lend Hyatt Corporation \$4.5 million to avert foreclosure on a downtown project. So the question must be asked, why can't the city come up with a few dollars to offer the teachers a living wage and thereby improve education for the children and enrich the future of the city?

—Reproductive

Black, Latin, Native and Asian women who suffered the most when abortions were not legal and who are presently bearing the brunt of Reagan's vicious cutbacks in social services.

Women must have the right of choice free from the threat of forced sterilization. But the struggle for women's right to choose necessarily includes a struggle to guarantee that all women

have the option—not only of having an abortion but of rearing children with the assurance that they will have adequate food, housing, clothing and all the other basic necessities of life.

To insure this choice requires a strong united struggle of all women, Black and white, gay and straight, young and old, working and unemployed. Such a struggle has the power to stop Reagan and his anti-people programs and presents a formidable challenge to the racist, anti-gay, anti-women big business profiteers he serves.

Support pours in to Feb. 15 anti-racist march

By Bruce Bradshaw

JANUARY 14—Support for the National March Against Racism that will take place in Philadelphia this Feb. 15 has been pouring in from all quarters, including endorsements for the event by Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, the African National Congress, the city councils of Jersey City and Detroit, Representatives George Crockett and John Conyers and from trade unionists in FLOC, ACTU, TWU, ILGWU, the National Union of Hospital Employees, the Hotel & Restaurant Employees Union, AFSCME, the UAW, the USWA and others.

The march has been called in response to mob attacks on Black and inter-racial families in Southwest Philadelphia. It has attracted a lot of enthusiasm from many layers of the population there who are not prepared to lie back and let out-and-out fascist

Puerto Rican patriot speaks in Boston

BOSTON, Jan. 10—Puerto Rican patriot Rafael Cancel Miranda spoke to an enthusiastic gathering tonight at the Emmanuel Church here, sponsored by the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War. A participant with Lolita Lebron in the famous armed action in the halls of the U.S. Congress demanding freedom and independence for their country, he had spent more than 25 years in U.S. prisons.

Much of his thoughts tonight were with other independentistas now in imperialist prisons and the personal example they offer to other struggles for freedom from U.S. imperialism around the world. In talking about the leading role of women in the Puerto Rican national liberation struggle, Miranda cited the personal examples of Yvonne Melendez and Alejandrina Torres, who are now political prisoners of the U.S.

"They thought they killed off Sar. dino years ago," Miranda said, "but now there are millions of Sandinos fighting to keep Nicaragua free. Reagan thinks that he's dealing with just Fidel Castro in Cuba. He's wrong—there are millions of Fidel Castros."

—Hunger

Continued from page 1

people and women have been locked out of the small number of non-union high-tech jobs and are denied access to the special training necessary for them.

While according to the Constitution the administration is directly responsible for promoting the general welfare of every person in this country, Reagan does not speak for the interests of the workers, the rural poor or the family farmer. He speaks for the giant agribusinesses who produce food to make profits, not to feed the hungry. And their main concern is to keep food prices high so they can line their pockets.

What is Washington's solution to the hunger that it and agribusiness have created? A continuation of the very policies that have already pushed the urban and rural poor against the wall.

At the same time that foreclosures of family farms by the government have resumed and are expected to average a staggering 4,000 a week, Reagan's new budget plans to cut another \$1.26 bil-

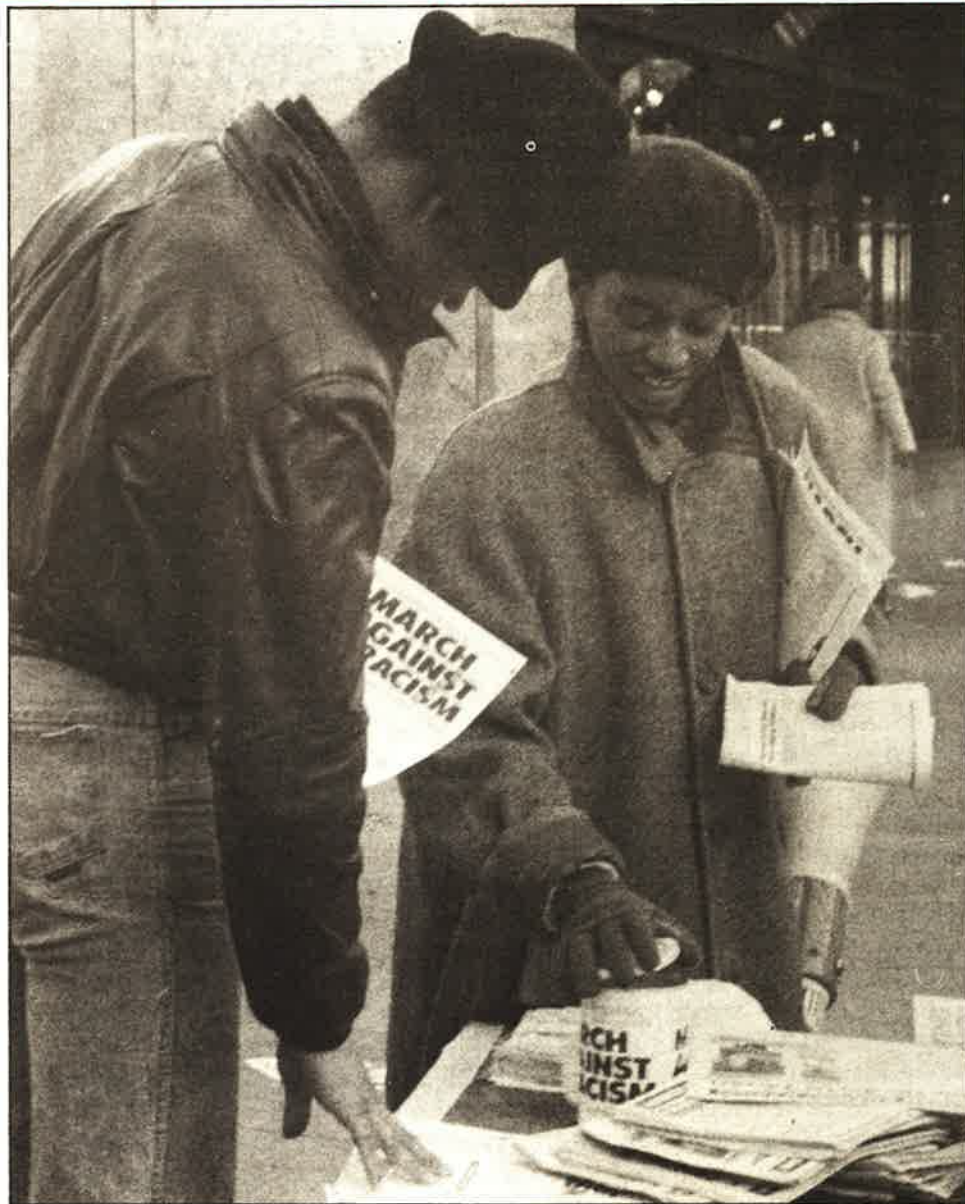
groups, some of whom have been inciting race hatred with leaflets carrying Nazi-swastika emblems, spread their twisted hatred unopposed.

Organizers are working on preparations around the country, in Albany, N.Y., Wilmington, Del., Atlanta, Richmond, Va., Boston, Valley Stream, N.Y., Rochester, N.Y., Newark, N.J., Cleveland, New Brunswick, N.J., New York City, Vineland, N.J., Camden, N.J., Ithaca, N.Y., and Pittsburgh, among other cities.

Large numbers of leaflets are being distributed all over the Center City area of Philadelphia, especially on weekends, and letters are pouring into the national office on Baltimore Ave. Organizers in the city itself and nationwide will be attending the Martin Luther King activities this coming week to lend support and spread the word about Feb. 15.

The city's largest Black newspaper, the Philadelphia Tribune, is carrying a half-page advertisement this week calling on the widest possible participation in the anti-racist march.

Bill Roundtree, an organizer working in the Philadelphia office, told Workers World today, "This morning here everybody in town saw the main headline in the Daily News that said 'Tutu raps U.S. policy as racist.' A lot of people know that it is not just the foreign policy toward South Africa that is racist but the way this whole country is run and it's all come together here in Philadelphia. This is the place to fight back, this is the issue and we're looking forward to turning this situation around."



WW PHOTO: EMILY

Getting the word out in Philadelphia. So far over 500 groups and individuals have endorsed the anti-racist protest.

FBI thug used against Chicago Black officials

By Jeff Sorel

CHICAGO, Jan. 13—A highly publicized FBI investigation of corruption in Chicago's city government is being characterized as racist by many Black community leaders here.

Indictments are expected within a month against city officials accused of accepting bribes from FBI operative and swindler Michael Raymond to win revenue collection contracts for his company, Systematic Recovery Service Inc. Three officials have been fired thus far and the names of several aldermen under investigation have been leaked to the press.

Raymond has a long record of convictions for swindling, fraud and misrepresentation dating back to 1954. He was hired by Systematic Recovery shortly after getting out of prison in 1984. Six months later he was arrested on a gun charge, a parole violation which could have sent him back to prison immediately.

Instead the FBI hired him to set up city officials. Raymond has a history of receiving lenient sentences in return for cooperation with state and federal authorities.

The fact that these businessmen pay

lion from farm programs that help small farmers. Government hatchets are also targeting health care programs and public transportation.

From the ghettos of New York and Chicago to the family farms of Nebraska to the rural poor of Texas one thing is becoming clear—Washington has closed its ears to the cries of the poor. The only way that working people can get any justice out of the Reagan administration is to fight for it. And a united fightback of all those oppressed by Washington is the way to insure victory.

off city officials to receive favors is not big news in Chicago or any other city in capitalist society, and Mayor Harold Washington has moved quickly to dismiss those refusing to cooperate with the probe.

But Washington and many Black community leaders are questioning the timing and real motivation of this FBI probe. They are asking why did the FBI wait until Chicago had a Black-led administration to discover corruption? The probe could have hit

the Daley machine which ruled the city for decades until 1983 and which institutionalized an elaborate system of bribes, payoffs and shake-downs.

Why have details of this investigation been widely leaked to the press before any indictments were ready? Why base such serious charges on the testimony of a long-time swindler and con-man?

Precede key city election

The FBI investigation and attending publicity come months before a special City Council election, based on a court-ordered remap of wards, to more truly reflect the racial make-up of the city. As a result of this election, Washington may be able to win a majority in the City Council for the first time. The corruption probe is therefore likely to help his racist opponents, remnants of the old Daley machine.

The FBI probe also comes at a time when the Reagan administration is about to gut affirmative action requirements, and racist violence is on the increase nationwide. Here in Chicago, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has been rounding up cab drivers who "look foreign" and immediately deporting those without proper papers back to their countries of origin, namely Iran, Nigeria and Pakistan.

The Washington administration's refusal to cooperate with the INS may be a further reason for the federal government's attempts to undermine it. Certainly the FBI's long history of frameups against Black leaders promotes no confidence in the integrity of its investigation.

Any serious investigation of corruption must begin with a probe of the corrupt racism of the Reagan administration.

MARCH AGAINST RACISM

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EDITORIAL

Budget balanced on workers' backs

TO WALL STREET, balancing the federal budget is very important. Budget deficits affect interest rates. Interest rates affect stock prices. Stock prices affect profits.

But workers are more interested in balancing a different type of budget. They're concerned with how, given inflation, wage cuts and unemployment, they will be able to pay the rent and put food on the table.

The Gramm-Rudman so-called budget balancing law is not concerned with balancing this budget. Under the guise of "fiscal responsibility" it is a vicious component of the corporate anti-labor offensive.

Gramm-Rudman mandates the administration to submit its 1987 budget with a deficit of no more than \$144 billion. That figure will change over the next few years until the budget is supposedly balanced. But where will the money come from?

There are two main causes of the federal deficit—the defense budget, which squanders hundreds of billions to war profiteers like Boeing and Lockheed, and interest payments on the federal debt. The latter is a \$100 billion-

a-year-and-growing payoff to the giant banks like Chase Manhattan and Citicorp. The "budget-balancers" consider these two items untouchable. They wouldn't dream of trimming so much as a fingernail from the banks or taking away one \$15,000 wrench from the Pentagon.

With Gramm-Rudman as justification, the Reaganites have filled their 1987 budget with new cutbacks and attacks on the poor, on workers, on farmers, even on the middle class. Some 25 programs will be eliminated, including the Job Corps. Services that provide medical and retirement benefits, transportation and farm aid will be cut. The government is considering selling off several agencies that provide power to millions of people and dumping the Federal Housing Authority, which has provided low-cost mortgages.

When mass pressure increases to cut the Pentagon budget, the Reaganites may do a turn around and take issue with the legal basis for Gramm-Rudman. But for now they are using it to the hilt against the workers and oppressed.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Continued from page 1

Washington in June and would be prepared to stay until they wrung concessions from Johnson and Congress. The combined impact of King's involvement in the sanitation strike while planning for this march unleashed a torrent of anger and fear from the government over the potential power of the civil rights movement and labor united.

Led by President Johnson himself, liberals and conservatives all attacked King with viciousness and hysteria. August members of the Johnson administration and Congress threatened and insulted King and demanded that he call off the march. Robert Byrd, a Democrat and Senate majority leader, even said that if King went through with the Poor People's March he "will get in Washington the same kind of treatment he received in Memphis." Byrd was referring to the day when King and Memphis strikers were attacked and one student was killed.

It was in this climate of frenzied racism and violence baiting from all segments of the government that King was assassinated in Memphis just days after the solidarity march there. King's death ended his dreams to lead a massive movement of the poor and the oppressed to petition the government for redress of grievances.

1968 was a turbulent year. It was a year of Pentagon terror and violence abroad against the Viet-

namese people. It was a year of racist terror against the oppressed here at home. But it was also a year which holds a vital lesson for today's struggle against Reaganism. That lesson lies in the small strike of 1,200 sanitation workers who are today part of AFSCME, AFL-CIO.

King led and guided the poorest and most oppressed to fight on the side of a section of labor that was under attack. He integrated the demands of the civil rights movement with labor's struggles. This united power won union recognition for the sanitation workers in Memphis.

In Philadelphia today, the Black and Latin communities are besieged (see articles, pages 6-7), and a demonstration has been called on Feb. 15 to fend off the racist assault. The fight for justice and equality, however, is not limited to the oppressed communities. It is a fight vital to the entire working class—Black, white, Latin, Asian and Native, organized and unorganized, the employed and jobless, U.S. and foreign born. Racism is used as a battering ram to lower the living standards of all workers.

In 1986, a year of Reaganite racism, cutbacks and anti-labor assaults, it is time to commemorate King's birthday by once again integrating the demands of the workers and the oppressed community into a united and mighty struggle.



Economic gains, call for talks highlight Korean leader's speech

By Bill Doares

FEW COUNTRIES have been the target of such unrelenting hostility by the United States government as has the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. Thirty-seven years after invading its territory and leveling its cities with massive bombing raids, the United States still menaces the DPRK with 40,000 troops and over 1,000 nuclear weapons stationed in U.S.-occupied south Korea.

Pentagon officials routinely refer to Korea as a "likely theater" in a new war and a place where it would be "feasible" to use nuclear weapons. The United States does not recognize the DPRK and Reagan and the State Department have called it a "base of international terrorism."

It would seem that a major policy statement by the leader of such a "dangerous" country would be a matter of concern to the United States public. After all, many Americans as well as Koreans would inevitably die in a new Korean war. However, like most events inside north Korea, a major New Year's address by President Kim Il Sung of the DPRK was completely ignored by the U.S. big business news media.

Much of President Kim's speech dealt with economic construction, an area in which all foreign visitors attest the DPRK has made spectacular progress in the 37 years of its existence. In his speech, Mr. Kim particularly cited the construction of a 10,000 ton power press and a large oxygen plant, both of Korean design, as well as new land reclamation and completion of work on the Nampo canal, as major achievements of the past year.

'A tribute to the workers'

These achievements were, he said, a tribute to the "creative labor of our heroic working class" and "clearly demonstrated the superiority and vitality of the socialist system." He called for further technical revolution in industry to "free the working people from difficult work and provide them with an independent and creative life."

He also called for increased consumer production "so as to provide the people with a richer and more prosperous life." The DPRK's emphasis on economic development gives the lie to Reagan's contention that the DPRK is plotting to invade U.S.-occupied south Korea.

Saying "The most pressing task fac-

ing our nation today is to reunify the country," Mr. Kim saluted the "youth and students and people of all strata in south Korea," who "in spite of all manner of persecution and oppression, fought bravely for national sovereignty and reunification, for the right to live and democratic freedom, under the slogans of national sovereignty and reunification."

The growing movement in south Korea against U.S. occupation, which increasingly involves attacks on U.S. offices and institutions, has been all but ignored in the U.S. news media.

Most importantly for the people in this country, Mr. Kim reiterated a call for tripartite talks between the DPRK, the United States, and the U.S.-backed south Korean regime for the purpose of turning the armistice that has been in effect in Korea since the end of the Korean war into a permanent peace agreement and for the adoption of a non-aggression agreement between north and south Korea.

This call, first made by the DPRK two years ago, has been ignored by the Reagan administration. "Nowhere in the world are different types of nuclear weapons deployed so densely as in south Korea," Mr. Kim said. "If a nuclear war breaks out on the Korean peninsula it can easily become a global thermonuclear war. It is only when all U.S. troops and nuclear weapons are withdrawn from south Korea that the danger of nuclear war will disappear and a durable peace be maintained on the Korean peninsula."



Uncle Sam's hat and military boots are set ablaze at a rally of 500 students on Nov. 7 in Seoul.

ANC leader: 'Escalate military offensive'

As South African apartheid troops again invade Angola

By Monica Moorehead

JANUARY 12—Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa issued a statement at a press conference in Lusaka, Zambia last week calling for a "rapid, extensive escalation of attacks by the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, against the terrorist, apartheid regime.

The conference was held one day after the 74th anniversary of the founding of the ANC, the national liberation movement that has been in the forefront of the revolutionary struggle against apartheid. The ANC has made its main base Lusaka since it was banned by the racist regime following the Sharpeville massacre on March 21, 1960.

Two days following Tambo's statement, two bombs went off in the industrialized city of Durban, seriously injuring four white policemen. Last month Umkhonto set off land mine explosives in the northern farming areas bordering Zimbabwe, killing eight whites. This area and others have been characterized by the regime as "military zones," which the ANC has made its main targets.

Tambo commented, "We at the ANC were among the few people to warn against the dangers of the law designating these areas into military zones. We are therefore puzzled that we are being criticized for using them as our areas of operation. We are now calling for a rapid escalation of our military offensive.

"In the course of the spread of the people's war against apartheid, civilians will be caught in the crossfire. We do not derive any pleasure from this but it will have to be accepted as part and parcel of a war situation."

Meanwhile in Angola, the President of that country, Jose dos Santos, revealed on Jan. 11 that South African Defense Forces deployed three battalions inside Angolan territory. He went on to state that the South African invaders were in the Cunene Province, 95 miles north of the border between Angola and Namibia.

Namibia illegally occupied

Namibia has been illegally occupied by the apartheid regime since World War II—previous to this occupation, Namibia was a colony of Germany beginning in the late 1800s. The super-exploitation, super-oppression of the Namibian people by South Africa has been challenged by the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO), a national liberation movement that has been fighting apartheid rule since 1960. SWAPO has been carrying out a guerrilla war against South Africa since 1966.

Angola, a country that liberated itself from Portuguese colonialism and western imperialism ten years ago, has been providing a strategic base of support for SWAPO, which has been banned from operating inside of Namibia by South Africa. Since Angola won its independence in 1975, the South Africa regime has been providing instrumental support to the terrorist band of mercenaries known as the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), led by the notorious Jonas Savimbi.

The Reagan administration has intervened on the side of its apartheid allies by drumming up support to the tune of \$54 million in so-called humanitarian and military aid for the UNITA contras. Congress will be "debating" later on this month whether this blood

money will be handed over to the pro-apartheid forces, which have been seeking the overthrow of the revolutionary People's Republic of Angola since 1975.

Another goal of UNITA and its apartheid backers is to destroy SWAPO, which has been scoring military victories against the South African Defense Forces in recent months. UNITA has also been suffering losses at the hands of the Angolan air force and army.

Angolan President Dos Santos has accused the Reagan administration of

openly aligning the U.S. with the Pretoria slavemasters by bolstering UNITA and destabilizing his country. A spokesperson for the Angolan Army stated that the South African forces which had just returned from Namibia had abducted two Angolan militia members.

During a conversation with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker, Dos Santos commented to Crocker that any resumption of U.S. aid to UNITA would constitute an unfriendly act toward Angola.



WWW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

San Francisco news conference on Jan. 6 demands that the city divest all funds from South Africa.

Bank of America, Bechtel try to weaken divestment rule

By Bill Hackwell

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 6—When the people of San Francisco voted for Proposition J back in 1984 by an overwhelming 62% margin, they sent a clear message to the city's Board of Supervisors that they wanted a full divestiture of city funds from any company doing business in South Africa.

Since that time, as the board has attempted to draft legislation putting this popular mandate into effect, the issue has become mired in political maneuvers and amendments that make the original intention a mere shadow of its former self.

Originally the Board of Supervisors broke the drafting of the ordinance into three parts: investments in South Africa, commodity purchases of goods made in South Africa, and services done with the apartheid regime and its banks.

In the area of investment, an amendment was added known as the Bank of America amendment. While all banks had to sign an affidavit saying only that there would be no new loans or financial arrangements to South Africa, this amendment added that the Bank of America, the city's primary bank, could carry on correspondent bank relations with banks in South Africa. In other words, business as usual.

This allows for currency exchange essential to foreign trade. It also allows for Bank of America to roll over and restructure the loans. As for new investments, no bank wants to initiate investments because of the instability of the apartheid regime due to the revolutionary upsurge of the Black masses there. So, in the area of banking the bill becomes toothless.

In the area of services, all companies doing business with the city would have to sign an affidavit stating they would start no new business in South

Africa. The exception made here has been referred to by the Board of Supervisors as the Bechtel amendment, so called because it was introduced by the giant transnational Bechtel Corporation, based in San Francisco.

It changed a key word in the original draft. Instead of "no new projects" could be started in South Africa it was changed to "no new contracts," thus allowing for new projects to start under existing contracts.

The only amendment that strengthens the bill is the Kennedy amendment, that bolsters the commodities section by stating that no goods can be purchased by the city from companies doing business in South Africa unless the product can't be found anywhere else.

What has angered anti-apartheid activists in the city the most was that the Board of Supervisors tried to sneak through this watered down version of the bill during the holiday season when people's attention was diverted.

Today, a press conference was held on the steps of City Hall by a number of anti-apartheid groups and individuals to show their opposition to the bill as it presently stands. The press conference was called to coincide with the vote by the full board on the divestment measure, but the vote was tabled.

Perhaps what is most revealing in this important issue is just who the Board of Supervisors represents. Kanika Ajanaku of the Southern Africa Freedom Committee of the All-Peoples Congress, explained this best when she said, "The Board of Supervisors is ready to sell us out again. Just as they recently did by forcing on us increased city transit fares. The voters of this city sent a message to the Board of Supervisors to put an end to business with apartheid. They must respect the will of the people of San Francisco by refusing to yield to the profit-crazed and profit-motivated big business and banks of this city."

Apartheid's draft resisters now number thousands

By Zenzile

JANUARY 12—As the war develops inside and outside the borders of South Africa, the problem of the regime has become more and more apparent. The failure of the regime to mobilize the so-called coloured and the Indians into the racist army by fraudulent new dispensation has left the regime to force more young whites into its army as cannon fodder.

In response to this pressure, for almost one year now the End Conscription Campaign (ECC), which is a coalition of student, religious, women's and church groups, has challenged the draft. On Oct. 7, 1985, some 4,000 people kicked off a three week program calling for troops out of the townships, with a massive demonstration in Cape Town. The campaign has also organized concerts and other activities—mainly aimed to attract youth.

Under the End Conscription Campaign, meetings have been held on university campuses all over the country, and the campaign has established branches in Western Cape, the Eastern Cape, Natal and in Johannesburg. The campaign is an affiliate of the in-

ternal mass organization of the United Democratic Front (UDF).

7,000 avoid draft

The ECC reports that in the last year 7,000 conscripts failed to turn up for the army. A further 7,000 young men are on the run dodging the military police, and the number of whites requesting political asylum in the front-line states, Western Europe, and the U.S. is running into thousands.

A recent secret meeting held in Namibia by South African military intelligence officers addressed the fears of the regime when the minutes stated: "What is particularly unsettling is the damaging of military equipment by military personnel, which can be regarded as sabotage, particularly if the attitudes of some national servicemen are taken into account. Negativity among national servicemen can have various origins, but political convictions can play a role."

This is an indication that demoralization is spreading throughout the army. Many of the Black conscripts are deserting, selling their guns and joining the forces of Umkhonto. The regime's armed force cannot extricate itself from this crisis, fighting a determined army of genuine patriots who receive no wages and who willingly give their lives for freedom.

The regime cannot escape the people's wrath while even its own fascist army is cracking up and the facade of white unity is destroyed by the advance of the struggling masses.

Victory to the forces of national liberation, the African National Congress (ANC) and the South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO)!



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Argentine workers blast Rockefeller visit

By John Catalinotto

JANUARY 15—To the people of Latin America, the U.S. banks stand for exploitation and oppression, vampires who drain the lifeblood of the continent's workers and peasants and who pillage its natural resources. And no name symbolizes the giant U.S. banks more than Rockefeller. This was clear yesterday as the former chairman of Chase Manhattan, David Rockefeller, came to attend a business meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and was greeted by thousands of angry Argentine youth and workers.

Argentine police used tear gas, water cannon and rubber bullets on the demonstrators, injuring a number of youth

seriously and arresting 81. The protestors took to the streets, burned an American flag, hurled rocks and eggs, smashed windows and set a car on fire.

The demonstration was organized by seven political groups, including the Peronist Youth, the Intransigent Party and the Communist Party, the Christian Democrats, a number of socialist groups and the Center of Ex-Combatants of the Malvinas.

Visits from the hated Rockefeller family to Latin America and especially to Argentina have often provoked mass protest. In 1969 Nelson Rockefeller's visit sparked a wave of labor protest, followed by a government declaration of a state of siege.

And the Argentinian people have a special reason for hating the Chase ex-chairman: his close association with the military dictatorship which borrowed billions from U.S. banks in the 1970s, banks which through IMF-type rules have imposed austerity on the Argentine workers.

In fact, Rockefeller is so unpopular that even members of the Argentine government of President Raul Alfonsin dissented from the invitation, with some criticizing Rockefeller publicly. Aldo Tessio, an Alfonsin adviser, called the U.S. banker a "blood-sucker."

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Youth clash with Buenos Aires police over Rockefeller visit.

Ex-contra head exposes terror tactics

Chamorro shows U.S. role in war on Nicaragua

By Terry Klug

JANUARY 13—In the eight years since the revolution in Nicaragua which overthrew the hated Somoza dictatorship, the people of this country have been subjected to the most outrageous distortions and outright lies about what is really going on in that small Central American country of just under three million people.

The big business media here keep pumping out mountains of articles and TV news shows to "prove" how undemocratic the people's revolution in Nicaragua really is. Reagan has called Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega a "thug" and a "murderer." Congress regularly lauds the so-called democratic principles of the counter-revolutionary bands based in Honduras every time they funnel another couple of hundred million dollars in taxpayers' money to "contras" for supposed humanitarian aid.

In a letter to the New York Times on Dec. 30, 1985, Edgar Chamorro, a former "contra" leader and prominent member of the large and wealthy Chamorro clan, details from his own experience the true relationship between the "contras" and the Reagan administration.

Writing mainly to dispute a Times

op-ed page article written by several members of the misnamed United Nicaraguan Opposition, he says, "For them to claim that the contras 'are not, and will never be, the instrument of a foreign power' is laughable. The contras were, and are, a proxy army controlled by the U.S. government." He goes on to say that he resigned from the directorate of the Democratic Nicaraguan Force "rather than to continue as a U.S. puppet."

Chamorro, who testified before the World Court hearing (which the Reagan administration refused to attend) on atrocities committed by his former buddies, continues his damning evidence: "During my four years as a contra director, it was premeditated policy to terrorize civilian noncombatants . . . hundreds of civilian murders, mutilations and rapes were committed by the contra leaders and their CIA superiors were well aware of them."

It seems clear that Chamorro was also well aware of these crimes and chose to leave for his own reasons. But whatever the reasons, his knowledge of the inside operations of the contra groups is indisputable. "I can attest," he says, "that the contra military force is directed and controlled by officers of Somoza's National

Guard, who fought at the dictator's side until the very end. Forty-six of the 48 positions in the FDN's military leadership were held by ex-National Guardsmen."

In writing of the "enormous advances in education, housing and health care" made by the revolutionary Nicaraguan government, Chamorro says that "the contras burn down schools, homes and health centers as fast as the Sandinistas can build them."

Toward the end of his letter Chamorro exposes the real reasons for the U.S. ruling class's hysteria over Nicaragua. "The Sandinistas must be credited with generating an atmosphere of genuine equality for the first time in Nicaragua's history. By contrast, the contras who were my colleagues talked mostly of recovering their lost wealth and privileged status."

In the last several years of U.S.-backed war over 11,000 Nicaraguans have died. In neighboring Honduras, U.S. military maneuvers involving 4,000 GIs and code-named Blazing Trails are currently underway. The Sandinista government is viewing these maneuvers with alarm and is appealing to working and progressive people throughout the world to condemn them

'Miss Somoza wed to Dr. Sterling'

Filling in the blanks on Nicaraguan history

By Andy Stapp

ALL JOURNALISTS dislike seeing their creations cut, but all learn to live with it. Nonetheless, one could only feel astonishment at the sorry piece of work the New York Times editors performed on an item they ran recently among that newspaper's wedding announcements. More than half the copy seems to have been deleted! Here's how it appeared in print:

'Miss Somoza wed to Dr. J.M. Sterling'

"Carolina Somoza, vice president of the Equitable Investment Management Company, was married yesterday to Dr. James Minskoff Sterling, son of Mrs. Henry Minskoff of Palm Beach, Fla., and the late Mr. Minskoff.

"Justice Thomas J. Hughes of the New York Supreme Court performed the ceremony at the Sherry Netherland Hotel.

"Dr. Sterling, who changed his name, attended the Lyceum Alpinum in Zoos, Switzerland, Phillips Academy and Yale. His father was president of Sam Minskoff & Sons, the construction company in New York founded by the bridegroom's grandfather in 1908.

"Mrs. Sterling is the daughter of Hope Somóza Baldoçchi of Key Bis-

cayne, Fla., and the late Gen. Anastasio Somoza Debayle of Managua, Nicaragua. Her father was a former president of Nicaragua and had succeeded her grandfather, the late Gen. Anastasio Somoza Garcia.

"The bridegroom's previous marriage ended in divorce, as did the bride's."

The missing part

This simply cannot be the full story. Originally, before the editors botched it up, the article must have included the following paragraphs:

"Miss Somoza's father was a West Point graduate who early in life developed a keen interest in agriculture. He also enjoyed the companionship of U.S. Marines. Those two enthusiasms led the general to acquire one-quarter of Nicaragua's arable land. In addition to these horticultural pursuits, his life-long fascination with finance and industry brought him ownership of Nicaraguan banks, television stations and newspapers as well as the country's only shipping line, its only cement factory, its only roofing company and the national airline.

"The general died suddenly on Sept.

17, 1980, in Asuncion, Paraguay, after his limousine was raked with bazooka and machine-gun fire. Paraguay's long-time president and intimate associate of the bride's family, Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, has since demonstrated a warm personal interest in caring for the substantial amounts of gold bullion and convertible currencies his old colleague and confidant had in his possession when he expired.

"Miss Somoza's grandfather, affectionately nicknamed "Tacho" by his very small circle of friends, was a well-known figure in Nicaraguan politics for many decades. A graduate of the Pierce School of Business Administration in Philadelphia, Pa., Gen. Somoza Garcia passed away during the night of Sept. 21, 1956, after being shot in the head at close range by 27-year-old Rigoberto Lopez Perez, a poet whose works soon became quite popular among Nicaraguans of all ages.

"The bride's brother, Lt. Col. Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, commanded the family National Guard until he left this post in July 1979. Col. Somoza currently resides in Honduras where he is employed by the United States Central Intelligence Agency."

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Barbarism U.S.-style: youth executed

By Diane Feinberg

JANUARY 13—Countries all over the world have condemned the execution of youth as barbaric. This in no way stayed the hand of the state of South Carolina which electrocuted James Terry Roach yesterday.

James Roach was 25 years old. He had lived in the death house of the state penitentiary for eight years. He was mentally retarded and suffered from an incurable brain disease. His role, if any, in the killings of two teenagers in 1977 was never clear.

In a moment of courtroom confusion Roach accepted the advice of a lawyer and abruptly pleaded guilty. He never had a jury trial. He was sentenced to the electric chair by a judge who had voted in the state legislature for the death penalty, even though the judge admitted that six circumstances mitigated Roach's

conviction, including his emotional and mental development, and his being a minor.

Reporters noted that James Terry Roach died quickly following two surges of electricity yesterday, unlike the 14-year-old Black child executed in South Carolina in 1944, who was found to be weeping when the death hood was yanked from his head after the first surge of current failed to kill him.

Since the death penalty was reinstated, some of the first, most widely publicized cases of executions, both of adults and youth, have been white. But this is not the norm. Countless studies have documented the disproportionate and clearly racist use of the death penalty against Black, Latino and other oppressed nationalities in this country.

Thirty states in the U.S. allow or

do not exclude the execution of minors, or people who are accused of committing crimes when they were minors. Delaware reserves the right to execute 10 year olds!

There are some 32 people on death rows across the country who stand accused of crimes committed as minors.

The rights organization Amnesty International points out that the U.S. is one of the few countries in the world which carries out this brutality, violating the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights, and guidelines established by the United Nations.

Although the U.S. took part in formulating these guidelines, it has never formally ratified or accepted any of them.

Shock jails: 'We're not Burger King'

By Diane Feinberg

JANUARY 6—As more and more federal and state prison systems across the country face court-ordered alleviation of overcrowding and other inhumane conditions, officials are seeking "solutions."

Jobs? Skills training? Affordable housing? Well, actually no. Officials are seeking to warehouse the poor in a more cost-efficient manner.

Politicians and prison officials are hotly debating their idea of "solutions." Already states are turning over entire prison systems to privately owned corporations. Greedy bosses are queuing up to be the lowest bid to exploit that captive labor force for lucrative profits.

Some states are forcing prisoners to work for no wages at city and county jobs, including garbage collection, water works, emergency medical technicians in county ambulance systems or dispatchers.

'Shock incarceration' and house arrest

A new Georgia state approach to overcrowding is short 90-day cruel programs where prisoners are worked near to death. These are politely called "shock incarceration" programs such as the one at the Dodge "Correctional" Institute (prison) in Atlanta.

"We're not Burger King," said prison probation officer Ray Tiburski. "They don't do it their way here. They do it our way." The prison-within-a-prison is run by Lieutenant Combs, who was used to being saluted as a master sergeant in the Army, and former Army sergeant major, Robert Sharpe.

The punitive 90-day sentences include drill, discipline and hard, hard physical labor, patterned much like military basic training.

House arrest is becoming another

favorite police tool. In Florida, reports today's New York Times, over the last two years 7,400 women and men have been sentenced to "house arrest," meaning they cannot leave their homes except to go to work.

They are closely monitored by the state and the slightest infractions are severely punished.

Jack Nichols, administrator of parole and probation in Dade County, Florida recalled a case last year in Miami, "I'm not proud of this. Some kid got five years in prison for going down to the corner and getting his aunt a chicken dinner."

Prisoners at home are reported to be fitted with electronic "collars" and other devices that notify police

if they step outside their door.

Stringent probation which requires reporting to a parole officer day and night, at least five times a week, is also seen as "cost-effective." Probation programs are estimated to cost \$4.50 a day per prisoner as opposed to \$30.43 a day behind bars. Those under house ban must pay the state of Georgia fees. Georgia boasts it could collect \$3.3 million this way this year.

Everything is being tried as a solution. Everything that is punitive. Yet poverty, at the root cause of crime, is not solved by police measures, it is aggravated. And like the rebellion last month in Oklahoma, the time bomb is still ticking!

Defense to expose government misconduct in Bingham trial

By Stephanie Hedgecoke

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 11—Jury selection began Monday, Jan. 6, in the murder trial of progressive, former prison lawyer Stephen Bingham after a year of pre-trial hearings. Bingham is accused of providing a gun to Black revolutionary inmate leader George Jackson, who was shot in the back by prison guards in a San Quentin prison frame-up Aug. 21, 1971.

Bingham's defense lawyers plan to prove that government officials were capable of arranging a frame-up of Jackson, who was field marshal of the Black Panther Party. The California Department of Corrections hated Jackson for his heroic prison organizing work at Soledad and San Quentin in the '60s and early '70s.

Bingham said of the charges that led to his 14 years as a fugitive, "In

1971, there was a full-scale attack going on against the few lawyers who were working with prison inmates." He states that he would have been railroaded had he not fled.

Bingham is on trial for two counts of murder and one count of conspiracy in the Marin County Superior Court. Three other counts of murder were dropped in December, 1985, based on the acquittal of the "San Quentin Six" on those same counts in 1976.

The trial will focus on the events of Aug. 21, 1971, and is expected to last six months. Bingham, who had been previously involved in civil rights work, United Farm Workers support and tenants' rights work, said that he spent his 14-year exile in Canada, working in the construction trades and involved in progressive political work.

—Boycott Shell

Continued from page 12

UAW President Owen Bieber, AFSCME President Gerald McEntee and a dozen other labor officials and Randall Robinson from TransAfrica, Trumka continued, "Royal Dutch Shell exports coal mined under slave labor conditions in South Africa. Shell hoped to undermine the standard of living of coal miners in this country." Referring to the bitter struggle with

A.T. Massey Coal Co. in West Virginia, a joint subsidiary of Shell and Fluor Corp., Trumka said, "We are simultaneously helping our Black brothers and sisters in South Africa throw off the yoke of oppression and helping ourselves to do the same right here at home." He called for support and solidarity with the newly formed Congress of South African Trade Unions.

John T. Joyce, president of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen, said their union is "joining the protest against South Africa's vicious system of institutionalized racism and the Reagan adminis-

tration's complicity with it. With the oil supplies of Shell and other multinational corporations the South African government can continue its oppression of the Black majority, repression of free trade unions, its illegal occupation of Namibia, and its terrorist attacks on neighboring nations."

• • •

Briefly. Fewer than 100 striking mine workers have been called back by A.T. Massey despite an agreement to settle the unfair labor practice charges.

—Louis Napier

—Libya

Continued from page 3

ured an image of an ominous Libya threatening a poor, defenseless America, to the rest of the world it looks more like a saber-rattling nuclear-armed colossus trying to bring down a revolutionary government of a small North African nation of barely 4 million, a country once one of the poorest in the world.

In the eyes of the U.S. multinationals, Qaddafi's "insanity" flows from his efforts to challenge the U.S. oil monopolies which looted Libya for almost two decades under the protection of a puppet monarchy. He's "barbaric" for supporting national liberation movements around the globe fighting U.S., British and French imperialism and Zionist aggression. He's "crazy" for raising the living standards of the Libyan people and bringing health care and education to the masses.

Fighting "terrorism" has absolutely nothing to do with Reagan's attacks against Libya. Support for the contra thugs in Nicaragua and counter-revolutionaries in Angola and aid to death-squad regimes in El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay, Turkey, South Africa, south Korea and the Philippines fully qualify the Reagan administration itself as prime candidate for Public Enemy No. 1.

—Arms maker

Continued from page 3

aerospace firms end up being reduced to branch offices of their U.S. counterparts.

Heseltine, however, could not get Prime Minister Thatcher's backing in his efforts to block UT's power grab and after a cabinet meeting described in the press as "grim," he quit. The ultimate fate of Westland is not yet decided. How much damage Thatcher has inflicted on her standing with the public by, in effect, siding with a U.S. company against European-based business interests is also unclear.

But two things are obvious. This whole affair has stimulated new inter-imperialist antagonisms. It has also revealed for the whole world to see, that the U.S. military-industrial complex has now grown so powerful and become so aggressive that merely one of its components, United Technologies, now has a global reach and punch which can penetrate the inner sanctum of even the most stable foreign governments. And if that is the case, what does this say about the influence and domination these armament firms can exert over policy made in Washington, D.C.?

—U.S.-Israel-So. Africa

Continued from page 4

visited U.S. nuclear facilities and 90 had held professional positions in this country.

While providing nuclear military assistance to both racist regimes through the back door, Washington still claims to honor the non-proliferation treaty.

In 1976 Israel began smuggling into South Africa U.S.-made 155-millimeter howitzers and the technology to use them. These howitzers are nuclear capable. In 1979, Israeli technological expertise acquired in the U.S. helped South Africa test its first nuclear warhead. The Pentagon has also supplied South Africa with delivery systems for nuclear weapons via Israel.

Is it any wonder that David Ndaba, spokesperson for the ANC, says, "The struggle of the Palestinian people is our struggle. We are faced with the same enemy. This is witnessed in the unfolding military alliance between Washington, Tel Aviv and Pretoria."

Unity in struggle keeps Boston bus union strong

Special to Workers World

BOSTON, Jan. 15—Do workers have a right to go on strike against profit-making companies or not? Can they be hit with criminal sanctions for walking off the job?

That's the basic issue at stake in the strike of 600 Boston school bus drivers which began on Jan. 2. These union drivers, who make on average less than \$10,000 per year and are getting no sick pay or vacation time, went out when the private bus companies, National School Bus and Transcom, demanded 15 concessions from them! That seems simple enough.

The courts and the Boston School Department see it different. They seem to believe in involuntary servitude, something that was supposed to be abolished in this country well over a century ago.

But that's the meaning of the injunction handed down by a Superior Court against the bus drivers and it's one of the things that makes this one strike so very important to the whole labor movement.

The other aspect of this struggle which should draw the attention of trade unionists everywhere is the exemplary determination of the strikers, who are standing tall against everything management and the School Department and the judges have thrown at them, including the prospect of a \$30,000-a-day fine and possible civil and criminal contempt of court charges against union leaders and active strikers.

Will they be forced to knuckle under?

The answer was clear this morning, as it has been from the beginning,



WW PHOTO

An iron bond of solidarity between Black and white workers and women and men forms the backbone of this union's strength.

when, despite a court order limiting pickets, not one school bus driver crossed the picket lines!

The biggest factor

There is a lesson here. It is not the judges in their warm chambers or the bosses of National School Bus and Transcom, or the officials of the School Department who are calling all the shots. The biggest factor is the workers themselves, and the picketline, where the wind chill has sent temperatures plummeting to minus 20 degrees, remains the place where critical decisions are made.

USWA Local 8751 members have beaten back three previous court injunctions in the last nine years. They

have faced down the cops and threats of jail before and stayed firm, Black and white, in solidarity with each other and the children they serve.

The courts and city are treating the strikers as if they are public employees and saying that the walkout is illegal. Yet the drivers themselves can't be fooled on this. When you work for a private firm, you know it. There is nothing "public" about Transcom and National School Bus, except the millions of dollars in tax moneys they get to make their owners rich.

Turned back concessions

The strike is legal, the demands of the workers just and righteous. Intervention by the School Committee and

the courts in this case is nothing but a fraud aimed at assisting a couple of private sector companies.

Tonight the strikers will be meeting. By persisting in the fight, the workers have turned back all 15 concessions originally demanded of them. Now the union, through democratic discussion and the decisions made by the rank and file, will determine whether to continue the strike.

This strike must command the active support of all labor activists, both because of what is at stake and also to learn from the way these workers have persevered and maintained their unity against an array of such hostile forces coming at them from so many different fronts.

On The Picketline

Long strike at Hormel. Union members voted twice to reject the latest company offer in Local P9 in Austin, Minn. First it was rejected by 61% in a union meeting, then by 59% in a vote by mail ballot sent out from the International. Workers at Hormel know what working under a concessions contract is like. Nine months before they went on strike, the company broke the contract by unilaterally imposing wage cuts of \$2.50 an hour and forcing workers to pay \$45 a week toward benefits. The main issues in re-

jecting the contract were three-tier wages and job security. The company's latest proposal cut a lot of language out of the contract that left workers with no guarantees that they would get their jobs back. The company also proposed to pay maintenance \$1 an hour less than production and new workers \$2 less. The company also says nothing about the safety issue as the plant, a new, highly-automated meat processing plant, has an accident rate of 202 injuries for every 100 workers. Recent talks were unproductive as

the company met only to avoid an unfair labor practice charge, not to bargain in good faith.

Hormel's chief executive, Richard Nolton, received a \$200,000 raise as workers stand freezing in the Minnesota winter cold while the company brings a handful of scabs into the plant. The company made \$38 million in profits last year, up 31% from the year before. Support for the strike is coming from all over the country. Messages and donations can be sent to UFCW, Local P9, 316 NE Fourth

Ave., Austin, Minn. 55912; telephone (507) 433-9320.

Anti-apartheid boycott against Shell. "Without the support of Royal Dutch Shell and other transnational corporations the economic foundation of apartheid will collapse," declared Richard Trumka, President of the United Mine Workers, in Washington Jan. 9. Flanked by

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